



**Agreement for
Dual Doctoral Degree Program**



between

DREXEL UNIVERSITY

The School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems, and

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, KANPUR (IITK)

The Department of Biological Sciences and Bioengineering

A. Program Goal/ Expected Outcomes

The program is intended to allow a student to perform coordinated doctoral studies at both, the Drexel University School of Biomedical Engineering, Science, and Health Systems (Drexel Biomed) and the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK)'s Department of Biological Sciences & Bioengineering (BSBE) by studying and doing research at both institutions, guided jointly by scientific supervisors (mentors/guides) from both institutions. The aim is to obtain the joint doctoral title from the two institutions by satisfying the requirements and quality standards of the doctoral studies of each institution. The scope of the Dual PhD program will include all research tracks/areas that are complementary to Drexel Biomed and IITK-BSBE.

This Agreement shall take effect on the 12th day of June 2020 (or the date of last signature on this document) and will be automatically renewed every five years. It is expected that the first students will be admitted for September 2020.

B. General Principles:

a) Number of Students

As the programs are well established at both ends, in the beginning, up to five students from each university will be admitted to this dual degree program. The universities will work to achieve a balance of students from each institution over three-year periods, and number may increase or decrease.

b) Admission

The admission to each doctoral program is by two separate and independent selection processes, in accordance with the respective regulations of each institution. Each institution will inform the other about the admission review outcome.

c) Duration

The duration of the doctorate will be as per the norms of the home institution, after the starting date of the dual PhD program, unless special conditions justify a reduction or extension. If the dual PhD specified objectives are not reached, the duration maybe extended beyond five years in accordance with the regulations of the two institutions.

d) Residency requirements

The research and study activities will be carried out at the two institutions during alternated or consecutive periods. The total duration of the periods spent at each institution is expected to be a minimum of 24 months.

e) Supervision of the student

Each student will have two thesis supervisors (also known as, mentor or guide) – one from each university. It is assumed that the two advisors will be engaged in complementary research programs. The two supervisors will jointly exercise the function of scientific guide of the student and are responsible for overseeing the student's doctoral education and research training.

f) Studying activities

The main activities that the student must carry on during the doctorate program include taking advanced (doctoral) level courses, doing research work, elaborating and defending the doctoral thesis. The students may take courses and the associated exams at each of the two institutions in accordance with the study curriculum developed with the supervisors. Course and credit equivalencies will be worked out so that students meet the minimum number of credits for the degree through study and research at the two institutions.

The student shall fulfill all requirements and regulations ruling the PhD programs at both institutions, including qualifying exam, proposal, and dissertation/thesis defense.

g) Qualifying exams and thesis

The students will pass the qualifying exams at their home university. Success will be honored by the partner university and the students need NOT pass qualifying exams again at the partner university. In other words, the successful credits are transferrable at each institution, as per the norms at the home institution. The transferrable credits will be clearly mentioned in institutional certification for transparency.

The doctoral thesis is expected to contain research material of relevance superior to that attainable by work performed within a single PhD program. It will be written in English. Application of the Ph.D. degree in each institution is in accordance with the respective regulations.

h) Award of the Dual Ph.D. degree

After completing the Dual Ph. D. program and satisfying all the associated requirements (in particular, the fulfilment of the course credits, qualifying exam, and the committee's positive evaluation of the thesis work), the students will submit and defend their dissertation/thesis to their joint review committee according to the required procedures of the respective universities.

The thesis defense will be held at the home institution with video conferencing to the partner institution. The defense committee will consist of at least five members, including the two supervisors (the supervisor from the partner institution may participate in person or electronically), 2 other professors from the field of expertise, and a member from an institution other the two engaged in this agreement.

Two separate degree certificates will be awarded for the one degree by the respective institutions in line with their respective protocols/styles. The wording in both degree certificates must indicate unambiguously that the degree is being awarded jointly with the Partner Institutions for the same thesis.

i) Protection of research results

The protection of the thesis content and the publication, exploitation, and protection of the results of the involved research will be subject to the regulations of both institutions. If required, specific agreements will be arranged for the protection of the intellectual property.

C. Academic Standing:

a) Grade point average requirements

In accordance with each university policy, the students must maintain a minimum grade point average or better for all coursework he/she has taken.

b) Verification process for program completion

The students must apply for the degree during the term for which they complete all requirements for the degree. Final approval of degree completion will be provided by the Office of Graduate Studies and the Office of the University Registrar at both institutions (as the case may be).

E. Responsibility Sharing:

a) Each home institution is responsible for maintaining its own students registered at the home institution for the duration of the program.

b) Each home institution is responsible for recruitment, selection, and pre-program orientation of student.

c) Each home institution agrees that credits successfully earned at the host (or partner) institution will be transferable to the home institution as per the norms of the home institution.

d) The host or partner institution will provide orientation for the incoming students.

e) The host institution will endeavour to ensure that students are admitted to courses be regarded as essential.

f) The host institution will assist the student in finding accommodations on or off campus.

g) The host institution will inform students of health insurance and immunization requirements and availability.

h) Students will be responsible for necessary health insurance and medical costs including immunizations and transportation to and from the host institution as well as any costs associated with obtaining a visa and related documents.



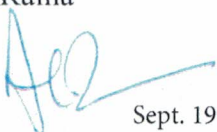
i) This program will follow the exchange model with respect to tuition: Drexel students will always be charged Drexel tuition; IITK students will always be charged IITK tuition. Tuition will be assumed by students' home university. Thus, no funds need be transferred (unless specified separately as an annexure to this agreement).

j) The host (partner) university will provide fellowships for living and housing costs for the students while at the partner (host) university.

F. Program Assessment:

The program will be reviewed every five years to evaluate the progress and to improve the quality of exchange mechanism. This Agreement may be terminated by either party providing the other through a written notice of its intent to terminate. Such notice shall be given at least one (1) year prior to the effective date of the termination. Such termination shall not affect the dual PhD program students in effect prior to the effective date of the termination.

In witness whereof, the universities hereto have offered their signatures:

For Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur	For Drexel University
Project Director: Dr. Dharendra Katti Signature:  Date: 31 Aug. 2020	Project Director & Liaison Professor: Dr. Suresh Joshi Date: Signature:
Graduate Program Director/Head, BSBE: Dr. R. Sankararamkrishnan Signature:  Date: 31 Aug 2020	Graduate Program Director: Dr. Andres Kriete Date: Signature:
Dean, Academic Affairs: Dr. Achla Raina Signature:  Date: Sept. 19, 2020	Dean, School of Biomedical Engineering: Dr. Paul Brandt-Rauf Signature: Date:
Legal domicile of Indian Institute of Technology Kalyanpur Kanpur-208016 UP, INDIA	Legal domicile of Drexel University 3141 Chestnut Street, Bossone Bldg Philadelphia, PA 19104 USA

Stamp / Seal of IITK







Stamp/Seal of DU



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Graduate Program Director/Head, BSBE: Dr. R. Sankararamkrishnan Signature:  Date: 31 Aug 2020	Graduate Program Director: Dr. Andres Kriete Signature:  Date: September 24, 2020
Dean, Academic Affairs: Dr. Achla Raina Signature:  Date: September 29, 2020	Dean, School of Biomedical Engineering: Dr. Paul Brandt-Rauf Signature:  Date: September 24, 2020
Legal domicile of Indian Institute of Technology Kalyanpur Kanpur-208016 UP, INDIA	Legal domicile of Drexel University 3141 Chestnut Street, Bossone Bldg Philadelphia, PA 19104 USA

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