

## JOINT PhD GUIDELINES

### Background

Joint PhDs was originally a French concept which involved joint-supervision or co-tutelle. Joint HDR programs are offered by QUT in conjunction with international universities (HEP) who are accredited to award a higher degree research course and have a recognised history of completions.

Joint HDR programs are an integrated educational experience which involves two supervisory teams – one at each HEP. A joint HDR candidate meets the entry requirements of both HEP and will spend a minimum time of 1/3 of the full-time candidature at each HEP. Candidates have access to two research environments for the benefit of their research. Total Joint PhD candidature is normally three years in total. One thesis is produced which is examined by each HEP. Upon successful completion at both HEP, two testamurs are awarded, each recognising the joint nature of the relationship.

A joint PhD allows doctoral students to undertake a joint PhD with another approved PhD degree granting international university. QUT actively promotes joint PhD programs with leading overseas research universities for suitably qualified candidates. In brief, candidates are enrolled at both universities, are supervised by staff from both universities, and receive doctoral awards at both universities acknowledging the other's participation in the conduct of the degree. The prime intent of these joint arrangements is that they form part of cooperative research collaboration between a faculty or research group at QUT and another approved high quality international institution.

### Benefits of the Joint PhD

One of the main aims of establishing Joint PhD's is to build on existing research relationships and collaborations in areas of research strength for both institutions. Collaborative research relationships in areas of research strength may be evidenced by co-publications, work on joint research projects, joint research grants, staff exchange and the existence of formal research centres or groups.

The benefits of the Joint PhD program to QUT are:

- Enhancing QUT's international and research profile.
- Enhance research collaborations in areas of strength.
- Developing and accessing new funding opportunities.
- Providing PhD candidates with international opportunities.
- Accessing complementary faculties, resources and supervisory expertise.
- Providing exposure to two cultural approaches for future job prospects.
- Providing dual supervision allowing for complementary approaches to research questions.

### Process for establishing a Joint PhD

An International Cooperation Agreement (ICA), must be established and approved prior to the Joint PhD. The express agreement of the Pro Vice- Chancellor (Graduate Research and Development) and Executive Dean and Assistant Dean (Research) of faculty must be obtained prior to the establishment of a Joint PhD. The formal negotiations will entail a responsible faculty member and the Dean of Research & Research Training negotiating with the overseas institution for the completion of a formal Joint PhD agreement prior to the admission of any students to the program.

- Completion of a Notice of Intent to establish a relationship (Expression of Interest) which includes the requirements below and the subsequent approval of Pro Vice-Chancellor (Graduate Research and Development) and the faculty. Evidence of a strategic and sustainable research relationship which is more than two academics in two universities wishing to jointly supervise a PhD student.

- Evidence of the potential for a critical mass of prospective students (ie. more than one student).
- A QUT academic or an established structure to support and “champion” the relationship with the partner university.
- The development and signing of a Joint PhD agreement (Part A).
- The development and signing of a supervisory agreement for each joint PhD candidate.#
- Evidence that the joint program will enhance the research candidate’s experience.

### Joint PhD agreement

The Joint PhD agreement is a detailed agreement signed by both institutions. Part A of the agreement outlines unique course requirements, copyright and intellectual property issues, any financial obligations, attendance at each institution, language of instruction and the maximum number of students to be admitted per annum.

Part B of the agreement contains specific arrangements pertaining to a particular candidate and covers supervision details. Completion of Part B signals that the particular candidate is then formally admitted into a Joint PhD. It is therefore extremely important that both sections (A and B) are completed and signed prior to the start of student’s candidature at QUT.

# Part B of the agreement is available to applicants by emailing [hdrpartners@qut.edu.au](mailto:hdrpartners@qut.edu.au). It is expected that applicants will attach a completed and signed (by the partner institution) Part B with their application for admission to the QUT PhD course.

### Specific Joint PhD features

1. Students will not be eligible for admission to a Joint PhD with QUT if they have completed in excess of 12 months PhD study at any institution.
2. Simultaneous enrolment at QUT and at one of our partner universities enables students to submit one and the same thesis for recognition by both universities. At least one third of the student’s candidature (minimum of one year full-time) must be spent at each university. Candidates are supervised by researchers at the two universities and must meet all the requirements to graduate at both of them. It is preferred that the Joint PhD candidate undertake their first year at QUT, completing the Stage 2 and Confirmation milestones and receiving QUT ethics approval and return at the end of candidature for their Final Seminar and submission for examination.
3. At QUT, both inbound (ie. student from an overseas university) and outbound (ie. student at QUT) students may be considered for participation in joint PhD programs. Students seeking to undertake a Joint PhD must meet the admission requirements for both universities and the requirements as agreed upon contained in the Joint PhD Agreement.
4. Prior to admitting any student to a joint PhD, an overarching agreement (Part A), that meets mutual institutional requirements, must be negotiated between the two universities.
5. In addition to the usual candidature admission processes and procedures for each joint PhD student, Part B of the agreement must be agreed upon and completed before the student commences their joint enrolment.#

6. To progress such an agreement, an existing International Cooperation Agreement (ICA) must be in place between QUT and the Partner University. This [International Cooperation Agreement](#) must include a mutual commitment to the development of research collaboration and exchange.
7. Agreements must have a QUT faculty champion who will be responsible for administration of the program and collaboration with the international institution.
8. Agreements must be endorsed by both the Executive Dean of faculty and the faculty Assistant Dean of Research who will take into consideration the strategic fit with the faculty, supervisory capacity, infrastructure requirements, faculty research strengths and other pertinent factors.
9. Agreements that contain guarantees of financial support from QUT (including tuition fee sponsorship and/or living stipend), must be approved by both the Executive Dean and the faculty Assistant Dean of Research. All Joint PhD applicants admitted to programs with financial support from QUT must meet the minimum criteria for the funding/scholarship.
10. All QUT policies and guidelines apply to the joint PhD program including:
  - QUT PhD Course Regulations ([https://cms.qut.edu.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/221564/doctor-of-philosophy-course-regulations.pdf](https://cms.qut.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/221564/doctor-of-philosophy-course-regulations.pdf)),
  - QUT Higher Degree Research Candidates policy ([http://www.mopp.qut.edu.au/D/D\\_05\\_03.jsp](http://www.mopp.qut.edu.au/D/D_05_03.jsp))
  - QUT Code of Conduct for Research ([http://www.mopp.qut.edu.au/D/D\\_02\\_06.jsp](http://www.mopp.qut.edu.au/D/D_02_06.jsp)),
  - Intellectual Property Policy ([http://www.mopp.qut.edu.au/D/D\\_03\\_01.jsp](http://www.mopp.qut.edu.au/D/D_03_01.jsp)),
  - Statement of Infrastructure Provision for QUT Higher Degree Research Students ([https://qutvirtual4.qut.edu.au/c/document\\_library/get\\_file?uuid=73456f76-4471-4343-8ae7-1f068cb381be&groupId=16731131&filename=infrastructure-provision-statement.pdf](https://qutvirtual4.qut.edu.au/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=73456f76-4471-4343-8ae7-1f068cb381be&groupId=16731131&filename=infrastructure-provision-statement.pdf))
11. The effectiveness of joint PhD programs will be regularly reviewed including the potential renewal of international Memorandum of Understanding/International Cooperation Agreements.

### Approval & modification history

DATE	AUTHORITY	DETAILS
2 May 2017	QUT Research Degrees Committee	Reviewed. Clarified process including Part B to be submitted with admission application & requirement for ICA
6 June 2016	QUT Research Degrees Committee	Reviewed. Inclusion of closer alignment with faculty (Sections 7,8,9)
February 2014	QUT Research Degrees Committee	Reviewed. Incorporate Benefits and Requirements; amendments to features.
October 2013	QUT Research Degrees Committee	Reviewed. Guidelines and template separated. Minor amendments to wording to be consistent with other policy changes.

Responsible Officer: Secretary, Research Degrees Committee