



Università
degli Studi di
Messina

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MESSINA		
PROT. N.	120639/2025	
DEL	10	109/2025
TIT./CL.	III	14 - PARTENZA
CONTRATTI N.	946/2025	



Agreement of Joint Thesis Supervision

BETWEEN

The Faculty of Sciences of Gafsa, under the authority of the University of Gafsa, its registered office at office at Sidi Ahmed Zarrouk University Campus, 2112 Gafsa, Tunisia , Here in after referred to as " FSGf, U.A. University of Gafsa" (**Home Institution**) represented by Professor **Mohamed Ali BORGI** as Dean

and

Università degli Studi di Messina, Italian Public Higher Education Institution established in 1548 having its registered office at Piazza Pugliatti 1, 98121, Messina, ITALY, Here in after referred to as "UNIME" (**Host Institution**), represented by Prof. **Giovanna SPATARI** as Rector

in which the aforementioned parties are jointly referred to as 'the parties'

Considering

- **The Framework cooperation agreement prot. 67121/2025 between University of Gafsa and Università degli Studi di Messina.**

Having regard for the Home Institution:

- The Tunisia: Decree No. 2013-47 of 04 January 2013 setting the general framework of the study system and the conditions for obtaining the national doctoral diploma in the "LMD" system.

Having regard for UNIME (Italy)

- the art. 4 of the Italian Law n. 210 of 03/07/1998, that provides for the Universities' autonomy in setting up PhD courses within Universities' governmental, educational and scientific autonomy, as modified by the Law n. 240/2010;
- the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research Regulation concerning PhD programmes, issued with D.M. n. 226/2021;
- the University of Messina Regulation concerning Research Doctorate course issued with the Rector's Decree n. 645/2025;
- the report of Academic Boards of UNIME that approves the procedure start request of the student promoted by the UNIME Supervisor

The following has been agreed:

Article 1- JOINT THESIS SUPERVISION

The partner institutions hereby agree that they shall assume joint responsibility for the supervision of the doctoral student's doctoral research project. The two Institutions, animated by the will to promote the exchange of PhD students between them and to strengthen, thus, scientific and university cooperation,

decide by mutual agreement, within the framework of the legislations in force in their respective countries, to use the procedure of co-supervision of thesis in favor of the Doctoral Student:

- Name and surname of the student: **Hazem ZEMZMI**
 - Born in: GAFSA (Tunisia), December 9, 1996
 - Address: Via Pietro Castelli,49 Messina,9812
 - E-mail: Hazemzemzemi@gmail.com
 - Telephone number: 3513490206
- Research Master's Degree in Organic Chemistry, in 2024 Faculty of Science, University of Gafsa
Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry in 2018, Faculty of Science, University of Gafsa
Enrolment at first year National Doctorate Diploma in LMD system CHEMISTRY, University of Gafsa, ac 2024-2025, as stated by the Certificate de registration submitted by the student (ref.DOC-CIC-01)

Article 2 – SUPERVISION OF THE DOCTORAL STUDENT

In each of the institutions concerned, the doctoral student will carry out the research work under the direction and responsibility of the following thesis supervisors:

- At FSGf (Home Institution):
Name: Ramzi KHIARI
Department : Textile Engineering
Position: Professor
- At UNIME (Host Institution):
Name: Prof. ssa Claudia Espro
Department: Ingegneria
Position: Professor

Both thesis Supervisors undertake to fully exercise, jointly with the doctoral student, the responsibilities attributed to them by the regulations in force and the academic traditions in their respective countries. They shall also undertake, in their respective establishments, to ensure the implementation of the provisions of this Agreement.

The doctoral student shall follow the activities of the doctoral programs during his staying at UNIME and FSGf, U.A. University of Gafsa as agreed by the two Supervisors.

ARTICLE 3 – ADMISSION TO DOCTORAL STUDIES AND DOCTORAL THESIS SUBJECT

The doctoral student is already registered at FSGf, U.A. University of Gafsa, at the first year of the doctorate in “Chemistry”, academic year 2024/2025. At UNIME the doctoral student will be enrolled at Doctoral course in Ingegneria 40° Cycle, first academic year. At UNIME the duration of the doctoral program is three years (36 months) and it started on December 1st 2024 and will end on NOVEMBER 30, 2027.

To allow the temporal alignment of the duration of the doctorate programmes the partners agree that the date of end of the doctoral programmes will be November 30th, 2027 as provided by Ph.D course in Ingegneria of UNIME . Home Institution and the Student are aware that an extension of the doctorate is not permitted unless explicitly provided for in the UNIME Doctoral Regulations. The subject of the thesis submitted by the doctoral student is **“Surface Modification of Cellulose by Gas-Phase Grafting: Exploration of a Solvent-Free Technique”**

ARTICLE 4 – ENROLLMENT AND STUDENT SERVICE FEE

The doctoral student must be enrolled in both institutions. He must pay registration fees at FSGf, U.A.

University of Gafsa, (Home Institution). He is exempted of tuition fees at UNIME.

ARTICLE 5 – AWARD OF THE DEGREE

If the doctoral student has passed the joint doctoral examination successfully, he shall be separately awarded a degree by the partner institutions as follows:

- In Tunisia: Doctor (Ph.D), in “Chemistry” (FSGf, U.A. University of Gafsa)
- In Italy: Dottore di ricerca (Ph.D) in “Ingegneria” (Università degli Studi di Messina)

ARTICLE 6 – INSURANCE COVER

During his stay in the host country (UNIME/Italy), the doctoral student benefits from the social security cover, in accordance with the legislation in force. UNIME guarantees third party liability and accident insurance within the limits established by the Italian law. FSGf, U.A. University of Gafsa guarantees third party liability and accident insurance within the limits established by the Tunisian law. In Italy, in addition to that, before starting the mobility periods abroad, the doctoral student takes all necessary steps in order to arrange health insurance, insurance cover against physical injuries and third-party liability. It should also take out compulsory civil liability, as well as repatriation in case of accident or illness.

ARTICLE 7 – RESEARCH AT PARTNER INSTITUTION

The period of joint research thesis will be divided between the two institutions. According with the supervisors, from the estimated date of signature, the periods relating to the co-tutelle stay at the two Institutions are equally divided. The student will spent 16 months at UNIME and 12 months at FSGf, U.A. University of Gafsa, after working on PhD of FSGf, U.A. for 8 months of the first year, for a total duration of the doctorate programme of 36 months.

Institution	Period	Number of months
FSGf PhD Programme (<i>Period preceding the estimated signature date of the Joint Research Agreement</i>)	01/12/2024 to 30/07/2025	8
PhD UNIME (at Host Institution)	01/08/2025 to 30/10/2025	3
FSGf PhD Programme	01/11/2025 to 30/04/2026	6
PhD UNIME (at Host Institution)	01/05/2026 to 30/10/2026	6
FSGf PhD Programme	01/11/2026 to 30/04/2027	6
PhD UNIME (at Host Institution)	01/05/2027 to 30/11/2027	7
		36 months

ARTICLE 8 – ADMISSION AT THE ONLY FINAL EXAMINATION AND THESIS DEFENCE COMMITTEE

The partners agree that the deadline for the submission of the final thesis will be until 15 days before the end of the doctoral course.

According to Italian rules, to obtain the admission at the single final examination, the thesis will be evaluated by two external reviewers named by the Italian Board of Professors that don’t participate in the final examination. If the evaluation of the reviewers and of the Italian Board of professors is positive and they don’t ask for modifications of the thesis, the final examination could be taken until 60 days before the end of the doctoral course. If the evaluation of the reviewers and the Italian Board of professors is positive, but they ask for modifications of the thesis, the final examination could be postponed until six months. The only Defence Committee shall be comprised of six members including the two thesis supervisors that do not evaluate the candidate. In accordance with regulations in force, the Defence Committee is made up

of a balanced number of members appointed by the two Establishments and includes at least two members external to both universities. At least two thirds of the members of the Defence Committee must be Academic professors.

ARTICLE 9 – DOCTORAL THESIS DEFENCE (PUBLIC DISCUSSION)

The thesis will lead to a single defense at FSGf, U.A. University of Gafsa.

The only report of the Examination Board will be only in English language. The institution organizing the defense, undertakes to issue the title of Doctor and to transmit a copy of the complete defense file to the partner institution which undertakes, in turn, to issue the titles of Doctor as provided by art 5.

ARTICLE 10 – LANGUAGE OF THESIS

The doctoral thesis and the conclusions of the research shall be written in English. The written thesis will be in English.

An abstract of the doctoral thesis shall be supplied in English and Italian.

ARTICLE 11 – INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Intellectual property ownership will be based on the principle of inventor owns in accordance with the respective policies of each of the partner institutions.

Therefore, the protection of the research results arising from the doctoral research project, as well as any matter related to filing them, making them accessible, their publication and exploitation shall be discussed and agreed by the partner institutions and be in accordance with the national and institutional regulations in force.

ARTICLE 12 – PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

The processing of personal data related to this call is carried out by the University in accordance with the European General Regulation No. 679/2016 for the protection of personal data and the Code regarding the protection of personal data, Legislative Decree No. 196/2003 and subsequent amendments and additions. The complete information is available in the “Sezione Privacy” of University of Messina at the link <https://www.unime.it/privacy-e-cookie-policy>

ARTICLE 13 – DEPOSIT COPY AND PUBLICATION OF THE PHD THESIS

Details regarding the deposit copy, authorial information and printing the PhD thesis are set out in the applicable regulations of each higher education institution.

The publication of the PhD thesis is guaranteed by both higher education institutions in accordance with their applicable regulations.

ARTICLE 14 – COMMENCEMENT AND VALIDITY OF THE AGREEMENT

The present agreement shall take as and from the date of its execution by the authorized representative of each contracting Institution and expires at the end of final examination procedure.

Article 15 – VALIDITY OF THE AGREEMENT AND SETTLEMENTS OF DISPUTES

The stipulations of this agreement may not conflict with the provisions of the regulations at of the two Institutions. Disputes must be resolved amicably through friendly bilateral consultations.

Modifications to this agreement shall be effective only if they are in writing and signed by the authorized representatives of the contracting parties

Signatures

Drawn up in four original copies

Stamp and Signature

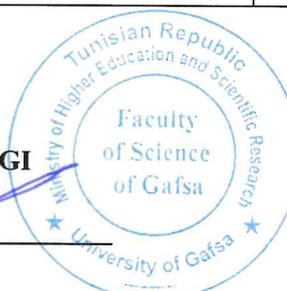
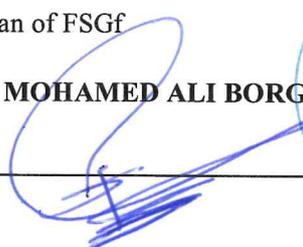
University of GAFSA

Università degli Studi di Messina

<p>Rector</p> <p>Pr. Imed BASDOURI</p>   <p>Date :</p>	<p>Rector</p> <p>Pr. Giovanna SPATARI</p>  <p>Date : September 3rd, 2025</p> 
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Dean of FSGf

Pr. **MOHAMED ALI BORGI**



Coordinator of the Doctoral Course

Pr. **Younes MOUSSAOUI**



Supervisor/Tutor

Pr. **Ramzi KHIARI**



The doctoral student for acceptance

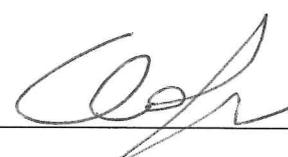
Coordinator of the Doctoral Course

Pr. **Edoardo PROVERBIO**



Supervisor/Tutor

Pr. **Claudia ESPRO**



Hazem ZEMZMI

