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|  | **The Technical Doctoral of IT and Design** Niels Jernes Vej 109220 AalborgDenmark |

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**Information on co-author statements (find the template below)**

The faculty recommends that PhD theses are written as a collection of papers with an introductory and overview part plus a number of publications. If the monograph format is chosen, the thesis is still frequently based on a number of scientific papers. In both cases, it is mandatory to submit co-author statements for each paper that in any way constitutes a part of the thesis.

A co-author statement must be made for each single paper, giving full information on authors, title, outlet and also volume, number/issue, pages, year etc. if the paper has been published. The same applies to papers submitted for publication – or even if it is a technical report with more authors than the PhD student. The co-author statement must include a clear description of the contribution of the PhD student. The core part usually causing challenges for many students and co-authors to write could for example be something like:

* **PhD student:** The PhD student contributed to defining the overall problem and proposed the core scientific idea to solve it. The PhD student wrote the entire draft version of the paper, and revised it according to co-authors comments. The PhD student derived the key methodology together with co-author #1, and the PhD student implemented all simulations. The PhD student identified relevant performance metrics and interpreted the simulation and experimental results with comments from the co-authors.
* **Co-author #1 (also a PhD student):** Co-author #1 defined the overall problem together with the PhD student. He/she assisted in careful reviewing of the paper and proposed various refinements to the draft proposal made by the PhD student. Further, co-author #1, together with the other authors, helped interpret the results.
* **Co-author #2 (also a PhD student):** Co-author #2 performed the experiments related to the paper, and helped review and improve the paper.

This is obviously just to provide an idea of how the author contributions may be described. In particular, when two (or more) AAU PhD students have a joint scientific paper, it is essential that the contribution of each student is clearly described. The PhD degree is awarded for an independent research contribution and hence it must be possible to identify clearly the contribution of each author in joint papers. It is important that the scientific contributions (ideas, methodology, procedures, validation etc.) are also covered – it is not sufficient just to indicate who has written what part. The Doctoral School recommends creating separate statements for each article. Factual and individual descriptions for each separate article are preferred. It is strongly recommended that co-author statements are acquired as soon as a joint paper is finished.

In terms of signatures, the PhD supervisor can sign on behalf of co-authors if it is highly impractical to get the signatures from all co-authors (for example in the event of many co-authors). The main supervisor must ensure that the co-authors agree with the co-author statement. Scanned copies of the signatures or electronic signatures are accepted. The signatures do not all have to be on the same page.

**Co-author statements must be approved by the PhD Study Director and forwarded to the assessment committee before the assessment can commence. In extraordinary cases, it is possible to get the wording of the co-author statements pre-approved before signatures are collected. A valid reason must be presented in order for this process to be initiated. The co-author statements must be sent to the Doctoral School.**

# Co-author statement in connection with submission of a PhD thesis

With reference to Ministerial Order no. 1039 of August 27 2013 regarding the PhD Degree § 12, article 4, statements from each author about the PhD student’s part in the shared work must be included in case the thesis is based on already published or submitted papers.

Paper title:

Paper number in the thesis:

Publication outlet:

List of authors:

PhD student:

Scientific contribution of the PhD student (and of any other co-author who is a PhD student at AAU) to the paper:

Signature, PhD student

Signatures, co-authors