

Doctoral Candidate Agreement

Preamble

This document sets out the relationship between the Consortium *European Doctorate in Law and Economics (EDLE)* (hereafter 'the Consortium', 'the Programme') and its Doctoral Candidates. Members ('the Partners Universities') of the Consortium are:

- Alma Mater Studiorum, Università di Bologna, Bologna, Italy;
- Universität Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany;
- Université de Rennes1, Rennes, France;
- Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam, Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

The EDLE Coordination Board is composed of four Directors, one from each of the Partner Universities and meets at least twice a year (in October/November and February of each year). The Coordination Board appoints a Chairperson ('Managing Director') from one of its members. Re-election is possible.

At least twice a year, the representatives of each active cohort of Doctoral Candidates are invited to participate in a Board Meeting and advance suggestions, complaints, and proposals for the improvement of the programme.

The Consortium is represented by the Managing Director.

This document provides the framework through which the Consortium and its Doctoral Candidates can work together to create a positive environment for learning and academic achievement.

1. Scope of the document

This document sets out the admission criteria, the length, location and extent of the Programme, the tuition fees, the academic calendar, the nature of exams and the grading system used as well as the degrees awarded and the graduation ceremony. The following documents provide the legal frame applicable at the partner universities. They are available on the EDLE website (for exceptions see below) and they are equally binding on both parties:

- EDLE Programme Regulations;
- Doctoral Regulations of the Partner Universities;
- Integrity Code Erasmus University Rotterdam; as well as
- any additional document(s) referred to in this document.

2. Programme Aim

The goal of the European Doctorate in Law and Economics (EDLE) is to form a new class of outstanding, highly skilled Doctoral Candidates, able to contribute to the international academic and policy debate.

Through EDLE they receive the knowledge and skills to successfully pursue their careers in national and international organisations (private and public), promoting efficient laws and regulations and fostering economic progress. More research-oriented candidates will be able to pursue an academic career. Successful EDLE candidates are expected to extend the frontier of knowledge and to publish their research in international journals.

At the end of the programme, candidates will meet the following objectives:

- i) contribute original research, which merits publication in international field journals and extends the frontier of knowledge;
- ii) show a systematic understanding of the economic analysis of law and familiarity with the international literature on their field of specialisation (e.g. competition law, corporate governance, etc.);
- iii) have a good knowledge of the European legal system, in particular with reference to their field of specialisation;

- iv) understand the economic consequences of regulatory diversity and the introduction of harmonised legal rules.

They will acquire the following skills:

- i) analytical skills (e.g. modelling and strategic analysis) required to understand the incentive structure, the benefits and the costs of alternative legal provisions;
- ii) knowledge of quantitative methods (statistics/econometrics);
- iii) the ability to understand legal concepts and work with legal sources;
- iv) the ability to pursue research with scholarly integrity;
- v) the ability to perform critical analysis of new and complex ideas, and to contribute to the current policy debate;
- vi) the ability to communicate effectively the results of their research and analysis.

Moreover, candidates will:

- i) be strongly internationally oriented: they will be familiar with the culture and the legal system of several European countries;
- ii) have developed relational skills; they will have interacted and worked together with people and faculty of many different countries;
- iii) have developed a strong sense of autonomy: they have organised their lives in at least three different countries, they have learned to work on tight deadlines; and they have produced original and innovative ideas.
- iv) have developed an open-minded attitude: they are skilled in trans-disciplinary analysis (being familiar with both economic and legal methodology), they are used to a problem-solving approach.

3. Programme Length and Location

EDLE is a fully integrated doctoral programme. Candidates start together the programme in Bologna, move together to Hamburg and then Rotterdam, attend the same courses (with some differentiation depending on their academic background), and become part of a unique community. They take different paths only at the beginning of the second semester of the second year, when they move to one of the partner universities in order to receive specialised supervision.

The programme presents a combination of course work and research.

The list of the courses attended and the grades are recorded in the candidate's career file.

The curriculum of the programme is devised to provide advanced and challenging education both to lawyers and economists. Candidates will be able to choose between basic and advanced courses depending on their educational background.

In the first year, candidates with a legal background will be offered the possibility to attend introductory courses in Maths, Game theory, and Statistics. Candidates with a background in economics will be offered the possibility to attend advanced courses in Microeconomics, Econometrics, and Financial Economics. All candidates must take a course either in Statistics or Econometrics. They also have to take the following dedicated courses, covering the core topics of the programme:

1. Introduction to Law and Economics;
2. Introductory Statistics;
3. Experimental Economics;
4. Modelling Private Law;
5. Behavioural Law and Economics and Enforcement Mechanisms;
6. Law and Economic Development;
7. Behavioural Game Theory;
8. Introduction to European Competition Law.

The EDLEs can, on a voluntary basis, take all courses offered by the School of Economics.

All courses require class work and participation, with assignments and presentations, and a final test. Candidates also attend Law and Economics seminars held by international scholars.

In March all first-year candidates present in Bologna their final research proposal that includes a clearly defined research topic, research question, chosen methodology and a literature survey.

During the second semester of the first year, the doctoral candidates stay in Hamburg. In the month of May the doctoral candidates will attend the course "Empirical Legal Studies".

From mid-June to July, the doctoral candidates will participate in the four-week long Summer School in Law and Economics, a lecture series held by internationally renowned scholars. Doctoral candidates will participate in all activities offered by the Summer School programme. Topics represent research challenges of fundamental or current interest in the field of Law and Economics. Within this Summer School, EDLE candidates have the opportunity to build-up an international research network with leading scholars.

In addition, doctorate students are welcome to attend the Hamburg Lectures in Law and Economics, a lecture series that takes place every Wednesday evening during the semester. The lectures, held by internationally renowned researchers from Germany and abroad, deal with current research results in the field of economic analysis of law and address a broad audience through their interdisciplinary approach.

During the semester in Hamburg all first-year candidates give a presentation on their introduction chapter (introduction, problem definition, research question, limitations, methodology, scientific and societal relevance, preliminary bibliography), including a summary of each planned content chapter and time schedule.

During the first semester of the second year, from September to March, candidates attend and actively take part in the cycle of seminars and courses scheduled at the Rotterdam Institute of Law and Economics (RILE). The format of these seminars includes a presentation of one or two candidates of their work in progress, (written) peer feedback and the discussion by a senior staff member of the faculty/institute/department, preferably (where possible) a leading researcher in the field. The mandatory courses may vary, but will include courses to (further) develop soft skills, Advanced Data Analysis, and Advanced Empirical Methods Research Design. In March the candidates take part in the Joint Seminar and give a poster presentation.

At the end of the first semester of the second year, candidates will move to one of the participating universities (their home university), depending on the field of specialisation.

In the third year, candidates will have to present twice their work at a collective workshop, organised at or by one of the partner universities, with the standard format (presentation + discussion by a senior staff member). In November in Bologna and in March at the Joint Seminar, organised by Rotterdam.

In all partner universities, attendance of courses and dedicated activities is mandatory. Any absence needs to be properly motivated and approved by the local supervisor.

EDLE Academic Calendar

Time	Location	Programme
Upon arrival		The candidate is assigned a (provisional) supervisor who will help to identify a suitable thesis topic
October – March 1 st year	Bologna	Research + taught courses
By December at the latest		The candidate has decided the thesis topic and is assigned two supervisors
November 1 st year	Bologna	Workshop on Writing a PhD / presentation skills
November 1 st year	Bologna	Introduction meeting with partner universities & Attending 3 rd year seminar
March 1 st year	Bologna	<i>Presentation final research proposal that includes a clearly defined research issue, research question, chosen methodology and a literature survey</i>
April – July 1 st year	Hamburg	Research + EDLE Empirical Track course + Summer School
June / July 1 st year	Hamburg	<i>Presentation introduction chapter (introduction, problem definition, research question, limitations, methodology, scientific and societal relevance, preliminary bibliography) + summary of each planned content chapter and time schedule</i>
September – March 2 nd year	Rotterdam	Research + EDLE Empirical Track course + Academic writing course + Publication Strategy Seminar + EDLE/BACT and other relevant seminars
October / December 2 nd year	Rotterdam	<i>Presentation (new) content chapter</i>
January / March 2 nd year	Rotterdam	<i>Presentation (new) content chapter</i>
March 2 nd year		Attending joint seminar (Maastricht/Rotterdam/Paris)
From April 2 nd year onwards	Home university	Research + presentation of research results

<i>November year</i>	<i>3rd</i>	Bologna	<i>Presentation (new) content chapter at 3rd year seminar</i>
<i>November year</i>	<i>3rd</i>	Bologna	<i>Information session on defence procedure</i>
<i>March</i>	<i>3rd year</i>		<i>Presentation (new) content chapter at joint seminar (Maastricht/Rotterdam/Paris)</i>
<i>From</i>	<i>October</i>	Rotterdam	<i>Defending thesis in Rotterdam</i>
<i>3rd year onwards</i>			

First year programme breaks: Winter break from Saturday before Christmas – end first week of January and Summer break during the month of August.

4. Thesis

Each candidate is constantly advised by at least two supervisors. One is the main supervisor from the home university, who is in charge of advising on all aspects of the candidate's education. The second supervisor is normally a professor of the institute currently hosting the candidate. As all defences take place in Rotterdam, each candidate is also assigned a Rotterdam supervisor. All supervisors report to the Coordination Board every six months.

Admission to the second and third year of the programme is decided by the Coordination Board on the basis of the interim reports of the supervisors, the quality of the chapter(s) submitted every year, and the results of the exams of the taught courses (marked with pass or fail). The (local) supervisor is expected to be in contact with the candidate on a regular basis. When hosted in a different institution, candidates send a monthly report to their supervisors. The candidate and supervisors are urged to keep all parties equally informed from the beginning onwards.

From the first year onwards, twice a year, candidates have to present their work in dedicated workshops. In this occasion, peer academics and senior discussants provide feedback to the candidate.

The timeline for EDLE candidates regarding thesis research is as follows.

Time	Task
Upon arrival	The candidate is assigned a (provisional) supervisor who will help to identify a suitable thesis topic

by December 1 st year at the latest	The candidate has decided the thesis topic and is assigned at least two supervisors
March 1 st year	The candidate presents a final research proposal (a clear definition of the research issue, the methodology to be used and a literature survey)
June 1 st year	The candidate presents first introductory chapter containing problem definition, research questions, methodology adopted, literature list, table of contents, summary of planned chapters and time schedule
First semester 2 nd year	The candidate presents his/her work in dedicated seminars (two content chapters)
June 2 nd year	The candidate submits two full chapters of the thesis
First semester 3 rd year	The candidate presents his/her work in dedicated workshops in front of senior staff members
June 3 rd year	The candidate submits a first draft of the thesis
when ready	The candidate submits the final draft of the thesis
Upon approval by the Coordination Board and Defence Committee (starting from October 3 rd year *)	The candidate defends the thesis and obtains the EDLE doctoral degree

(*) Bologna regulations require a minimum of three years of PhD study.

Candidates who do not make satisfactory progress with their thesis or who fail to pass the required exams can be forced to leave the programme at any time. The decision is made by the Coordination Board after a first warning has proven to be ineffective.

5. Degree

Candidates who meet the conditions set by the programme and successfully defend their thesis are awarded the EDLE doctoral degree. Candidates can submit their thesis after three academic years. The defence takes place at Erasmus University Rotterdam. Candidates will obtain a doctoral degree from the Universities of Bologna, Hamburg, Erasmus University Rotterdam and (if applicable) Rennes1. With respect to the requirements of the defence, the local regulations apply.

6. Participation in Quality assurance

- 1) Candidates fill in feed-back evaluation forms for all the teaching activities, concerning the quality of courses and seminars, lecturers, as well as infrastructure and organisation. These course evaluation forms are taken into careful consideration by the Coordination Board, which engages every year in curriculum improvement (February meeting);
- 2) The members of the Coordination Board meet at least twice a year (in November and February of each year). On both occasions, representatives of each cohort of Doctoral Candidates are invited to participate and to advance suggestions, complaints, and proposals.

7. Doctoral Candidate's Obligations

- 1) Doctoral Candidates are required to comply with the obligations established in this document and the documents it refers to. The hosting Partner Universities may require compliance with additional regulations, which are equally binding as long as they are communicated to the candidate timely.
- 2) Doctoral Candidates are required to attend lectures, courses, tutorials, seminars, examinations and other assessments, and any other activities that form part of the Programme, except in case of absence for documented medical reasons, mutually agreed absences or other exceptional circumstances. In addition, Doctoral Candidates shall refrain from fraud, in whatever form, during their study, exams and thesis writing.
- 3) Doctoral Candidates are expected to communicate their email account to each Partner University where they study and to check that account regularly, as the Partner Universities use email as a main source of communication. When the Consortium or a Partner University provides a specific email account to the Doctoral Candidates, Doctoral Candidates shall regularly check that account as well.
- 4) Candidates are required to have an accident and civic liability insurance. Candidates are responsible for their own medical insurance.
- 5) Twice a year, students are required to fill and submit a progress report describing their work, activities and future planning.
- 6) During the 2nd year EDLE seminars in Rotterdam the students are required to submit (written) peer feedback on the work of their fellow students.

8. Tuition Fees and Scholarships

Participation fees. The participation fee for Doctoral Candidates amounts to € 3600 per year, independently of the country of origin. This fee is waived for candidates with scholarships granted by the Italian Minister of Education, the DAAD or by the Partners. The EDLE Board can decide upon a (partial) waiver in exceptional cases, which has to be requested (by the candidate) to the Board in a motivated email.

The Board may decide to give a (partial) waiver for the second (and third) year if there is sufficient progress after the first year.

9. Gender balance and special needs

The Coordination Board makes sure that no form of discrimination takes place, with reference to gender, age, ethnic, national or social origin, religion or belief, sexual orientation, language, disability, political opinion, social or economic condition, or nationality.

EDLE collects no data on religious beliefs. However, in setting the timetable for important activities (exams, seminars, and workshops) the Coordination Board will try to avoid overlapping with important festivities of the presumed religion of the candidates. In any case, candidates have the right to raise the issue and request a variation in the timetable.

Victims of discrimination can submit their complaints to the local Coordinator, to the Chairperson of the Coordination Board, or to the candidate representatives, who will report this at the Board meeting. Partner universities also have Ombudspersons, who can hear complaints and take action.

Regarding candidates with disabilities: most university buildings in Bologna, Hamburg, and Rotterdam are wheelchair accessible and have reserved parking areas. To help disabled and dyslexic candidates, Bologna offers also special services, from the predisposition of the appropriate logistical conditions for learning, to guidance at the end of the course to help candidates integrate into the job market. Special tutors for visually or auditorily impaired candidates are available. All partner universities can provide offices with wheelchair access

to disabled Doctoral Candidates. Libraries offer research utilities to assist visually handicapped candidates. Specialised counselling services are provided by the University of Hamburg and by candidates' representatives. Rotterdam University provides assistance and special facilities for visually or auditorily impaired candidates.

10. Contact Persons/Problem Solving

- 1) In the event of any individual problems relating to the Programme, Doctoral Candidates should first contact the local Coordinator. If the problem cannot be solved satisfactorily, the Doctoral Candidate can contact the Chairperson of the Coordination Board. The Chairperson solves the problem in coordination with all parties involved and informs the Board in the next available meeting.
- 2) In case of problems relating to the Programme that involve more Doctoral Candidates, the two Doctoral Candidate representatives may contact the local Coordinator or the Chairman of the Coordination Board. The Chairperson solves the problem in coordination with all parties involved and informs the Board in the next available meeting.

11. Visa and Accommodation

Doctoral Candidates will be informed by the partner universities well in advance about the procedure regarding visa, residence permit and accommodation and the necessary documents to submit. The (timely) arrangement is the responsibility of the Doctoral Candidate. All related costs are for the expenses of the student.

12. Subsidy Policy

Sponsored EDLE events

All participating EDLE PhDs receive a contribution in the travel and accommodation costs for the 2nd & 3rd year Joint Seminar (amount dependent on annual venue), arranged via Rotterdam.

All 3rd year PhDs who have to travel to Bologna for the 3rd year seminar will receive a contribution in the travel and accommodation costs, arranged via their home university.

Funding for additional activities

The EDLE programme has limited resources for a contribution in the costs of extracurricular activities, such as conferences and workshops. Funding requests can only be made via the subsidy application form (signed by all parties) and have to be addressed to and will be evaluated by the EDLE Board.

Before applying for funding through the EDLE, the PhD has to explore/make use of local (home university) subsidy possibilities.

13. EDLE email address

At the beginning of the EDLE programme each Doctoral Candidate will receive an EDLE email address firstname.lastname@edle-phd.eu. All information regarding the programme will be communicated through this email address. The Doctoral Candidate can put a forward on this email address to his/her personal email address. The EDLE email address will remain valid for an indefinite period of time.

14. Registration and matriculation

In order to obtain a diploma from the relevant partner universities, each EDLE Doctoral Candidate has to register at each visited university (min. stay one semester). If applicable, matriculation costs are for the account of the Doctoral Candidate.

Rotterdam

At the beginning of the PhD trajectory the Doctoral Candidate has to register (no matriculation costs) in the PhD database of Erasmus University Rotterdam, called Hora Finita. Furthermore, the Doctorate Candidate has to have his/her diplomas verified and recognised at the Admissions Office of Erasmus University Rotterdam.

For each Doctoral Candidate a hospitality agreement will be arranged in order to issue an (ERNA) account to gain access to Hora Finita, relevant EUR website pages, databases and the University Library Online Journals.

Bologna

At the beginning of the first year all Doctoral Candidates are registered at Bologna University. Doctoral candidates with Bologna scholarship pay local registration taxes (about 150 euro).

Other candidates only pay a very small amount (about 20 euro) for the student badge.

Hamburg

Doctoral Candidates have to be matriculated for (at least) one semester in order to be eligible to the Hamburg diploma. Matriculation fees are approx. 325 euro.

15. Privacy

The EDLE offers various activities that can only be performed by making use of your personal data, including your email address. By signing this agreement you give permission for the use of data mentioned below. If you grant the EDLE permission to use personal data, you can always withdraw this permission at a later date.

- a) The Doctorate Candidate authorises the EDLE Coordination Board and the partner universities to publicly display personally identifiable information which includes educational information/records that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of a candidate's privacy. This information includes:
 - Name and last name of the doctorate candidate;
 - Title of the doctoral thesis;
 - The date of the defence;
 - Affiliation during the programme;
 - Announcement of the Doctorate defence.

- b) The Doctorate Candidate agrees in addition that the following information will be publicly displayed unless he/she provides a written objection:
 - Candidate's picture;
 - Academic Background;
 - Work experience;
 - Current place of work.

16. General

This document was last updated on 16 September 2020.

17. Signature

- 1) This Agreement is signed by the Doctoral Candidate and the EDLE representative upon commencing the programme.
- 2) A model of this Agreement is posted on the EDLE website, in order for prospective Doctoral Candidates to be aware of its contents.

EDLE representative:

Name: Prof.dr Michael G. Faure LL.M.

Place: Rotterdam

Date: 16 September 2020

Signature: 

EDLE PhD candidate:

Name:

Place:

Date:

Signature: