

Collaborative Higher Degree Research (HDR) Programs – Student Guide

OVERVIEW

QUT is committed to supporting high quality research within our research areas of strength such as through our [research centres](#). This includes promoting quality research projects, publications and HDR supervision with our international collaborators. This guide is for future and current QUT HDR students interested in undertaking a collaborative HDR program with an international partner institution. QUT has collaborative HDR program agreements with over 40 high ranking partner universities and research institutions from 15 countries including China, India, Sri Lanka, France, Germany and the Netherlands. QUT engages in two main collaborative research higher degree models:

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|-------------------------------|--|
| Joint research degree* | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students must enrol and meet the entry requirements at both institutions. Minimum of one third of the candidature is usually spent at each institution. Two supervisory teams – one at each institution. Students access two high quality research environments. One thesis is produced which must meet the course requirements of both institutions. The thesis is examined at each institution. Two testamurs are awarded, each recognising the joint program. On completion, the student is awarded a joint degree from both institutions. |
| Split research degree | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student enrolls at QUT only and usually spends at least one third of the candidature at the partner institution (which may be a university or a research institution). Students must complete milestones and (where appropriate) gain ethics approval at QUT and may undertake data collection at the partner institution. QUT provides supervisory support throughout the candidature and the partner institution provides supervision and project support while the student is based overseas. Students may receive a living stipend or salary from the partner institution while residing in Australia. Students produce one thesis which meets QUT course requirements and is examined at QUT. On completion the student is awarded a single QUT degree and testamur that recognises the research was undertaken in collaboration with the partner institution. |

* Also known as Cotutelle, Dual or Double research degrees depending on partner institution requirements.

QUT HDR programs are informed by various policies and guidelines, primarily QUT's [PhD Course Regulations](#) and [Manual of Policies and Procedures](#). Students enrolled in a collaborative HDR program must meet both the QUT and partner institution [entry requirements](#), policies, regulations, guidelines and other directions, irrespective of where they are located.

STUDENT BENEFITS

Benefits for students who undertake collaborative HDR programs include:

- enhanced expertise and experience by studying across two institutions
- gaining globally informed perspectives and knowledge
- developing international professional networks
- access to diverse research environments, resources and collaborative supervisory support across two institutions
- earning a unique award with excellent graduate outcomes and opportunities
- contributing to academic research development and collaborations
- experiencing the personal benefits of living and studying abroad.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Application

How can I determine whether the joint or split model is better for me?

The Agreement will specify whether the collaborative HDR program is offered for Joint or Split enrolment. If both models are offered, review the differences in the Agreements and table on page 1 of this document and ask your supervisor or email hdrpartners@qut.edu.au if you have any questions.

How and when can I apply for a collaborative HDR program?

QUT accepts [admission applications](#) all year round and has one major Annual Scholarship Round with applications closing in September. Partner institutions and external funding bodies may have different application closing dates. If you want to enrol in a Joint PhD/MPhil you will need to apply for admission to both institutions. If you want to enrol in a Split PhD/MPhil you apply for admission to QUT only, but you will also need to seek approval from the partner institution. For most Agreements, if you have already enrolled at one institution then you should have at least one-third of your candidature remaining when you apply for admission to the other institution – this is to ensure that the research is a genuine collaboration between the two institutions and to ensure that you can meet the requirements of both degrees.

How long does the application process take?

QUT applications are normally processed within 4-6 weeks if the partner Agreement has been executed. The application process may take longer if the partner Agreement has not been executed. As approval from both institutions is required applications may take longer than the standard approval times. In some cases you may be able to commence the course at one institution pending approval from the other institution.

Which institutions partner with QUT?

Collaborative HDR program agreements grow from existing collaborations and relationships between institutions and academic researchers. For this reason, certain research projects may be more suitable for collaborative HDR programs than others. Contact your supervisor or the [Graduate Research Centre](#) and ask about existing collaborative HDR programs and relationships to see whether this degree model may be an option for you.

Is part time study an option in a collaborative HDR model?

Normally Agreements require full-time study and international students who wish to study in Australia on a student visa must be enrolled full-time. Part-time study mode may be possible in exceptional circumstances and only with the approval of both institutions.

Is the candidature duration the same as the standard QUT HDR programs?

The expected candidature duration for collaborative HDR programs normally aligns with the standard candidature duration at both universities. In exceptional circumstances the course duration may be reduced or extended with the approval of and in accordance with the rules and regulations of both institutions.

Candidature and Supervision

What is the standard course structure at QUT?

The expected QUT Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) course duration is 3 years and the standard Master of Philosophy (MPhil) course duration is 1.5 years full-time. The standard PhD/MPhil progression timelines are outlined in Appendix 1.

QUT adopts a project management approach to HDR candidature with milestones along the way to support students to achieve timely completion. Students must complete all QUT milestones and will be supported by their supervisory teams and receive expert independent feedback from other reviewers before the thesis is examined. The thesis length and format varies depending on the topic, discipline and degree (PhD, MPhil or Professional Doctorate).

What are the milestones in a collaborative HDR program?

Joint PhD/MPhil students normally would complete all milestones at both institutions. Students who have completed equivalent milestones at the partner institution may be considered for an exemption to one or more QUT candidature milestones, subject to QUT approval.

Split PhD/MPhil students normally would complete all QUT milestones, regardless of whether they are physically located at QUT or the partner institution.

What should I expect from shared supervision between institutions?

The supervisory team will provide students with advice and direction, and encourage experiential learning participation in academic, research, and industry appropriate activities such as research seminars, teaching, publications and product development, as well as offer access to broader professional skills development.

Students will have a QUT Principal Supervisor and one or more Associate Supervisors. The Principal Supervisor from the partner institution may also be an External Supervisor on the QUT supervision team. Students are expected to maintain regular contact with their QUT and partner institution supervisors and inform them about their research plans, progress, issues and leave.

What happens if problems arise in my supervisory relationship at either institution?

QUT policies, procedures, training resources and support services are available to facilitate effective and respectful student-supervisor relationships. These include staff and student codes of conduct, good practice guidelines for HDR studies and supervision, student grievance resolution procedures, Faculty/School academic advisors, and student ombudsman services. The [Graduate Research Centre](#) can refer you to the relevant staff and services for advice and support if needed.

Support

What scholarship and funding arrangements are available?

Students are encouraged to discuss scholarship and funding opportunities with their QUT and partner institution supervisors. Most QUT scholarships are offered through the [Annual Scholarship Round](#) with applications closing in September each year.

How much time do I need to spend at each institution?

Most collaborative HDR program Agreements specify that students must spend a minimum of one-third of their candidature at each institution (i.e. 12 months at each institution for the PhD, and 6 months at each institution for the MPhil). Residency may comprise several shorter periods at each institution or two single periods at each institution subject to the agreement of both institutions.

Will I need to organise my own health insurance, visas and accommodation?

Unless otherwise agreed by QUT and the partner institution, students are responsible for meeting the cost of accommodation, living expenses, health insurance and travel costs.

QUT [International Student Services \(ISS\)](#) can advise about accommodation and living in Brisbane.

International students holding an Australian student visa must obtain valid [Overseas Student Health Cover \(OSHC\)](#).

QUT students who enrol internally are covered under [QUT's insurance policy](#) for approved activities.

Is any funding available to cover my research travel costs?

Current QUT HDR students may be eligible to apply for [travel and research support funding](#). Please refer to the funding scheme and relevant faculty guidelines for details.

Examination and Graduation

How will my thesis be examined?

To be awarded a Joint PhD/MPhil the student must meet the thesis examination requirements of both Universities. Joint PhD/MPhil students normally undertake two examination processes – one required by QUT and the other required by the partner institution. Where possible both institutions aim to harmonise their examination processes to minimise duplication. Split PhD/MPhil students must meet QUT's examination requirements. Your supervisors can provide further advice about the thesis examination requirements and procedures.



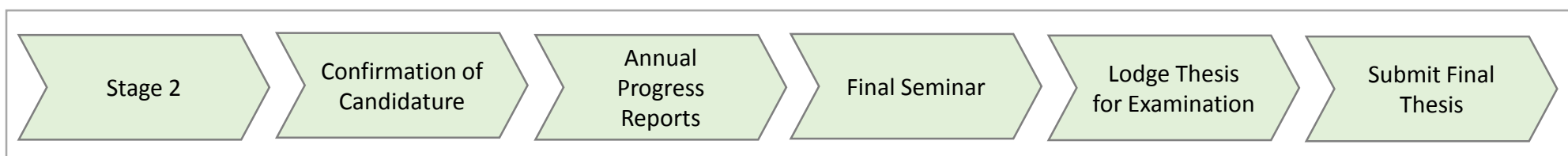
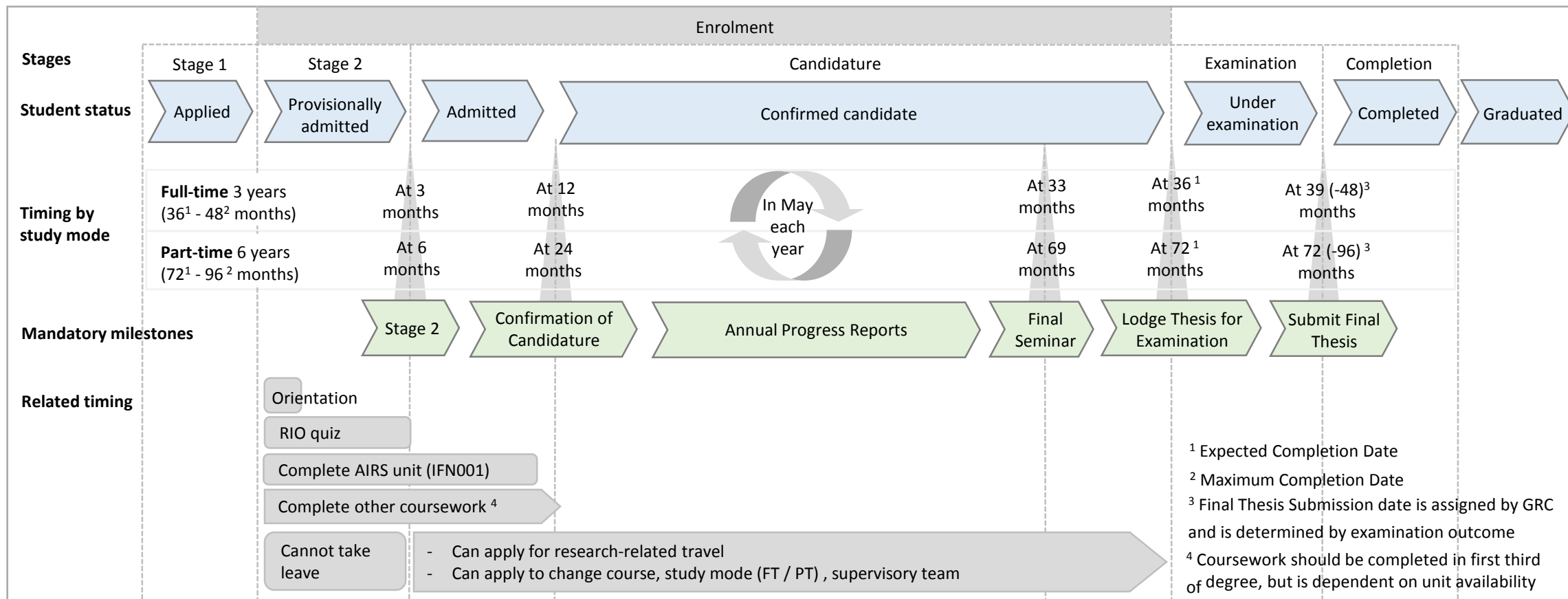
Where will my graduation ceremony take place?

QUT doctoral degrees are conferred four times a year in March, July, September and December. Graduation ceremonies are held each July and December. Information about QUT graduation ceremonies is available on the [HiQ website](#) for current HDR students.

APPENDIX 1

Course: IF49

Expected PhD progression & milestones



Expected MPhil progression & milestones

Course: IF80

