

PRIDE Masterclass: 31 August 2025 – 3 September 2025

Enhance International Doctoral Collaborations: Navigating Complexities, Fostering Excellence

hosted by the University of Zagreb, the Centre for Advanced Academic Studies (CAAS) in Dubrovnik, Don Frana Bulica 4, 20000 Dubrovnik, Croatia



International partnerships have become a cornerstone of academic excellence and innovation. Structured international collaborations in doctoral education not only help create critical mass in research areas but also enable doctoral candidates to gain essential international experience and develop global networks. With support from funding agencies and the EU Commission, such collaborations are increasingly incentivized as vital to advancing higher education.

Implementing such endeavours is, however, often fraught with obstacles. National legal frameworks vary, there may be specific local regulations, limited or unequal financial resources, and discrepancies in study programme structures, supervision standards, assessment criteria and procedures as well as research cultures can create additional barriers. Furthermore, inconsistent terminology (such as double and joint degrees, joint programmes, cotutelle, etc.) can complicate communication and coordination. Finally, reliance on project-based funding often undermines their long-term sustainability.

Amid these complexities, the European University Alliances have emerged as transformative agents within the European Higher Education Area. With their potential to reshape doctoral education and establish sustainable long-term cooperation structures, they offer promising avenues for addressing these challenges.

This 3.5-day Masterclass will explore the complexities, opportunities and innovative approaches ahead. Specifically designed for university staff involved in managing doctoral programmes, European University Alliances and international collaborations, the PRIDE

Masterclass aims to equip participants with the knowledge, skills and networks needed to succeed in the complex world of today's global doctoral education.

Our Masterclass is characterised by:

- Keynote contributions from international experts and experienced professionals,
- Opportunities to network with like-minded professionals,
- Space to speak up, share and exchange ideas, and build lasting relationships,
- Learn practical approaches and tools and techniques that you can use in your professional life.