

**COLLABORATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITAT ROVIRA I VIRGILI
AND THE UNIVERSITY OF SFAK FOR THE JOINT SUPERVISION OF THE
DOCTORAL THESIS BY MS BHIRI NESRINE**

BY AND BETWEEN

Mr Josep Anton Ferré Vidal, Rector of the Universitat Rovira i Virgili (hereafter, URV) by virtue of Decree 72/2014, of 27 May (DOGC 6633, of 29 May 2014), who represents this institution in accordance with the competencies established in article 66 of the Statute of the URV, which was approved by Decree 202/2003, of 26 August (DOGC 3963, of 8 September 2003), and modified by the Agreement GOV/23/2012, of 27 March 2 (DOGC 6100, of April 2012). The URV's address is C/Escorxador, s/n, post code 43003 Tarragona.

And Mr Abdelwahed El Mokni, Rector of the University of Sfax (hereafter US) by virtue of Law No. 19 of the year 2008 dated on 25 February 2008 relating to superior education, and in view of all the texts that have been revised, in particular Law No. 38 of 2017 dated on 02 May 2017, and of Decree No. 2716 of 2008, dated on 04 August 2008 and concerning the organization of universities, superior education, research institutions and its evolution rules, and in view of all texts that have been revised or completed and in particular the governmental order n ° 827 of 2017 dated on 08 July 2017. The US's address is Sfax University, Airport road km 0.5 - 3029 Sfax (Tunisie) and its tax identification number is Tax Registration Number: 791321 P N N 000.

The parties declare, under their own responsibility, that they each have the legal capacity required to sign this agreement.

LEGAL BASIS

For the URV:

- Royal Decree 1002/2010, of 5 August, regarding the issuance of official university degree certificates.



- Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January, modified by Royal Decree 534/2013, Royal Decree 43/2015 and the Royal Decree 195/2016.
- The Academic and Registration Regulations of the URV.

For the US:

- In view of the law No. 19 of February 25th on superior education.
- In view of the Decree No. 47 dated 4 January 2013 governing doctoral studies in the LMD framework in Tunisia and considering all the decrees governing doctoral studies in Tunisia.
- In view of the Circular No. 13 of April 04, 2013 concerning the period of studies and additional courses and the valuation of achievements in the national doctoral degree

ANTECEDENTS

I. Both institutions agree on the importance of cooperation as a means of achieving better quality in education and research.

II. In order to achieve greater efficacy and efficiency in their respective scientific ambits, both institutions wish to develop collaborative research initiatives.

To do this, the signatory institutions agree on the following

CLAUSES

One. Object

The aim of this agreement is to establish a collaboration framework between the URV and the US to promote the development of scientific research in the form of a jointly-supervised doctoral thesis.

Two. Registration

The URV and the US, on the basis of the merits valued, propose Ms Bhiri Nesrine to carry out a doctoral thesis within:

- the doctoral programme of Nanoscience, Materials and Chemical Engineering at the URV.
- the doctoral programme of Doctorat en Regime LMD: Physique at the US.



The conditions for registering for and defending the doctoral thesis, within the frame of the joint supervision agreement, are governed by the regulations applicable to each university regarding doctoral studies, notwithstanding the following provisions.

Three. Access, admission and registration

To access the doctoral programme, the candidate must meet the following requirements for access and admission that are stipulated by the URV and the US

- a) Regulations applicable to the URV: Each candidate must meet the academic and access admission requirements set by the doctoral program.
- b) Regulations applicable to the US: Each candidate must meet the academic and access admission requirements set by the doctoral program.

Regarding the URV, the doctoral student will have to register annually in the corresponding doctorate program until the presentation of the thesis. The enrollment fee includes academic tutorship, administrative fees, and compulsory insurance. However, the first year of enrollment, the doctoral student from a foreign university must pay the academic trajectory rate for university graduates according to foreign educational systems.

Regarding the US, the doctoral student will have to register annually in the corresponding doctorate program until the presentation of the thesis. At the first PhD enrollment, the doctoral charter is signed by the PhD student, his or her thesis supervisor and the head of the unit or of the home team.

Four. Supervision of thesis

The doctoral student must write the doctoral thesis under the supervision and responsibility of a thesis supervisors at both universities.

- At the URV, the thesis will be supervised by Dr Joan Josep Carvajal Martí and Dr. Maria Cinta Pujol Baiges.
- At the US, the thesis will be supervised by Dr. Dammak Mohamed

The thesis supervisors agree to fully carry out their roles as supervisors to the doctoral student.

The competencies awarded to the thesis supervisor, in accordance with the regulations applied at both universities, must be jointly exercised by both supervisors.

Quality assurance systems will be established at both universities and the thesis supervisors will be responsible for ensuring that the relevant established procedures and reports are complied with at each university.



Five. Topic title and research periods

The thesis subject submitted by the doctoral student Ms Bhiri Nesrine is: "Synthèse et caractérisations structurale, optique de vanadates dopés aux ions terre rare".

Joint-supervision of the doctoral thesis with research carried out in alternative periods at each university.

To obtain the diploma of "*Doctor por la Universidad Rovira i Virgili, tesis en régimen de cotutela con la Universidad de Sfax*", the doctorand will have to make a research periods of 6 months (consecutive or alternating) to the URV .

At the US, the periods will be carried out to make the following research activities:

- March-May 2018, Synthesis of microcrystals to be applied for white light emission diodes.
- May-July 2019, Synthesis of microcrystals to be applied for light emission diodes.

The host institution must provide the doctoral student with the necessary information regarding accommodation. The doctoral student must pay for their accommodation and other costs, unless alternative funding is provided for this purpose.

The doctoral student must take all the necessary measures to benefit from an insurance liability, health, accident and repatriation in both countries.

At the URV, the health care and civil liability costs for Ms Bhiri Nesrine will be covered by the compulsory insurance premium included in the URV's doctoral registration fees. the doctoral student must contract an additional insurance policy to cover healthcare disability, death and repatriation.

Both institutions must help the visiting student to integrate as far as is possible.

Six. Duration of the thesis

For full time students, the period for preparing the doctoral thesis may not be greater than three years from the date of enrolment of the doctoral student in the doctorat program of the URV.

The period for preparing the doctoral thesis may only be extended at the proposal of the thesis supervisors and with the approval of the URV and the US.

Seven. Language of the thesis

The doctoral thesis must be written in French and be accompanied by a summary version or articles published in the thesis in English.



Eleven. Doctoral degree certificate

After the single defence of the doctoral thesis, each of the universities agrees to issue the corresponding doctoral degree certificate, provided the issuance fees have been paid.

Twelve. Administrative management

Any questions regarding the administration of the present agreement may be addressed to:

- At the URV:
Postgraduate and Doctoral School
Edifici N5 - Campus Sescelades
Carrer Marcel·li Domingo, 2-4-6
43007 Tarragona
convenisepd@urv.cat
- At the US:
Doctoral School
Faculté des Sciences de Sfax
Route de la Soukra Km 3.5
B.P. n°1171. 3000 Sfax. Tunisie
contact.ecoledoctoralefss@gmail.com

Thirteen. Duration

This agreement has a duration of 3 academic years from the 2017-2018 course, extendable for a maximum period of 1 more academic year.

This agreement will terminate once the doctoral degree certificate is issued and the corresponding issuance fees have been paid at both universities.

Either party can terminate the agreement by giving the other party six months written notice before the date proposed for expiration. In all cases, all the tasks and commitments agreed which are in progress at the time of termination or modification of the present agreement must be completed.

Fourteen. Resolution of disputes

The signatories must negotiate and resolve by common agreement any issue or problem that may arise regarding the present agreement. Should they be unable to reach a common agreement, the signatories will resolve their differences regarding the interpretation or fulfilment of this agreement by another means that they will determine by common agreement.

Fifteen. Data protection

All parties agree to respect the legislation on personal data protection for all matters where this legislation is applicable to the information that is the object of this agreement.

Sixteen. Notice

This document is published on the Transparency Portal of the URV in accordance with article 8 of Law 19/2014, of 29 December, regarding transparency, access to public information and good government.



The jointly-supervised thesis must be defended in French. Part of the oral presentation must be made in English.

Eight. Exploitation and protection of results

The authorship and ownership of the exploitation rights that may be generated by the doctoral thesis are governed by the current legislation on intellectual property in each country and in accordance with the statutes of the signatory universities.

Students must maintain complete confidentiality regarding all data, results, activities businesses or concerns relating to either the US or the URV of which they may become aware during the execution of experimental research tasks, regardless of whether these are part of their specific work. The student must maintain this confidentiality for a period of 5 (five) years after the collaboration has finished or until an independent party who is not subject to any confidentiality obligation makes public this information.

Provisions for the protection and exploitation of intellectual property rights may be included the subject of a specific annex, where appropriate.

Nine. Deposit and defense of the doctoral thesis

The doctoral thesis must be deposited in both universities, but the public defense will only be carried out in US.

The defense fees of the doctoral thesis must be met in both universities.

Ten. Examination panel

The examination panel for the defence of the doctoral thesis must be appointed after the thesis has been deposited. It must be made up of members who are agreed on by both signatory universities of this agreement, and it must be formally appointed by the two universities.

The examination panel must consist of a balanced proportion of members from each institution jointly appointed by the contracting institutions and includes, in addition, at least two members must be external to both universities and the collaborating entities. The number of jury members cannot exceed eight. It will be designated by mutual agreement by the two partner universities

The distribution of the support of the defense costs (transport and accommodation) must be specified when submitting the defense file, in liaison with the director(s) of the research and the authorities concerned. When the support of travel expenses is particularly important, a defense by videoconference may be considered.










The panel must grade the thesis in accordance with the regulations of the US.



As proof of conformity, we sign six copies of this agreement in English

Sfax,

Tarragona,

	Doctoral student  <i>Bhiri Nesrine</i>
Thesis supervisor from the URV  <i>Dr. Joan Josep Carvajal Martí</i>	Thesis supervisor from US  <i>Dr. Dammak Mohamed</i>
Thesis supervisor from the URV  <i>Dr. Maria Cinta Pujol Baiges</i>	Director of the host Laboratory (LPA) of the US  <i>Dr. Dhahri Essibti</i>
Coordinator of the doctoral programme at the URV  <i>Dr. Alex Fragoso</i>	Coordinator of the doctoral programme at the US  <i>Dr. Hbaib Mohamed</i>
Rector of the URV  UNIVERSITAT ROVIRA I VIRGILI RECTORAT <i>Dr. Josep-Anton Ferré Vidal</i>	Rector of the US  20 AVR 2018 Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique * Université de Sfax <i>Dr. El Mokni Abdelwahed</i>

