

THE UNDERSIGNED:

University of Monastir, BP 56 Avenue Taher Hadded, Monastir 5000
jointly referred to as “Uni Monastir” (**Home Institution**),
represented by **Mr. Pr. Hedi Bel Hadj Salah, Rector**

And

Università degli Studi di Messina (University of Messina), Piazza Pugliatti 1, 98121,
Messina, Italy,
Here in after referred to as “UNIME” (**Host Institution**),
represented by **Prof. Eugenio Cucinotta, Deputy Vice Chancellor**

in which the aforementioned parties are jointly referred to as ‘the parties’,
Considering

the Framework Cooperation Agreement of Culture and Scientific Cooperation between
Università degli Studi di Messina and University of Monastir (prot. n°16220/2023) and seen
the art. 32 of the Regulation concerning Research Doctorate Course issued with the Rector’s
Decree n. 834/2022

Having regard for Uni Monastir

- The decree n° 2013-47 of January 4th, 2013, fixing the general framework of the regime of the studies and the conditions of obtaining the national diploma of doctorate in the system "LMD";

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. 834/2022;
- the report of Academic Boards of UNIME that approves doctoral student’s application

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 favour of the Doctoral Student:

- Name and surname of the student: Najla Kochbati
- Born in Tunisia, Sousse
- E-mail: kochbatinejla3@gmail.com
- Bachelor’s Degree: Bachelor of Experimental Science; Fundamental license degree

- in chemistry: Faculty of Sciences of Monastir
- Master's Degree: Master degree in synthesis and physico-chemistry of materials: Faculty of Sciences of Monastir
 - Registered as a doctoral student at the First Academic Year of PhD Programme in "CHIMIE" as stated in the certificate dated February 13, 2023

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 University of Monastir (Home Institution):

Name: Prof. Faouzi Ayar

Department: Faculty of pharmacy of Monastir (Laboratory of chemical, galenic and pharmacological development of drugs (LR12ES09

Position: Associated Professor

- At UNIME (Host Institution):

Name: Prof. Rosalba Passalacqua

Department: Chemical, Biological, Pharmaceutical and Environmental Sciences (CHIBIOFARAM)

Position: Associated 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 University of Monastir and at UNIME as agreed by the two Supervisors, according with the regulations of both the PhD courses involved.

Article 3 – ADMISSION TO DOCTORAL STUDIES AND DOCTORAL THESIS SUBJECT

The doctoral student will be admitted at the first year of academic year 2022/2023 of the International Industrial Doctoral course in Advanced Catalytic Processes for using Renewable Energy Sources (ACCESS) XXXVIII cycle, of the Università degli Studi di Messina. The doctoral program lasts three years and will end on September 30th, 2025.

The doctoral student is already registered at University of Monastir, at Doctoral course in "Chimie", first year of the programme, academic year 2022/2023. The doctoral programme for the student lasts three years and will end at September 30th, 2025.

The subject of the thesis submitted by the doctoral student is "*Inorganic materials based on transition metals for catalysis and health*".

Article 4 – ENROLLMENT AND STUDENT SERVICE FEE

The doctoral student must be enrolled in both institutions. She must pay registration fees in University of Monastir (Home Institution). She is exempt from these same rights to the other establishment (Università degli Studi di Messina).

Article 5 – AWARD OF THE DEGREE

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

- Doctor (Ph.D) in “Chimie” (**University of Monastir**)
- Dottore di ricerca (Ph.D) in “Advanced Catalytic Processes for using Renewable Energy Sources)” (**UNIME**)

Article 6 – INSURANCE COVER

During her stay in the host country, the doctoral student benefits from the social security cover, in accordance with the legislation in force. During her stay at UNIME, the Host partner guarantees third party liability and accident insurance within the limits established by the Italian law. In Italy, in addition to that, before starting 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 whilst performing his/her duties within the framework of the doctoral research project. During mobility periods abroad, the Doctoral Candidate should also have insurance covering repatriation in case of accident or illness.

Article 7 – RESEARCH AT PARTNER INSTITUTION

The research work is carried out alternately in both institutions. The doctoral student should spend alternate or consecutive research equivalent periods at both partner institutions. The period of the joint research activities will be agreed by the two Supervisors as following:

- expected periods at UNIME: From September 2023 to February 2024 and from September 2024 to April 2025 (14 months)
- scheduled periods at MONASTIR University: From March 2024 to August 2024, from May 2025 to September 2025 (11months + about 11months already spent at Uni Monastir before the signature of the Agreement)

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 on September 30th, 2025.

According to both institutions’ rules, to obtain the admission at the single final examination, the thesis will be evaluated by two external reviewers full professors (one from each country). If the evaluation of the reviewers is positive and they don’t ask for modifications of the thesis, the final examination could be taken until January 2026. If the evaluation of the reviewers is positive, but they ask for modifications of the thesis, the final examination could be postponed until six months and could be taken until June 2026. According to the Uni Monastir rules, the two institutions have to consider that the student could publish a scientific publication (in a journal with IF as first author) to be admitted at the final examination. The student will have to submit her scientific publication in due time to allow the final examination. The only Examination Board shall be comprised of six members including the two thesis supervisors, that don’t evaluate the candidate. In accordance with regulations in force, the Defense Committee is made up of a balanced number of members appointed by the two institutions and includes at least two members external to both universities. At least two thirds of the members of the Examination Board must be Academic Professors.

Article 9 – DOCTORAL THESIS DEFENSE (PUBLIC DISCUSSION)

The thesis will lead to a single defense in Monastir. The only report of the Examination Board

will be in English. 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 title of Doctor as provided by art 5.

Article 10 – LANGUAGE OF THESIS

The doctoral thesis will be drawn up and defended in English, whereas the written and oral summary will be in English. An abstract of the doctoral thesis shall be supplied in English and in Italian language.

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.

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 three original copies

For the University of Monastir

President: Prof. Hedi Bel Hadj Salah

date: _____

The Director of the Doctoral school: Prof. Abdelaziz Bouazizi

date: _____

The Thesis Supervisor: Prof. Faouzi Ayari

date: _____

For the “Università degli Studi di Messina”

Deputy Vice Chancellor: Prof. Eugenio Cucinotta

date: _____

PhD Programme Coordinator: Prof. Gabriele Centi

date: _____

Thesis Supervisor: Prof. Rosalba Passalacqua

date: _____

For acceptance

The doctoral student: Najla Kochbati

date: _____
