

**INGENIUM ANNUAL EDUCATION CALL 2026/2027**

# Doctoral Collaborations

Guidelines and FAQs



September 2026



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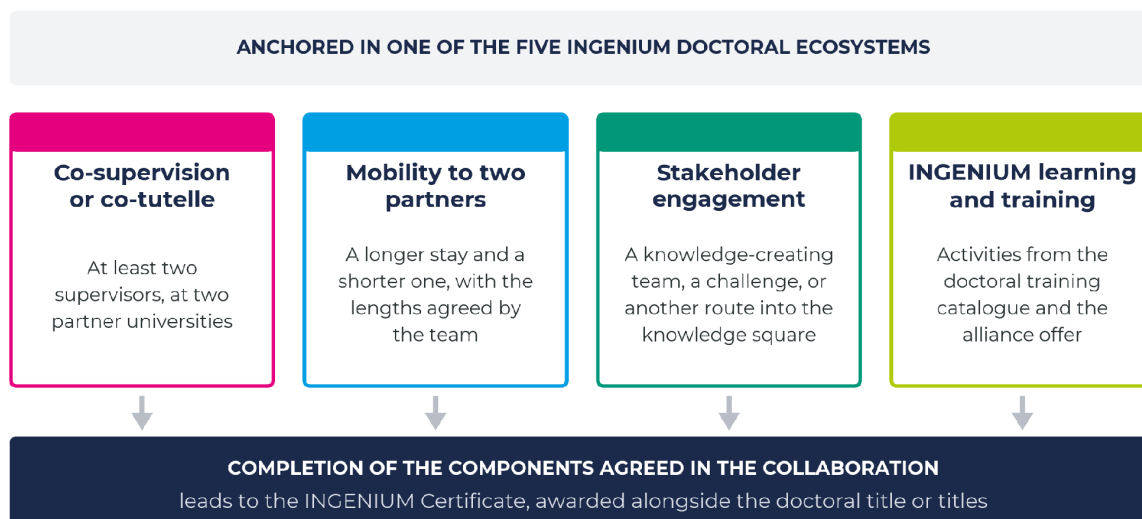
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## Executive summary

These Guidelines explain how to propose and set up an INGENIUM doctoral collaboration through the Annual Education Call 2026/2027. They are addressed to academic staff at the ten partner universities who supervise doctoral candidates, and to the doctoral schools, ecosystem contacts and administrative colleagues who support them.

A doctoral collaboration embeds an INGENIUM experience in doctoral programmes that already exist at the partner universities. No new accreditation is required and no new degree is created. Two academics from two partners agree to guide a candidate together, and the alliance resources a package of activities around that arrangement: mobility, joint training, stakeholder engagement and participation in the life of a doctoral ecosystem.



**Figure 1.** The four components of an INGENIUM doctoral collaboration.

Four components define the category. Every collaboration includes co-supervision or a co-tutelle, mobility to at least two INGENIUM universities, a stakeholder engagement dimension, and a set of INGENIUM learning and training activities. The academic team fixes the weight and length of each component within the regulatory limits of the institutions involved.

Two routes are open. The fast track serves collaborations that can begin in the second semester of 2026/2027. The regular process closes with a final application in December 2026 and leads to first activities in the academic year 2027/2028. The regular process is recommended for most teams. It leaves time for matchmaking, for agreeing the framework and for the administrative preparation that a co-tutelle requires.

Proposals are assessed against Relevance, Quality and Impact on a ten-point scale, with six points required to pass. The assessment covers the scientific dimension of the collaboration together with its design and feasibility.

### The call at a glance

#### Applicants

Academic staff at any INGENIUM partner university who supervise doctoral candidates, or who intend to.

#### Minimum requirement

At least two academics from two partner universities acting as co-supervisors of the same candidate or cohort.

#### Four components

Co-supervision or co-tutelle; mobility to at least two INGENIUM universities; stakeholder engagement; INGENIUM learning and training activities.

| The call at a glance     |                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Candidates</b>        | A proposal may name a prospective candidate or set a framework for future enrolment. Both are accepted.                                                                  |
| <b>Two routes</b>        | Fast track: apply by 16 October 2026, activities from February 2027. Regular process: expression of interest by 13 November 2026, final application by 18 December 2026. |
| <b>Resources</b>         | No fixed ceiling. Support is attached to the activities included in the collaboration and agreed case by case.                                                           |
| <b>Assessment</b>        | Relevance (3) + Quality (4) + Impact (3) = 10 points. Minimum 6 points to pass.                                                                                          |
| <b>Review</b>            | Technical and scientific review by the mixed transition group for research-based education, followed by endorsement through the governance of the doctoral ecosystems.   |
| <b>For the candidate</b> | The INGENIUM Certificate on completion of the components agreed in the collaboration, alongside the doctoral title or titles.                                            |

**Table 1.** Summary of the doctoral collaborations strand of the Annual Education Call 2026/2027.

Read alongside the *Annual Education Call 2026/2027* guide, the *Student Cycle and Student Calendar*, and the *Regulations of the INGENIUM Research School*. Questions on doctoral matters: irsb@ingenium-university.eu. Questions on the call: ingenium@uniovi.es.

## 1. What is an INGENIUM doctoral collaboration?

An INGENIUM doctoral collaboration is a structured arrangement between academics at two or more partner universities around the supervision of one or more doctoral candidates. It sits inside doctoral programmes that are already accredited at each partner. Admission, student administration and the award of the degree remain local. The alliance adds the international dimension around them.

The purpose works in two directions. Candidates gain guidance from more than one research culture, access to infrastructures at a second institution and a route into the wider alliance offer. Supervisors gain a working relationship that can grow into a formal co-tutelle, a joint doctoral programme or a joint application to an external funding scheme.

**The one firm requirement.** At least two academics from two INGENIUM partner universities agree to guide a doctoral candidate together. The choice between co-supervision and a co-tutelle follows the administrative and regulatory conditions at the institutions involved. What matters is the guidance the candidate receives.

### 1.1 What belongs in this category, and what belongs elsewhere

Doctoral cooperation runs through several parts of the alliance offer. The table below gives the usual routing. Proposals submitted in the wrong place are reclassified rather than rejected, and the proposing team is informed.

| If your idea is...                                                                            | It belongs in...        | Because                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Doctoral supervision shared across two or more partners, inside programmes that already exist | Doctoral collaborations | This is the category described in these Guidelines |

| If your idea is...                                                                   | It belongs in...                                    | Because                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A new joint, double or multiple doctoral programme                                   | Joint Programmes                                    | A new accreditation process applies, endorsed through the Research School Regulations |
| A final thesis at bachelor or master level co-supervised across two partners         | Collaborative Teaching and Learning                 | Collaborative theses operate at bachelor and master level                             |
| A candidate who has already found a co-supervisor and needs the arrangement recorded | The co-supervision route on the ecosystem pages     | That route is individual and requires no proposal through this call                   |
| A training activity for doctoral candidates across the alliance                      | The doctoral training catalogue                     | The catalogue is built from the offer the partners already deliver                    |
| Research cooperation with no doctoral supervision dimension                          | Joint research groups and external research schemes | This call resources education, training and coordination                              |

**Table 2.** Routing between doctoral formats in the alliance offer.

A doctoral collaboration may deliberately prepare a future joint doctoral programme, and several will. State that intention in the application, because it counts under the impact criterion.

## 2. The call at a glance

### 2.1 The two routes

**The fast track** is for collaborations that are already agreed between the academics involved and can begin in the second semester of 2026/2027. There is no expression of interest. Proposals go straight to the final application form, and assessment is rolling, so teams receive an early indication of feasibility.

**The regular process** is for collaborations whose first activities fall in the academic year 2027/2028. It opens with a light expression of interest, continues through matchmaking, and closes with a final application in December 2026. This is the recommended route. Setting up doctoral supervision across two national systems takes time, and the spring operationalisation phase is where most of the practical work is done.



**Figure 2.** The two routes and the dates that matter.

## 2.2 The dates that matter

| Milestone                     | When                                | What happens                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Call opens                    | 14 September 2026                   | Both routes open. Fast-track applications and expressions of interest can be submitted from the first day |
| Information sessions          | From mid-September 2026             | General sessions and sessions dedicated to doctoral collaborations                                        |
| Fast-track deadline           | 16 October 2026                     | Final applications for collaborations beginning between February and June 2027                            |
| Matchmaking                   | Late October to early December 2026 | Networking sessions across the ecosystems, supervisor lists and the CONNECT platform                      |
| Fast-track approvals          | November 2026                       | Communicated on a rolling basis                                                                           |
| Expressions of interest close | 13 November 2026                    | The concepts received shape the remainder of the matchmaking phase                                        |
| Final application deadline    | 18 December 2026                    | Regular process, for collaborations starting in the academic year 2027/2028                               |
| Review and endorsement        | January and February 2027           | Technical and scientific review, then endorsement through the ecosystems. Feedback to all applicants      |
| Operationalisation            | Spring 2027                         | Scientific, academic and administrative preparation of each approved collaboration                        |
| First activities              | Academic year 2027/2028             | Mobility, training and stakeholder activities begin. Agreements are signed where a co-tutelle applies     |

**Table 3.** Timeline for doctoral collaborations in the 2026/2027 edition of the call.

## 2.3 Where to get support

Institutional questions go to your own doctoral school and to the ecosystem contact at your university: local co-supervision rules, residence requirements, the use of funds, enrolment and the recognition of supervision. Questions on doctoral arrangements across the alliance go to the INGENIUM Research School Board at [irsb@ingenium-university.eu](mailto:irsb@ingenium-university.eu). Questions on the call itself go to the Secretariat at [ingenium@uniovie.es](mailto:ingenium@uniovie.es). The FAQ published with the call grows as questions arrive.

## 3. Designing the collaboration

### 3.1 Anchoring in a doctoral ecosystem

Every collaboration is anchored in one of the five INGENIUM Doctoral Ecosystems: Artificial Intelligence; Sustainable Development; Well-being, Health and Technology; Natural Sciences; and Intercultural Studies. Each ecosystem brings together supervisors, research infrastructures and an educational offer, and each is described at <https://ingenium-university.eu/doctoral-ecosystems/>, where the supervisor lists are also published.

Name one ecosystem in the application. Interdisciplinary proposals are welcome and should name a lead ecosystem, with the second one indicated. Anchoring gives the collaboration a scientific community, a route to co-supervisors at other partners and access to the training offer described in section 3.5.



**[TBC]** A redefinition of the Intercultural Studies ecosystem as Cultural, Communication and Social Sciences has been proposed, so that it can encompass literature, law, economics and philosophy. The decision is pending. Proposals in those fields should apply under Intercultural Studies in the meantime.

Under Next INGENIUM the doctoral ecosystems evolve into Knowledge Ecosystems, adding stakeholders and regional partners around the same thematic domains. Collaborations designed now will operate inside that structure from 2027.

### 3.2 Supervision: co-supervision or co-tutelle

Both models are accepted. The choice should follow what the two institutions can administer, and the application should state the position honestly where it is still being clarified.

|                                    | Co-supervision                                                               | Co-tutelle                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>What the candidate receives</b> | One doctoral title, from the home university                                 | Two doctoral titles, one from each university, subject to local rules                              |
| <b>Agreement</b>                   | A joint supervision arrangement, formal or light depending on local practice | A formal agreement per candidate, signed by both universities and the candidate                    |
| <b>Administrative weight</b>       | Low                                                                          | Higher, with residence, examination and language conditions to settle                              |
| <b>Typical use</b>                 | A first collaboration, or where regulations make a dual award difficult      | An established partnership, or where the candidate's project genuinely belongs to two institutions |

**Table 4.** Comparison of the two supervision models.

### 3.3 Mobility

Mobility to at least two INGENIUM universities is required. The co-supervisor's university normally provides one destination. The second can be another partner, or the region of a partner where the activity is a challenge or the work of a knowledge-creating team.

The usual pattern combines one longer stay with one shorter one. For a candidate on a standard full-time doctorate, a stay of about a semester at the co-supervisor's university is a sound reference point. The academic team fixes the length in the framework, or sets a range and leaves the choice to the candidate. Neither the alliance nor these Guidelines impose a single figure.

Adaptations are available where the conditions of the doctorate require them. Examples include industrial doctorates with obligations to a company, candidates in clinical or hospital posts, candidates in full-time employment, candidates with caring responsibilities, and programmes with fixed residence rules. Split mobility across several shorter visits is one common solution, and virtual collaboration can complement physical mobility without replacing it. Record the adaptation and its reason in the application.

### 3.4 Stakeholder engagement

Every collaboration includes a stakeholder engagement dimension. The format is open, and the purpose is constant: to bring research, education, innovation and service to society together in the candidate's own work.

- **A knowledge-creating team.** Candidates join a team of researchers, students and stakeholders working on a societal challenge, and contribute to the educational outputs it produces.
- **A challenge.** Challenge-based mobility at doctoral level runs for around a month. A candidate can travel to another INGENIUM region to work on a challenge, with the results feeding into a knowledge-creating team.

- **Work with an associate partner.** A research stay, a shared problem or a co-designed activity with a company, hospital, public authority, museum or NGO linked to one of the partners.
- **A community of practice.** Sustained participation in one of the alliance communities bringing academics, students and external organisations together around a theme.
- **Public engagement.** Science communication, policy contributions or dissemination activities organised across the alliance.

Name the stakeholder in the application where one is already identified. Where the stakeholder is still to be found, describe the type of organisation and the role it would play.

### 3.5 Learning, teaching and training

Candidates take a minimum set of INGENIUM learning and training activities. The framework agreed by the academics sets that minimum, taking account of the requirements the candidate already carries locally. At least two activities per academic year is a reasonable working figure.

Activities are drawn from the doctoral training catalogue published on each ecosystem page from October 2026, from the cross-ecosystem transversal offer covering sustainability, research ethics and integrity, research methods, artificial intelligence and European perspectives, from doctoral BIPs, and from the 10 Days of INGENIUM and the Science Factory. Candidates may also deliver teaching, which counts towards the same requirement.

### 3.6 The team

Two academics from two partner universities are enough to propose. There is no upper limit. Further colleagues may join with a defined and lighter role, without acting as co-supervisors. Stakeholder representatives may be part of the framework. Each proposal names one coordinating academic as the contact point for the alliance, which implies no seniority over the other supervisors.

### 3.7 Candidates

A proposal may be built around a prospective candidate, which usually shortens the time to enrolment, or as a framework for future enrolment, with candidates recruited later through the normal local procedures. Both forms are accepted. The number of candidates covered by a single framework is agreed case by case with the ecosystem, according to the supervision capacity of the team.

## 4. What INGENIUM provides

### 4.1 The support package

Approved collaborations receive the following support.

- Administrative support for preparing the documentation, including model clauses describing the INGENIUM commitments to be inserted in the co-supervision or co-tutelle agreement used locally.
- At least one funded collaboration meeting bringing the co-supervisors and the candidate together.
- Participation in at least one doctoral Blended Intensive Programme.
- At least one challenge-based mobility, adapted to the doctoral context.
- Support for a long-term stay, from Erasmus+ KA131 or from INGENIUM funds, as set out in the proposal.
- Access to the doctoral training catalogue and to the research infrastructures associated with the ecosystem.



## 4.2 Resources

There is no fixed ceiling for a doctoral collaboration. Support is attached to the activities the collaboration includes, and the amounts are agreed with the partner universities during operationalisation. The application asks what the collaboration needs and for which activity, rather than for a formal budget.

| What is being funded                                 | Usual source                                      | Notes                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Collaboration meetings for supervisors               | INGENIUM and Next INGENIUM project funds          | Staff mobility linked to the coordination of the collaboration |
| Short doctoral mobility and challenge-based mobility | INGENIUM and Next INGENIUM project funds          | Never Erasmus+ KA131                                           |
| Long-term research stays                             | Erasmus+ KA131 or INGENIUM project funds          | State in the application which source you intend to use        |
| Doctoral BIP participation                           | Erasmus+ BIP organisational support and KA131     | Erasmus+ rules and reporting apply                             |
| Training activities and catalogue delivery           | INGENIUM project funds or institutional resources | Subject to the rules of the university concerned               |
| Staff compensation                                   | Institutional rules apply                         | Whether staff time can be compensated differs by partner       |

**Table 5.** Which source pays for what. The separation between INGENIUM project funds and Erasmus+ KA131 is strict, and cost declarations are kept apart so that no activity is funded twice.

## 4.3 What is not funded

INGENIUM does not fund the doctoral fellowship itself. It also does not fund research activities: laboratory work, consumables, equipment, data collection, research personnel salaries, or the preparation of proposals for external research funding. These are supported through national schemes, institutional resources or competitive research funding, outside the scope of the grant. The application should indicate how the candidate's position is financed.

# 5. How to apply

## 5.1 Fast track

A fast-track proposal is submitted on the Final Application Form (Annex 2) by 16 October 2026, with the fast-track route indicated at the top. It should describe a collaboration that can realistically begin in the second semester: named supervisors, a candidate or a clear recruitment plan, an outline of the activities and their timing, and the resources needed.

## 5.2 Expression of interest

The expression of interest (Annex 1) opens the regular process and is short by design. You are not expected to have a partner, a candidate or a budget. It asks for the research line, the ecosystem, the kind of partner you are looking for and what the collaboration would add. Submitting it commits you to nothing.

## 5.3 Matchmaking

From late October to early December the alliance runs the phase in which most partnerships take shape. Three instruments support it: the supervisor lists published for each ecosystem, the CONNECT research-matching platform developed at Ud'A, and networking sessions organised by ecosystem, which colleagues who have submitted an expression of interest are invited to host on their own topic.



Partners with few supervisors listed in an ecosystem are a priority for matchmaking. Proposals that bring in colleagues from those partners carry weight under the impact criterion.

## 5.4 The final application

The final application (Annex 2) is due on 18 December 2026 for the regular process. One application covers the whole collaboration. The coordinating academic submits on behalf of all participating teams and lists every supervisor with their university and contact details. Partners do not submit separately.

The form asks for the research line and its fit with the ecosystem, the supervision model and the division of responsibilities, the mobility plan with destinations and indicative lengths, the stakeholder engagement dimension, the training activities foreseen, the candidate arrangements, the resources required and the timeline. It also asks you to confirm that the doctoral schools involved are aware of the proposal, and to state which regulatory points remain open.

## 6. Evaluation

Proposals are assessed against Relevance, Quality and Impact. The framework is common to the whole Annual Education Call, with the sub-criteria below adapted to doctoral collaborations and to the objectives of Next INGENIUM. Points are allocated to the three dimensions rather than to individual sub-criteria. Within each dimension, the sub-criteria that weigh most heavily are marked.



**Figure 3.** Assessment at a glance. A proposal must reach six points out of ten to qualify for selection.

### 6.1 Relevance

Maximum 3 points. This criterion asks whether the collaboration advances what the alliance has committed to, and whether it responds to a genuine scientific and training need.

- **Anchoring in a doctoral ecosystem and contribution to its consolidation.** This weighs most heavily.
- **Stakeholder engagement and societal relevance, including the link to a knowledge-creating team where one applies.** This weighs most heavily.
- The scientific quality and relevance of the research line, and the complementarity of the two research groups.
- The contribution to the alliance doctoral training offer, through activities the collaboration uses or generates.
- Alignment with European priorities and with the knowledge square: research, education, innovation and service to society.

### 6.2 Quality

Maximum 4 points. This criterion asks whether the collaboration is well designed and can actually be delivered.

- **The credibility of the supervision framework: the division of responsibilities between supervisors, the expected interaction with the candidate and the arrangements for monitoring it.** This weighs most heavily.
- **Regulatory realism, with an honest account of what is already agreed and what still needs to be arranged at each institution.** This weighs most heavily.
- The design of the mobility: destinations, indicative lengths, sequencing and feasibility for the candidate.
- The coherence of the training plan and the way the components lead to the INGENIUM Certificate.
- Attention to research ethics, research integrity and open science.
- Inclusion, multilingualism, accessibility and sustainability built into the design.

### 6.3 Impact

Maximum 3 points. This criterion asks what will change, and whether it will last.

- **The prospects for continuing beyond the funded activities: a formal co-tutelle, a joint doctoral programme, a joint research group or a shared application to an external scheme.** This weighs most heavily.
- **The breadth and novelty of the partnership, with particular weight where the collaboration brings in supervisors from partners with limited presence in the ecosystem concerned.** This weighs most heavily.
- The number of candidates reached and the quality of what they gain.
- The educational outputs generated: courses, thesis topics, challenges, micro-credentials or training activities.
- The contribution to the alliance targets for doctoral cooperation.

### 6.4 How proposals are assessed

Assessment in this edition is enhancement-oriented. Where a proposal falls short on one dimension but is otherwise strong, the assessment records what would fix it, and that feedback returns to the proposing team.

| Criterion        | Excellent                                                                           | Good                                     | Needs improvement                               |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Relevance</b> | Clear contribution to the ecosystem and evident scientific and societal added value | Generally aligned, with minor weaknesses | Limited alignment or unclear rationale          |
| <b>Quality</b>   | Well designed, feasible and regulatory-aware, with a credible supervision framework | Feasible but requiring refinement        | Significant weaknesses in design or feasibility |
| <b>Impact</b>    | Clear benefit for candidates and credible prospects for continuation                | Positive impact but limited evidence     | Impact not clearly demonstrated                 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>     | <b>7.5 – 10</b>                                                                     | <b>6.0 – 7.4</b>                         | <b>below 6.0</b>                                |

**Table 6.** Qualitative rubric, used together with the sub-criteria in sections 6.1 to 6.3.

A proposal scoring below six does not qualify for selection as submitted. It may receive a conditional approval where the assessment identifies specific changes that would make it deliverable and the team implements them.



## 6.5 Who decides

Every proposal undergoes a technical and scientific review carried out by the mixed transition group for research-based education, which pairs the work package currently responsible with the incoming Next INGENIUM task team, supported by the Secretariat. The review checks eligibility, applies the criteria above and records the rationale.

Endorsement follows through the governance of the doctoral ecosystems, which brings the scientific judgement of the relevant community to bear on each proposal. Fast-track decisions are communicated in November 2026 on a rolling basis. Regular-process decisions and feedback are communicated by February 2027.

**[TBC]** The working arrangements of the Research School Board and of the ecosystem Doctoral Boards for the Next INGENIUM period are still being defined. The criteria in this section apply regardless of how those bodies are finally configured, and the composition of each review will be published with the call.

## 7. From approval to first activities

Approval is the beginning of the process. The paragraphs below describe what happens next in the regular cycle.

### 7.1 Operationalisation

Approved collaborations are developed during spring 2027, with support from the Secretariat and the ecosystem. Three strands run in parallel. The scientific and academic strand sets the research plan, the supervision arrangements and the full programme of activities. The administrative strand settles enrolment, the conditions of the mobility, the funding source for each activity and the wording to be inserted in the local agreement. The candidate strand covers recruitment where no candidate is named, and preparation where one is.

### 7.2 The collaboration factsheet

Each approved collaboration completes a short factsheet: participating universities and supervisors, ecosystem, research line, the components agreed, the mobility foreseen, the stakeholder dimension and the contact point at each university. The factsheet is the reference document used to promote the collaboration to candidates and to answer administrative queries.

### 7.3 First activities and agreements

Activities begin during the academic year 2027/2028. Where a co-tutelle applies, the agreement is signed by the universities and the candidate before the first long mobility. Where the arrangement is a co-supervision, the record follows the route published on the ecosystem pages, and a co-supervision certificate is issued once the mobility is complete. That certificate is one example of how an individual component is documented.

### 7.4 Monitoring and the INGENIUM Certificate

The candidate obtains the INGENIUM Certificate on completing the components set out in the collaboration, alongside the doctoral title or titles. The Certificate is issued by the Research School Board on application by the candidate.

Light monitoring runs through the collaboration: an activity log, a short annual report from the coordinating academic and a candidate feedback survey. Regular interaction between the candidate and the co-supervisor is expected, with a meeting at least every three to four months as the working reference.

**[TBC]** The minimum interaction standards and the credit and validation rules of the INGENIUM Certificate are being confirmed. Collaborations approved in this cycle will be aligned with them once they are fixed, without penalty to the teams involved.



## 8. Roles and responsibilities

| Role                                                       | Responsibility                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>INGENIUM Research School Board</b>                      | Strategic coordination of doctoral cooperation across the alliance. Endorsement of doctoral arrangements, issue of the INGENIUM Certificate, and oversight of the ecosystems                  |
| <b>Doctoral ecosystem governance</b>                       | Scientific endorsement of proposals in the ecosystem, coherence and quality of the educational offer, supervisor lists and infrastructures, and the link with local doctoral schools          |
| <b>Mixed transition group for research-based education</b> | Technical and scientific review of proposals, and the guidance for the category. Pairs the current work package with the incoming Next INGENIUM task team                                     |
| <b>INGENIUM Secretariat</b>                                | Coordinates the call, publishes the FAQ, routes queries, and organises information sessions and matchmaking                                                                                   |
| <b>Local doctoral schools</b>                              | First point of contact at each partner for enrolment, local co-supervision rules, residence requirements and recognition of supervision. Each partner designates one or two reference persons |
| <b>Quality assurance</b>                                   | Collects participation data and feedback, records process frictions, and feeds the evidence into the alliance quality assurance system                                                        |

**Table 7.** Alliance-level roles.

| Role                                  | Responsibility                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Coordinating academic</b>          | Submits the application, coordinates the collaboration, acts as contact point for the alliance and provides the annual report        |
| <b>Co-supervisors</b>                 | Guide the candidate together, agree the division of scientific responsibility, and maintain the interaction set out in the framework |
| <b>Home university</b>                | Enrolment, student administration and the award of the degree. Administers the support attached to the collaboration                 |
| <b>Host university</b>                | Receives the candidate, provides access to infrastructures and research environment, and names the local contact                     |
| <b>Doctoral candidate</b>             | Shapes the project with the supervisors, completes the agreed components and reports on the experience                               |
| <b>Stakeholder partner</b>            | Contributes the challenge, the professional setting or the audience for the work, as defined in the framework                        |
| <b>International Relations Office</b> | Supports mobility arrangements, Erasmus+ procedures and grant administration                                                         |

**Table 8.** Collaboration-level roles. Not every role applies to every collaboration.

## 9. Frequently asked questions

### Getting started

#### ► Do I need a candidate before I apply?

No. A proposal may name a prospective candidate or set a framework for future enrolment. Naming a candidate usually shortens the time to the first activities (section 3.7).



► **I do not have a partner yet. Can I still apply?**

Yes. Submit an expression of interest describing your research line and the kind of co-supervisor you are looking for. Your concept then enters the matchmaking phase, alongside the supervisor lists and the CONNECT platform (section 5.3).

► **Which route should I use?**

Use the regular process unless the collaboration is fully agreed and can begin between February and June 2027. The regular process is recommended because it leaves time for the administrative preparation that doctoral cooperation requires (section 2.1).

► **Does this create a new doctoral programme?**

No. A doctoral collaboration links programmes that already exist and requires no new accreditation. For a new joint, double or multiple doctoral programme, apply under Joint Programmes (Table 2).

► **How many universities can take part?**

At least two, with no upper limit. Colleagues beyond the co-supervisors may join with a defined and lighter role (section 3.6).

## Components and design

► **What is the difference between co-supervision and a co-tutelle?**

A co-tutelle normally leads to two doctoral titles and requires a formal agreement per candidate, with a heavier administrative process. A co-supervision covers scientific guidance and leads to one title. Choose according to what the two institutions can administer (section 3.2).

► **How long should the mobility be?**

The academic team decides. Mobility to at least two INGENIUM universities is required. For a candidate on a standard full-time doctorate, about a semester at the co-supervisor's university is a sound reference point, and the team may set a range rather than a fixed figure (section 3.3).

► **My candidate cannot spend long periods abroad. Is the collaboration still possible?**

Yes. Adaptations are available for industrial doctorates, clinically based candidates, candidates in employment, candidates with caring responsibilities and programmes with fixed residence rules. Split mobility is one common solution. Record the adaptation and its reason in the application (section 3.3).

► **Does the candidate have to join a knowledge-creating team?**

No. Stakeholder engagement is required, and a knowledge-creating team is one route among several. A challenge, work with an associate partner, a community of practice or public engagement all qualify. These options combine: a challenge-based mobility can take place within a knowledge-creating team, with the results feeding back into it (section 3.4).

► **How many training activities does the candidate have to take?**

The framework agreed by the academics sets the minimum, taking account of what the candidate already carries locally. At least two activities per academic year is a reasonable working figure (section 3.5).

► **What does the candidate receive at the end?**

The INGENIUM Certificate, issued on completion of the components agreed in the collaboration, alongside the doctoral title or titles. Individual components are also documented in their own right, as with the co-supervision certificate issued after a completed mobility (section 7.4).

## Resources, assessment and next steps

► **How much can I request?**

There is no fixed ceiling. Support is attached to the activities the collaboration includes and agreed case by case with the partner universities during operationalisation (section 4.2).



► **Will INGENIUM fund the doctoral fellowship?**

No. Fellowships and research costs are financed through national schemes, institutional resources or competitive research funding. INGENIUM resources the mobility, training, coordination and stakeholder activities around the doctorate (section 4.3).

► **Can I combine Erasmus+ KA131 with INGENIUM funds?**

Yes, for different activities. The two streams remain strictly separate in documentation and reporting, and no activity may be funded twice (Table 5).

► **Who assesses my proposal?**

A technical and scientific review by the mixed transition group for research-based education, followed by endorsement through the governance of the doctoral ecosystems (section 6.5).

► **What happens if my proposal scores below six?**

It does not qualify for selection as submitted. It may receive a conditional approval where the assessment identifies specific changes that would make it deliverable (section 6.4).

► **When would the first activities take place?**

February to June 2027 for the fast track. For the regular process, during the academic year 2027/2028, after operationalisation in spring 2027 (section 7.1).

*A question that is not covered here? Write to [irsb@ingenium-university.eu](mailto:irsb@ingenium-university.eu) for doctoral matters, or to [ingenium@uniovi.es](mailto:ingenium@uniovi.es) for the call.*

## 10. Related documents and annexes

- **The INGENIUM Annual Education Call 2026/2027.** The overall structure of the cycle within which this strand sits, including all categories, the resourcing framework and the governance of selection.
- **Regulations of the INGENIUM Research School.** The governance framework for doctoral cooperation across the alliance, including the doctoral ecosystems, the routes open to candidates and the INGENIUM Certificate.
- **The INGENIUM Student Cycle and Student Calendar 2026/2027.** How the opportunities created through this call reach students and doctoral candidates.
- **Doctoral Ecosystems pages.** <https://ingenium-university.eu/doctoral-ecosystems/> — supervisor lists, research infrastructures, the educational offer and the co-supervision route.

The following annexes are provided as separate documents.

- Annex 1. Doctoral Collaborations — Expression of Interest Form.
- Annex 2. Doctoral Collaborations — Final Application Form.
- Annex 3. Doctoral Collaborations — Checklist.

