1. Preamble

UNSW aims to train and graduate researchers with broad experience to support the development of the researcher workforce as a future need. Joint supervision of research candidates is one of the strategies proposed to meet this future need while strengthening research collaborations between UNSW and partner institutions both nationally and internationally.

1.1 Purpose

This policy specifies the criteria for the approval of joint PhD degrees.

1.2 Background

In the past joint PhD degrees at UNSW were restricted to the French Cotutelle program. This policy supersedes the Cotutelle PhD Degrees Policy and is broader, encompassing other joint PhD programs.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all joint PhD degrees across the University.

3. Definitions

Joint PhD Degree. A joint PhD is awarded by collaborating institutions that have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding on research training activities. PhD candidates approved for entry into a joint PhD program will be supervised by a UNSW supervisor and a supervisor at an approved partner institution. Each joint PhD candidature is governed by an individual student proposal and agreement outlining the specific terms.

Cotutelle PhD Degree. A cotutelle PhD degree is a specific type of joint PhD that is conducted between UNSW and approved collaborating institutions in France.
4. Policy Statement

4.1 Joint PhD programs must:

4.1.1 Provide clear benefits to UNSW’s research mission by enhancing bilateral research collaborations and recruitment of outstanding research students.

4.1.2 Involve established research collaborations between the UNSW research unit and the collaborating higher education institution research unit as the basis for the proposed PhD research program.

   (i) Note: Evidence of an established research collaboration includes prior exchange of personnel between institutions, co-publication of research, jointly held grant programs or substantial dialogue between academics at the two institutions.

4.1.3 Be conducted under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which has been established in accordance with the University’s MOU procedures with the collaborating institution or group of institutions.

   (i) Note: Existing MOUs referring to joint PhD programs must be renewed if it is intended they are to form the basis for approval of Joint PhD Candidatures.

   (ii) Note: Cotutelle Programs and the Universitas 21 Joint PhD pre-date this Policy and are exempt from 4.1.3 (ii).

4.1.4 Meet the requirements of the UNSW Conditions for Award of PhD.

4.2 Candidature

4.2.1 For each student proposing to enrol in a joint PhD program, a specific Joint PhD Candidate Agreement (JCA) as specified in the Joint PhD Candidature Approval Procedure must be entered into by collaborating institutions.

4.2.2 Specific terms relating to all aspects of the candidature and examination, must comply with the University’s higher degree research policies and guidelines and require approval in accordance with 4.3.

4.2.3 Candidates currently enrolled in a PhD program at either UNSW or a collaborating institution cannot transfer to a Joint PhD during the course of their candidature.

4.2.4 On successful completion of academic requirements a single doctoral degree will be awarded jointly by the two institutions. The award of the PhD by UNSW is recorded on the transcript and testamur as under a Joint PhD agreement between UNSW and the collaborating higher education institution.

4.3 Approval

4.3.1 Approval of a Joint PhD candidature is on the basis of the merits of each case presented in the UNSW Joint PhD Candidate Agreement (JCA) and is not automatically granted when an MOU is signed.

4.3.2 Joint PhD Candidature Agreement approval must be given by the Head of School, the Faculty Dean, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) or their equivalents in both the lead and partner institutions.
5. Legal & Policy Framework
Relevant policy/procedures/guidelines include:
- Joint PhD Candidature Approval Procedure
- Conditions for Award of PhD
- Research Code of Conduct
- Procedure for the Establishment of a UNSW International Research MOU with an International University

6. Implementation

6.1 Roles & Responsibilities
The Dean of Graduate Research is responsible for the development and implementation of this policy.

6.2 Support & Advice
Support and advice related to this policy can be obtained from the Dean of Graduate Research

7. Review
This policy is due for review three years from its date of effect.

8. Acknowledgements
This policy was prepared with reference to the Universitas21 framework for jointly awarded PhDs. Discussion and reference to Go8 University Joint PhD Programs in particular The University of Melbourne is acknowledged.

Appendix A: History

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<th>Version</th>
<th>Authorised by</th>
<th>Approval Date</th>
<th>Effective Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>Vice Chancellor</td>
<td>5 September 2011</td>
<td>5 September 2011</td>
<td>This is a new policy encompassing all Joint PhD programs. It replaces the Cotutelle PhD Degrees Policy authorised by Academic Board (AB07/37) 5 June 2007; The French Cotutelle Scheme at UNSW (CL04/52 2(i))</td>
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