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# Framework of EU-CONEXUS Joint PhD programme in SmUCS

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25 OCTOBER 2022



ΓΕΩΠΟΝΙΚΟ ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ  
AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS

Universität  
Rostock



Traditio et Innovatio



Technical University of  
Civil Engineering Bucharest



Klaipeda  
University



Universidad  
Católica de  
Valencia  
San Vicente Mártir



Waterford Institute of Technology  
INSTITIÚID TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA PHORT LAIRGE

# Joint PhD: agreements



180 ECTS  
3-4 years  
(full and part-time)



6 universities



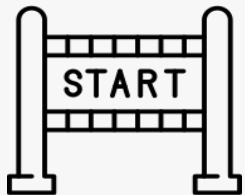
4 research areas



English and  
Local language



joint admission;  
new students from  
various countries



september 2021



physical, virtual,  
blended



joint degree



*to be decided*



*to be decided*



# PhD programme of Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability

**One general programme (180 ECTS)**, with four research topics:

1. Life Sciences and Biotechnology
2. Environmental Sciences and Biodiversity
3. Coastal Engineering
4. Social, Culture and Human Sciences

Multidisciplinary



# Admission

A [joint EU-CONEXUS admission panel and a student quota per research topic](#). The entrance could be separated into two phases:

- 1<sup>st</sup> by the University (University's department) which will accept the students and
- 2<sup>nd</sup> by the EU-CONEXUS PhD Council (joint admission panel).



# Organisation of studies

## ORGANISATION OF STUDIES

<b>Total ECTS</b>	180	
<b>Duration (in years)</b>		
<i>Full time</i>	Minimum: 3	Maximum: 4* (*5 years for Engineering)
<i>Part time</i>	Minimum: 3	Maximum: 6



# Requirements

## REQUIREMENTS FOR PHD DEGREE

<b>Language</b>	part of the Ph.D. Thesis, at least the abstract and conclusions, has been written and submitted in English or one of the other official languages in the EU, other than national language.
<b>Research stay</b>	part of the PhD must be prepared in another European (or associated) country (at least three months –typically 3 consecutive months but not compulsory).
<b>Number and quality of published papers</b>	1 accepted, 1 submitted in high impact journal
<b>Number of international conferences</b>	1 international & 1 national
<b>Transferable skills</b>	To be chosen by the student, but strongly recommended. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Project management</li><li>○ Critical thinking</li><li>○ Problem solving</li></ul>



# Organisation of the studies

## COURSES

Flexible recognition (in ECTS) of courses and activities offer by partner universities.

### Courses:

- Teaching and didactic techniques
- Research planning and organisation
- Data analysis
- Languages
- Communication
- Bibliometric skills
- ...
- **Exams scheme:** network or/and institutional exams.



# Admission requirements

- Candidates must hold a Bachelor's degree, or equivalent, and a Master's degree, or equivalent, provided they have completed at least 300 ECTS credits.
- Candidates with a previous PhD may also apply.





# Status of Doctoral Students/Candidates

UNIVERSITY STUDENT/ UNIVERSITY STUDENT AND RESEARCH TRAINEE

- Status of university student and research trainee



# Management schemes

- One **PhD thesis scientific committee**: 2 co-supervisors + 2 external advisors (one of them may be from host university).
- Meetings at least once a year (virtual and/or physical meetings).



# Assessment

## PRE-DEFENCE

- Number of quality reviewers: at least 2.
- Assessment report compulsory and previous to public defence.
- The authorization to proceed to the defence is given by at least two reports by two European professors (full or associated with accreditation or equivalent, e.g. director of research with accreditation) coming from countries different than the one where the defence is organized.



# Assessment

## DEFENCE

### **Number and quality of jury in public defence/committee/council (including criteria for reviewers with respect to their role in PhD research):**

- 5 people from different partner institutions with considerable research capacity. A maximum of two members from Co-Supervisor EU-CONEXUS Institutions and one more from other EU-CONEXUS institution.
- The members of the jury have to be in the specialisation of the PhD thesis.

### **Defence decision:**

- The public defence Jury is voting. Members of the Jury are voting on the granting of the doctor degree to the candidate. The decision to grant a PhD Degree is taken if more than half of the Jury members vote in favour. The record of the voting is signed by all members of the Dissertation Defence.
- The score/qualification is decided by **simple majority** but in case of the maximum score/qualification it is necessary **unanimity**.



# Governance and decision making



# Governance and decision making

## JOINT PHD AGREEMENT

- a) The program is ultimately supervised by the EU-CONEXUS **Academic Council**. One member of EU-CONEXUS **Research Council** will be member in the Academic Council.
- b) The Chair of the EU-CONEXUS PhD programme will be a **PC PhD member**. This member will be elected each 3 years rotationally.
- c) **EU-CONEXUS PhD officer** will be elected each year rotationally.
- d) The **Ph.D. Council** directly manages the different processes related to the Ph.D. program: it selects the candidates in relation to their merits and the interview, proposes the training offer, monitors the progress of the program and assists the different **Ph.D. thesis Scientific Committees** .
- e) The **PhD thesis Scientific Committee** will be unique per each Ph.D. student.



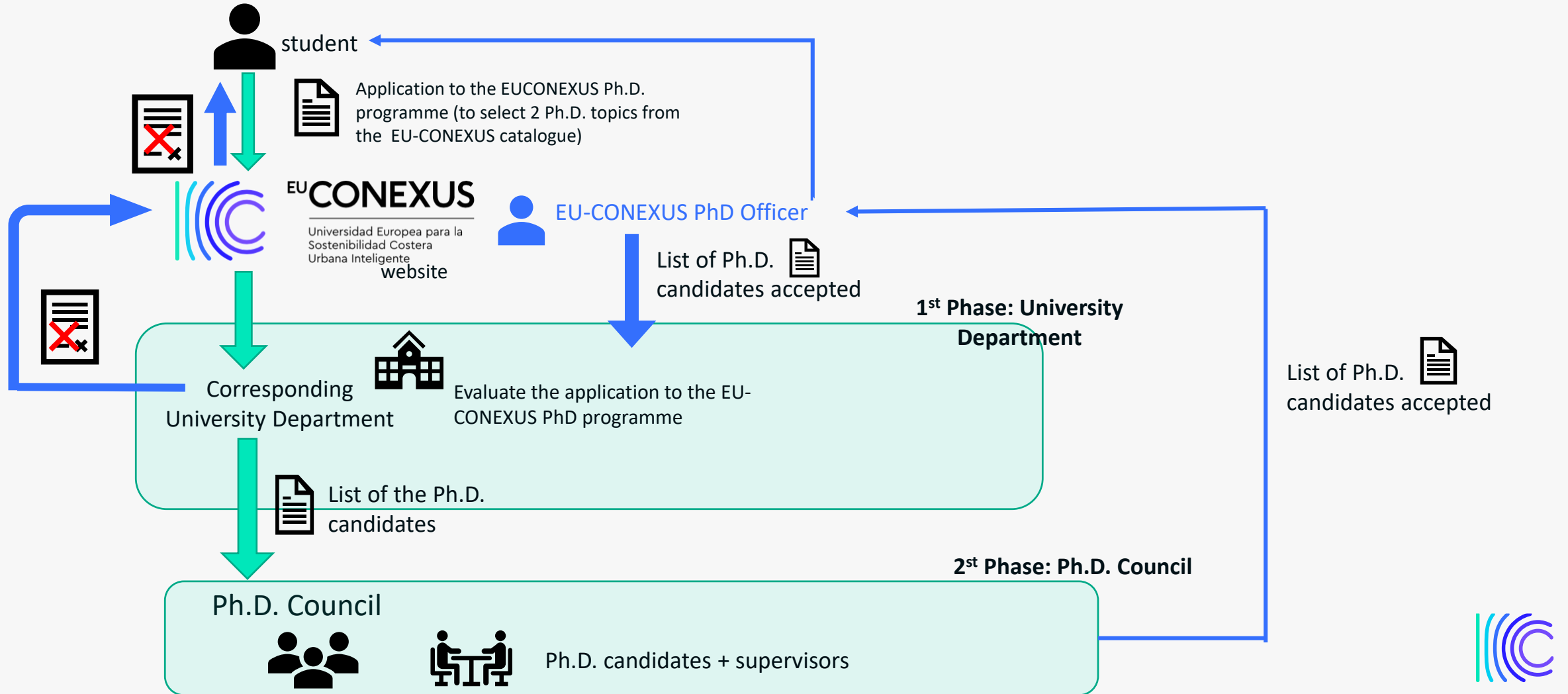
# Governing bodies and tasks

## JOINT PHD AGREEMENT

- a) The **EU-CONEXUS PhD officer** will check that the applications fulfil the mandatory admission requirements and will inform the corresponding University partner (1st phase).
- b) Each University's department (1<sup>st</sup> phase) will evaluate the application submitted and rank them according to a common criteria.
- c) The **Ph.D. Council** is composed by a representative of each partner institution and the Chair of the EU-CONEXUS **Research Council**.
- d) In the **PhD thesis Scientific Committee** meetings occur at least once a year (virtual and/or physical meetings), or when needed, and they are in permanent contact with **the Ph.D. Council**.



# Admission procedure





# Admission procedure

## JOINT PHD AGREEMENT

- EU-CONEXUS PhD Officer will inform to the corresponding university about the acceptance of the students.
- Each University will manage the Doctoral candidate Agreement which will be signed by the supervisors + student + Chair of the EU-CONEXUS PHD programme.



# Selection procedure

## JOINT PHD AGREEMENT

Each University's department (1<sup>st</sup> phase) will evaluate the application submitted and rank them according to the following criteria:

Criteria	Rate (%)
Relevant academic background	0-50
Motivation statement	0-30
Any relevant publications, work experience or project, academic prizes and awards, scholarships, etc.	0-10
Recommendation letters (max 2)	0-10



# Selection procedure

## JOINT PHD AGREEMENT

- The Ph.D. Council will check and confirm the pre-selection established.
- The Ph.D. candidates will be interviewed by their future supervisors following this criteria:

Criteria	Rate
Research project	1-5
Strength	1-5
Disagreement	1-5
Past mistakes	1-5
Aspirations	1-5
Cultural knowledge	1-5



# Selection procedure

## JOINT PHD AGREEMENT

- The Ph.D. Council after the interview will ranked again the candidates and they will select the best candidates for each PhD topic guaranteeing homogeneity inside EU-CONEXUS.
- List of Ph.D. candidates will be sent to the EU-CONEXUS Ph.D. Officer who will inform the corresponding university.

