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1. Introduction

Higher education institutions are undergoing substantial changes in the era of globalization. It is clear that globalization drives higher learning institutions to incorporate global and intercultural dimensions into their educational and research activities. Moreover, to meet the demand of 21st Century, serve the interest of the Ethiopian government, giving attention to higher qualification trainings like Ph.D. programs are extremely crucial. The Ph.D. training cannot be realized with the limited resources. Therefore, searching for different opportunities via joint programs has become a timely and top priority concern.

Joint Ph.D programs enable students to embark on jointly-supervised research degrees which should considerably enhance their research experience and employment opportunities on an international scale. Further, a jointly-awarded Ph.D. program can accelerate winners' access to different research environments, cultures, training, and facilities in research-intensive universities. Besides, the scheme has the advantage of increasing Ph.D. holders' number as well as the outputs associated with Ph.D. students which include publications, conference attendances, and thesis production; not to forget its priceless contributions in strengthening collaborative research activities with partners.

The joint program will be conducted among Universities in Ethiopia and partner universities abroad. It can also take place between and among HEIs in Ethiopia to share the resources available. MoE has taken the strategic decision to support a fully integrated joint Ph.D. program which would result in a single award of partner Universities and moreover, it would commence with mutual recognition among partner institutions regarding quality assurance, standards, and examination procedures.



2. Rationale

Based on the differentiation of Ethiopian HEIs, the share of Ph.D. holder academic staff of research, applied, and comprehensive universities by 2032 is expected to be 50%, 40%, and 30% respectively. However, currently, the actual share of Ph.D. holders in those Universities is 17%, 9 %, and 3% respectively. It is impossible to achieve the already designed plan by the existing modality. Thus, MoE has taken the initiative to launch the Joint Ph. D program.

Furthermore, some HEIs in Ethiopia do not have capacity to launch Ph.D. program in some areas of specialization or disciplines like Engineering, Technology, Computer Science and IT, Artificial Intelligence, Mining, Space Science, Business and Economics. Moreover, Ethiopia's home-grown economic reform requires highly qualified professionals in which the country falls short. It is not economically sound to offer full scholarships abroad to meet the HEIs' qualified human resources demands; thus, the joint academic programs can mitigate the associated resource limitations to train staff in Ph.D. programs.

3. Objective

3.1 General Objective

The major objective of this guideline is to enhance the capacity of HEIs academic staff as per the requirement of national standards.

3.2 Specific Objectives

- a) To increase the number of Ph. D academic staff of HEIs
- b) To open new academic programs in priority areas
- c) To share resources among the partner universities
- d) To help candidates gain experience and copy modern technologies
- e) To improve the quality of higher education in Ethiopia
- f) To enhance student and faculty mobility;
- g) To strengthen internationalization through local and international collaboration, partnerships, and networking;



- h) To achieve World, Quality Standard (Q.S) ranking with quality Publication in High Impact Factor Scientific Journals;
- i) To create more Product development.

4. Outcome

- a) Increased share of Ph. D academic staff in HEIs
- b) Addressed the country's priority areas
- c) Enhanced capacity of Ethiopian HEIs
- d) Improved engagement of stakeholders,
- e) Improved inter-institutional partnerships between local and international institutions (including local institutions).

5. Eligibility Criteria

5.1 Institution

5.1.1. Joint Degree Program (JDP)

- a) The host university should be public university and it has to be an accredited one
- b) The partnering university should be capable (resourceful) of managing joint Ph.D. programs

5.1.2. Joint Supervisor Program (JSP)

- a) The host university should be public university/ Deemed to be University with (National Accreditation Centre) NAC A++ accreditation of each countries.
- b) The partnering university should be capable (resourceful) of managing joint Ph.D. programs.

5.2 Applicants:

- a) Must satisfy the usual criteria for entry to the host Universities;
- b) enroll in specialized national priority areas;
- c) Both can be international and domestic candidates
- d) Must pass the entrance exam including NGAT



- e) Should have published minimum 2 Scopus indexed journals and should have at least minimum 2 years of teaching experience in the public universities and should have minimum 3 CGPA in both UG and PG programs in order to apply this program;
- f) Must be willing to sign an authenticated contract with the home university
- g) Must provide the authenticated official documents (Student Copy, Original MA/MS/MD...);
- h) A student must present consent letter from sender institution;
- i) Has to be abiding to the rules and regulation of both home and host institutions.

6. Curriculum , Course Work Program, Degree Awarding, Funding and Finance

The industrial oriented joint PhD curriculum will be formulated by the core committee. This will be revised time to time and has to be approved by the Senate of respective home institution and based on the selection of the course, the core committee will allocate appropriate staff who are specialized in this program across all the Public Universities in Ethiopia. The Core Committee will monitor the mid exams, assessments and the final exams. The core committee will collect all the grades from the course instructors, and send to the respective home institutions Registrar Office to issue the course completion certificate. Besides, it involves:

- a) The scholar has to secure minimum 3 CGPA in the course work examinations, having minimum 12 credit hours to complete his/her comprehensive examination within minimum 12 months to maximum 18 months failing which the provisional registration of the Ph.D will be cancelled.
- b) Scholars has to follow time to time as per the direction of the Joint PhD Program Coordination through the website www.ethiopiajointphdprograms.com.
- c) Scholar should have 4 Doctoral Committee Meetings, First Doctoral Committee meeting on selection of course work, Second Doctoral Committee Meeting after the course work and comprehensive examination and to get the confirmation of Ph.D. registration, Third Doctoral Committee meeting for synopsis submission and Final Doctoral Committee meeting during defense of thesis.



- d) The scholars will utilize their research fund allocated by the home institution to book the round-trip tickets in case the host institution doesn't sponsor for round trip.
- e) The scholars have to publish minimum one SCI article in web of science and Two Scopus index article having maximum only four authors in which the scholars has to be first author in all this publication.
- f) The evaluation of the thesis should have minimum 4 Reviewers of which 2 should be International Reviewer and 2 should be National Reviewer
- g) During the final Viva all the doctoral committee member and the examiners should satisfy with the scholar performance in order to award his/ her degree
- h) In the case of Joint Degree Program both the home and host institution will award the degree and in the case of Joint Supervisor Program only the home institution will award the degree
- i) In the case of Joint Degree Program both the home and host institution will award the degree and in the case of Joint Supervisor Program only the home institution will award the degree.
- j) Joint Ph.D Research Supervisors and course instructors and Doctoral committee Members allowances will be paid by the home institution as per the norms of the national research guidelines policy

7. Selection and Eligibility of Supervisors/Joint Supervisors/ Research Supervisors/ Doctoral Committee Members:

Supervisors/Joint Supervisors/ Research Supervisors/ Doctoral Committee members should be with a minimum of the rank of Associate Professor and above having minimum 8 years of Teaching Experience in Ethiopia with Aggregate H index 20 and above. Furthermore, having at least 25 articles as First Author/ Corresponding Author in SCI Journals of web of science. And the selection of supervisors and Doctoral Committee Members will be made by the core Committee.

8. Study Duration

- a) The jointly Ph.D. program will have a duration of four-year



- b) In exceptional cases, and only if required arrangements for continuation/ extension funding may be set up between the partner universities (extend agreement) as per existing regulations applicable to all Ph. D students.

9. Role and responsibilities of Stakeholders

11.1 Ministry of Education (MoE)

- a) Developing legal and implementation frameworks;
- b) Entrance exam administration;
- c) Identifying national priority areas regarding specializations;
- d) Capacity building programs including digitalization and automation of system which shall be given jointly with the Ministry and local/international institutions;
- e) Facilitating local and international inter-institutional partnership;
- f) Establishing Core Committee
- g) MoU Signing where applicable

9.2 Host Institutions

- a) Facilitating every resource for students as per the MoU/MoA;
- b) Communicating with a candidate and the guide for familiarization concerning Research interest and the proposed plan;
- c) Referring a candidate to further proceedings after admission;
- d) Providing a provisional letter to the selected candidate. Besides, the provisionally chosen candidate is eligible to attend the program if he/she shall complete candidacy exam with satisfactory results which is equivalent to the Ethiopian comprehensive exam;
- e) Issuing the admission/offer letter;
- f) Covering a scholar's living expenses like tuition fees, food service, accommodation service, as per norms of the host Institution;
- g) Developing curriculum and reviewing the old one, which shall be supervised by host and co-host institutions;

9.3 Home Institutions

- a) Identifying the priority area program;



- b) Follow the direction given by the core committee time to time
- c) Arranging all the necessary facilities for the joint PhD program scholars
- d) Providing the degree for the joint supervisor scholars
- e) Arranging allowance for the supervisors, Doctoral Committee Members , course instructors of joint PhD programs
- f) Reviewing existing and developing new curricula with host institutions;
- g) Follow up the status of the students and take corrective measure if any.

9.4 Core Committee:

The Ministry of Education shall establish a core committee constitution of relevant members that works on facilitations the joint programs.

9.5 Embassies

- a) Facilitate students' issues in a host Country;
- b) Facilitating visa and other academic issues (document authentication) concerning a student;
- c) Communicating MoE regarding status of a student at a right time.

9.6 Ministry of Finance

- a) Approve the financial directives prepared by MoE

10. Program Extension

- a) The term of education shall be extended if a student deliver persuasive documents to a host institution (medical case);
- b) The term of education shall be extended if the case of interruption happens due to either by a host institution or MoE.

11. Program Termination

- a) This program shall be terminated unilaterally if a host institution break every rule mentioned in the guideline and MoU/MoA;
- b) The points of agreement shall be terminated when a winner of scholarship faces natural death;
- c) Either of parties can terminate the agreement when they encounter force of majeure (uncontrolled accident); and



- d) This program shall be terminated when parties under agreement mutually consented to cease the provision of the guideline and MoU/MoA.

12. Need for MOU /MOA

- a) The MoU/ MoA shall detail the administrative and other courses.
- b) This is a non-legally binding agreement at the institutional level that formalizes the convergence of will between the institutions, indicating an intention and setting out a framework for further discussions and agreements on specific cooperation opportunities. These are usually negotiated between the international offices of each institution.
- c) A memorandum of understanding (MOU) covering the agreed-upon elements should guide the administration of joint doctoral programs. The MOU may be different for newly established programs and mature programs. This Guideline shall be subjected to review based on Global dynamism.

13. The National Priority Areas (Specializations)

- a) Engineering and Technology
- b) Mining
- c) Artificial Intelligence /Data Science
- d) Computer Science and IT
- e) Space Science
- f) Business and Economics

