



**PROGRAM SPECIFIC AGREEMENT FOR A
DUAL PHD PROGRAM**

Between

**BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA
BY AND ON BEHALF OF GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND ITS COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
ATLANTA, U.S.A.**

And

**JOHANNES GUTENBERG-UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ
MAINZ, GERMANY**

In order to improve the educational experiences and cultural understanding of their students and faculty and in furtherance of the relationship instituted in 1989, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia by and on behalf of Georgia State University and its College of Arts and Sciences ("Georgia State"), Atlanta, Georgia, United States of America and Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz ("JGU"), Mainz, Germany agree to establish a Dual PhD Program in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in this agreement ("Agreement"). The Agreement is in accordance with the desires of both institutions to encourage partnerships within the international academic community.

Georgia State and JGU hereby agree to the following:

1. Description of Program

The program facilitates a dual degree, wherein select Georgia State and JGU students may earn doctoral degrees at both Georgia State and JGU. The selected students who successfully complete all Georgia State and JGU requirements will be conferred each separate degree from the respective institutions. The doctoral degree at Georgia State is in English Literary Studies and the doctoral degree at JGU is in American Studies.

The aforementioned degrees will observe the respective university regulations for doctoral degrees set forth in the respective University Catalogs. Students must follow the degree requirements as outlined in the University Catalog at the time of matriculation. If requirements change after that time, students can elect to follow the updated requirements or continue to follow those at the time of matriculation, if respective regulations at Georgia State and JGU provide for this choice. Participants in the Dual Degree Program are expected to complete their Georgia State or JGU coursework within a five (5)-year timeframe. Following the conferral of their ABO status, they will seek approval of their dissertation proposal by their co-directors at Georgia State and JGU and then spend two (2) to four (4) semesters at JGU to write their dissertation under the co-supervision of their co-directors.

For the duration of the work, the Doctoral Candidate will follow, after agreement of both Parties according to Appendix A, a doctoral training program provided by the Georgia State's Department of English and JGU's Institute of Transnational American Studies. The defense will take place once, via video-teleconferencing at one of the two institutions, as established on an individual basis in the *Co-Tutelle* Agreements.

Further details on dissertation requirements (including language), descriptions of processes, committee personnel and responsibilities, timelines, defense protocols, notifications, and

intellectual property are captured in the *Co-Tutelle* Agreements for each student.

For purposes of this Agreement, the term "Home Institution" shall mean the student's originating institution and "Host Institution" shall mean the institution that has agreed to receive students from the Home Institution for a period of study.

2. Term and Academic Years

This Agreement becomes effective on the date it is duly signed by representatives of both institutions. The term of the Agreement shall commence on the effective date and shall be in effect for five (5) years, unless earlier terminated by either party pursuant to Section 16 below. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, the term of this Agreement shall not extend beyond one academic year if Georgia State or JGU assume any financial obligations by entering into this Agreement and, in no event shall the term of this Agreement extend beyond five academic years. This Agreement may be renewed for additional academic years or five-year renewal terms, as applicable, upon the advance written agreement of both Parties.

The academic year at Georgia State consists of two regular semesters: the Fall semester begins in August and ends in mid-December and the Spring semester begins in January and runs into May. In addition, there is a Summer semester and an abbreviated Maymester. The academic year at JGU consists of two regular semesters: the first semester begins at the end of October and ends at the beginning of February, and the second begins in April and runs through July. There is no dedicated Summer term. Students from Georgia State taking classes at JGU will participate during any semester. Students from JGU taking classes at Georgia State will commence participation in the Fall semester.

The time foreseen for students admitted to this program to complete their coursework and thesis work (including defense) is determined by the respective regulations at Georgia State and JGU (for duration see individual *Co-Tutelle* agreement).

3. Tuition and Fees

- A. The doctoral candidate will be enrolled as a doctoral student at both universities and will pay tuition and mandatory fees as determined by Georgia State by published deadlines, as well as the JGU social fee (~300 €) each semester they are at JGU;
- B. Financial assistance (such as fellowships, graduate assistantships, etc.) for the PhD Dual Degree will be determined on an individual basis upon the availability of funds and established in the *Co-Tutelle* Agreements; and
- C. While students are at JGU, the continuous enrollment policy, along with applicable tuition and fees, will be waived at Georgia State as the students will be working primarily with JGU faculty. However, students must be enrolled at Georgia State for the appropriate number of credit hours during the semester of their dissertation defense and graduation.

4. Number of Students

It is anticipated that a total of two (2) to four (4) students will be participating at any given time.

This agreement does not require reciprocity, as Georgia State and JGU will accept only qualified applicants.

5. Units Involved in Dual PhD Program

Participants in the program will be drawn from the Department of English at Georgia State and the Institute of Transnational American Studies at JGU, at the discretion of both Parties.

6. Requirements for Participation

A student's eligibility for the dual degree will be determined according to the regulations at the respective institution and by the dissertation director of their originating university who will certify the candidate's good academic standing. Students will be nominated and recommended in writing by an official representative of each university. Students who wish to participate in the Dual PhD Program will be screened for eligibility for admission by both institutions respectively, respecting all of the admission requirements and enrollment constraints of both institutions. Students are generally expected to have completed a Master's degree in English or a closely related discipline from an accredited college or university. In addition to personal interviews, students must submit:

- A. Official transcripts of all previous college or university coursework;
- B. Three letters of recommendation sent directly from persons who testify to the applicant's ability to do graduate work. Applicants from the MA program in English must submit new letters of recommendation, preferably from English department faculty;
- C. Competitive scores (no more than five years old) on the General portion of the GRE;
- D. An essay composed by the applicant stating goals and career objectives;
- E. A 10-20 page critical writing sample; and
- F. A Curriculum Vitae (CV).

Students must be proficient in the language of instruction for courses being taken in order to participate. At Georgia State, the language of instruction is English, and at JGU the language of instruction is German or English. Students from JGU will be required to submit proof of English language proficiency per Georgia State admissions policies. Students from Georgia State will not be required to demonstrate proficiency in German and will not be required to take the TOEFL exam. These language requirements apply only to the students and not to their spouses and/or dependents. Each Host University shall have final authority over decisions regarding admission of students to its courses.

All participating students will be required to comply with the standard rules, regulations, and enrollment restrictions in the selection of courses (Appendix A), including requirements of language proficiency and health documentation for their visas, including but not limited to Measles, Mumps and Rubella or MMR, Tetanus, Diphtheria, Varicella, Hepatitis B) for enrollment at Georgia State. Georgia State students will submit any required health documentation to JGU.

7. Academic Counseling, Credits and Records

The school, department or unit involved in this Agreement will provide academic counseling to the students to ensure that the courses taken are acceptable with respect to the degree program. Each institution will supply course descriptions and other pertinent materials/non confidential information to assist in determining course equivalency. Students will carry a normal load of classes appropriate to full-time status at each institution. Students will not be permitted to enroll in courses for which they do not have the prerequisites. To confirm that prerequisites have been satisfied, students will request that their transcripts (in English) be sent to the partner institution.

Students must pursue the approved course of study for the agreed period as designated in Appendix A. Coursework undertaken by students should be recognized as contributing to degree requirements for the Dual PhD, but this remains at the discretion of each institution. At the end of each semester or academic term, students will follow appropriate procedures to

ensure academic records/transcripts are sent to the partner institution.

Thesis/Dissertation

- A. The doctoral candidate will complete their research work under the supervision and responsibility of professors from both Georgia State and JGU, who have the responsibility to provide the supervision of the candidate's postgraduate studies dually under the observance of the respective regulations, i.e., in accordance with the respective University's catalog;
- B. The preparation time of the thesis/dissertation will be divided between both universities as agreed upon by the directors of the program in accordance with each university's regulations for residency;
- C. Individual *Co-Tutelle* agreements for each student (naming their faculty advisors, their thesis/dissertation, and other specifics particular to the individual doctoral candidate) may be facilitated between departments;
 - i. The student will write one thesis/dissertation under the direction of the joint committee and will present one defense at which some, but not all, of the committee members may participate without being physically present;
 - ii. The provision of copies of the thesis will be arranged in accordance with the respective University Catalogs/Regulations; and
 - iii. The intellectual property rights of the thesis, the publication, the use and protection of the research results shall be safeguarded in accordance with the specific regulations of both universities and of the United States and Germany.
 - iv. Under no circumstances may any provision of the *Co-Tutelle* conflict with any terms set forth in this Program Specific Agreement.

Degree

- A. At the end of the doctoral procedure, both universities will confer dual doctoral degrees. Both universities will issue a doctoral certificate from the respective institution. An accompanying statement will contain an explicit reference to the fact that the two universities dually administered the doctoral procedure and indicate that doctoral degrees were awarded by both universities. The respective doctoral documents will entitle the recipient to use either the German or the American form of the doctoral title;
- B. Both universities will recognize the validity of the Dual Degree and *Co-Tutelle de These* and the subsequently conferred doctoral degrees. However, this Agreement does not constitute a legal entitlement to the acceptance of the doctoral thesis or to the conferral of a doctoral degree if the candidate has not passed a written comprehensive examination and/or oral defense; and
- C. If the candidate fails to pass the examination under the regulations of either JGU or Georgia State, the postgraduate studies will be regarded as not duly performed. However, if the Doctoral Candidate satisfies the requirements of one institution and not the other, they will receive the doctoral degree from that institution. In addition, subsequent admission as a postgraduate student to either Party, Georgia State or JGU, with the same thesis title will not be possible.

Disclaimer

Georgia State University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

Commission on Colleges to award Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's, Educational Specialist, and Doctoral degrees. Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz is not accredited by SACS Commission on Colleges and the accreditation of Georgia State University does not extend to or include Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz or its students. Further, although Georgia State University agrees to accept certain course work from Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz to be applied toward an award from Georgia State University that course work may not be accepted by other colleges or universities in transfer, even if it appears on a transcript from Georgia State University. The decision to accept course work in transfer from any institution is made by the institution considering the acceptance of credits or course work.

8. Student Responsibilities and Expenses

Unless otherwise indicated in an appendix hereto, students in this program will be responsible for the following:

- A. Complete appropriate application forms by the published deadlines. For both universities, admission only occurs in the fall semester (payment of admission application fees is waived.);
- B. Payment of tuition and mandatory student fees to the appropriate party by published deadlines, pursuant to the relevant tuition and fees category defined in Section 3;
- C. With the assistance of the partner university, obtaining the proper visas and other documents required by the U.S. or German government, including any guarantee that they have the financial resources to meet all expenses (Section 9);
- D. The costs of food, housing, international and local transportation, books, fees for class materials, and other educational and personal expenses;
- E. If residing in university housing, payment of housing and board costs by the published deadlines;
- F. Purchasing the required health/hospitalization/liability insurance, including a repatriation and medical evacuation plan, for the time period of their involvement in order to meet governmental regulations, as well as the regulations of both Parties, as set forth in Section 10 below;
- G. Abiding by the same regulations and performance standards that pertain to other students at the Host University (Section 13);
- H. In compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), requesting official transcripts to be sent between Georgia State and JGU;
- I. Providing emergency contact information to the appropriate program coordinator(s)/director(s); and
- J. Submitting any health or immunization records required by each institution.

9. Visa Requirements

Each university will provide the necessary documentation (e.g., official letters of admission, immigration documents) for students to obtain a visa to enter and study in the host country. In order to produce this documentation, they will rely on the originating university communicating student information four to five months before the start of the program. Both Parties will send updates annually regarding the data and documentation required. It is each student's responsibility to obtain the appropriate visa, as required by the host country. JGU students coming to Georgia State are required to obtain an F-1 visa, and therefore must provide documentation of sufficient financial resources needed to study in the U.S. Forms and

detailed information about this process will be provided by Georgia State's International Student & Scholar Services. Georgia State students must have a valid passport to enter Germany that will not expire within six (6) months of their stay. JGU will assist Georgia State students with any visa concerns. While at Georgia State during the dissertation period, JGU students are required to enroll for 1-9 credits in the Fall and Spring and possibly for 1-6 credits during the summer to maintain, as approved by their status and advisor.

10. Insurance Requirements

Personal health, hospitalization and accident insurance, including a repatriation and medical evacuation plan, as well as liability coverage, is required for all students participating in this Dual PhD Program. Insurance for all students is at their own expense and must cover the time of their stay in the respective country. Students must meet the insurance requirements of the host institution.

11. Housing

Advice may be offered regarding accommodations, but it is the responsibility of the students themselves to making living arrangements in the host country.

12. Employment

In accordance with the host country's laws, this agreement allows employment of JGU and/or Georgia State students in the host country. Students will follow appropriate steps to obtain authorization of employment and will follow regulations of their student visas and host university.

13. Compliance with Rules and Regulations

Students will be subject to the rules and regulations of each institution, and the laws and procedures of the state or province in which the institution is located. The hosting institution will assume no responsibility for a student's conduct or lack of compliance with any of the host country's laws. If a student voluntarily withdraws or is dismissed for disciplinary reasons before the end of the program, the program will be considered completed with respect to that student. No replacements will be sent for students who do not complete the Dual PhD Program. Furthermore, each institution reserves the right to require a student to withdraw from the Program if the student's academic performance or personal misconduct warrants such action, provided, however, the hosting institution will, absent extenuating circumstances, attempt to consult with the partner institution before implementing such action. The dismissal of a student shall not abrogate this Agreement, or arrangements regarding other students. The candidate will be given the opportunity to issue a statement prior to the termination.

Both Parties subscribe to a policy of equal opportunity, and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, age, ethnicity, religion, national origin, or disability.

14. Research

To the extent allowable by law, the Parties may engage in joint research, conference participation, publication of research results and other research-related activity. The Parties understand and agree that certain research sponsors may limit participation in specific research projects. The Parties further understand and agree to secure all Institutional and other required approvals prior to conducting research activities and to abide by all policies and procedures governing such activities.

If students participate in research funded by a third-party sponsor, the Parties agree that such research activities will abide by the terms of the sponsorship agreement. If students receive third party confidential information for research purposes that was provided under a written

nondisclosure or confidential disclosure agreement, the Parties agree that the students will be bound by the confidentiality and nondisclosure terms of such agreement. Students pledge to disclose any intellectual property developed as a result of joint research to both Parties unless such disclosure is unlawful under the law of the hosting institution's country. If valuable intellectual property is created as a result of joint research, ownership of such intellectual property shall be determined in accordance with the law of inventorship or authorship of the country in which the research occurred and the Host Institution's policies. The Parties agree that the hosting institution will evaluate the intellectual property, in consultation with the other party, to determine whether formal patent, copyright, or other protection is desirable.

15. Travel Warning Countries Policy

Georgia State's Travel Advisory Policy governs international travel by Georgia State students, faculty and staff. Travel must be approved by specified Georgia State administrators.

For JGU participants the travel warnings published by the German Federal Foreign Office will be used in cases where the Georgia State Policy is not applicable or binding.

16. Modification, Termination, Renewal of Agreement

This Agreement may be modified, revised, or renewed but only upon the mutual consent of the Parties in writing. Either party may terminate this Agreement by written notice submitted at least 90 days in advance of the next academic semester. Termination will not affect existing or approved students in the Dual PhD Program. Unless renewed by mutual written consent, this Agreement will conclude at the end of the specified academic term or year (as defined in Section 2 above). Future amendments and modifications to the regulations mentioned in this contract may apply.

17. Primary Contacts/ Program Directors

The Primary Contacts/Program Directors will ensure that the terms of this Agreement are carried out. They will serve as the contact persons at each institution, ensure the general welfare of program participants, ensure that necessary approvals are in place, and have administrative oversight of the program.

The primary contacts for the Parties to this Agreement are the following:

For Georgia State University

Name: Reiner Smolinski
Title: Professor
Department: English Department

Address: Georgia State University
25 Park Place, Ste 2300
Atlanta, GA, USA 30303

Phone: +1-404-413-5861
Fax: +1-404-413-5830
Email: rsmolinski@gsu.edu


For Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz

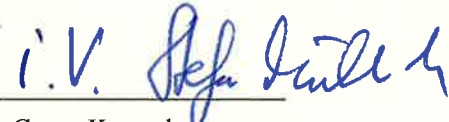
Name: Oliver Scheiding
Title: Professor & Chair
Department: Obama Institute for
Transnational American
Studies
Address: Johannes Gutenberg-
Universität Mainz
Jacob-Welder Weg 20
(Philosophicum II)
55128 Mainz, Germany
Phone: +49-6131-39-23230
Fax: +49-6131-39-2-0365
Email: scheiding@uni-mainz.de

WHEREFORE the Parties to this Agreement signify their acceptance of the terms and conditions contained herein by signing in the spaces below.

**Board of Regents of the University
System of Georgia by and on behalf
of Georgia State**

Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz

By: 
Mark P. Becker
President

By: 
Georg Krausch
President

Date: 27 July 2018

Date: July 27, 2018



APPENDIX A

Dual PhD Degree Plan: Georgia State and JGU Students (English Literary Studies)

Basic Coursework and Residency Requirements

Depending on the plan chosen by a student, the total credit hours required vary from 50 to 59 beyond the MA (30-39 hours of coursework plus 20 hours of dissertation research). To fulfill the residency requirement for the PhD degree, students must enroll for a minimum of 6 hours per term for 4 semesters. Two of these semesters must be consecutive. Each plan has further particular coursework requirements which are specified below.

Literary Studies:

In the interests of facilitating professional specialization within the broad fields of linguistic, literary, and cultural study, the following are required:

1. Thirty hours of course work beyond the MA degree (including, if desired, a maximum of nine hours of coursework in related fields offered by other departments);
2. Fulfillment of areas 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 of the current Georgia State MA course requirements as specified in Georgia State's Department of English Guidelines;
3. An additional three hours in English language study OR literary theory/critical methodology/ cultural studies;
4. In preparation for the doctoral examination and dissertation, twelve hours of coursework in or strongly related to an area of primary specialization (may include courses taken at the MA level and a maximum of one course in a strongly related field offered by another department);
5. Nine hours of coursework in or strongly related to an area of secondary specialization (may include courses taken at the MA level and a maximum of one course in a strongly related field offered by another department);
6. For the purposes of fulfilling requirements 4 and 5 of the current Georgia State MA course requirements as specified in Georgia State's Department of English Guidelines, an area of specialization may be defined in terms of geographical region and historical period; literary genre; theory or methodology; or some combination of the preceding. Students should begin to craft their courses of study by meeting with appropriate faculty advisors early in their doctoral program and by meeting with their advisors thereafter on a regular basis to make revisions as the student's goals evolve. For a list of possible areas of specialization, please refer to the Department of English website;
7. Electives as needed to complete the 30-hour requirement; and
8. Twenty hours ENGL 8999 (Thesis Research).

Doctoral Examinations (at Georgia State; see Co-Tutelle agreement)

After completing coursework and the graduate research skill requirements (see above), students in all concentrations must pass the examination specific to their concentrations.

In the Literary Studies concentration, the primary specialization examination will be in the area in which the student plans to write the dissertation. The primary is a three-part examination involving (in this order) a two and a half hour on-site written, a seventy-two hour off-site written, and a ninety-minute oral. As described in the list of required courses below, in order to take an examination in an area of primary specialization, the student must have completed 12 credit hours (4 courses) in or strongly related to that area. The exam itself will be based on a reading list composed of no fewer

than forty texts, devised by the student in consultation with the faculty adviser who will be the primary reader of the exam. The examination reading list must be composed, and approved by the faculty adviser, at least one semester prior to the semester in which the student will take the exam. The examination questions must be approved by the Director and Associate Director of Graduate Studies.

Examinations are not offered in the summer. Students must give the Director of Graduate Studies in English written notification of their intention to take the primary examination by the departmental deadline. Each doctoral examination will be graded by at least three faculty members. A student must pass each examination on either the first or second try in order to remain in the PhD program. Examples of past examination questions and of successful answers are available to students preparing for the examination.

Dissertation

While writing the dissertation, the student must register for at least 20 hours of ENGL 8999 (Thesis Research; independent research conducted at JGU is equivalent to ENGL 8999). Each student must pass an oral defense of the dissertation administered by the members of the student's dissertation committee and the departmental Director of Graduate Studies. Further details on thesis requirements (including language), descriptions of processes, committee personnel and responsibilities, timelines, defense protocols, notifications, and intellectual property are captured in the *Co-Tutelle* Agreements for each student.