### POLICY

**Joint PhD Program**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area covered</th>
<th>University-wide</th>
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<th>To be completed upon approval</th>
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<th>Next review date</th>
<th>Maximum 3 years after commencement date</th>
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### Policy Statement

**Intent**

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

**Scope**

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

### Policy Provisions

**1. Overarching context**

**1.1. Aims**

UNSW aims to educate and train research candidates to provide the broad knowledge, experience and skills base required for development of the future research workforce. The Joint PhD program involves joint supervision of research candidates between UNSW and partner institutions nationally and internationally. The program provides research candidates with global experience during their candidature while strengthening collaborative partnerships between institutions.

**2. Principles**

**Establishment of Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) and Joint PhD Programs**

*a) Establishment of MOU & Joint PhD Agreement*

- Joint PhD Programs must be conducted under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and a Joint PhD Agreement which have been established with the partner institution or group of institutions in accordance with the University’s MOU procedures

- Evidence of established research collaborations between UNSW and the partner institution must be provided as the basis for the MOU & Joint PhD Agreement

- The Joint PhD Program must provide clear benefits to UNSW’s research mission by enhancing international research collaborations and recruitment of outstanding research candidates

- Any joint Program established must meet the UNSW Conditions for Award of PhD

*b) Establishment of Joint PhD Program*

- Following the establishment of the MOU and Agreement, supervisors proposing to supervise a candidate under a Joint PhD program need to complete a Joint PhD Candidate Agreement (JCA) in accordance with the Joint PhD Program Procedure

- Approval of a Joint PhD candidature is on the basis of the merits of each case presented in the JCA and the prospective candidate meeting the entry requirements for the PhD program, and is not automatically granted when an MOU is signed

- JCA approval must be given by the UNSW Head of School, the Faculty Dean, the Pro Vice-Chancellor
Joint PhD Program Policy
Consultation draft 1-22 July 2016

(Research Training) and their equivalents at the partner institutions

a) Management of Joint PhD Candidatures

- Research candidates currently enrolled in a PhD program at either UNSW or a collaborating institution cannot transfer to a Joint PhD Program during the course of their candidature
- Supervisors at both institutions must work together to provide continuity of supervision throughout the candidature and ensure that the candidature is satisfactorily supported
- Supervisors and their schools at both institutions must engage in consistent and proactive reporting and management of all aspects of candidature from admission, to confirmation of candidature, to examination
- Joint PhD Program candidatures must be conducted in accordance with the policies of the two collaborating institutions
- On successful completion of academic requirements a single doctoral degree must be awarded jointly by the two institutions.
- The testamur can be either a single document with the crests of both institutions included or two separate testamurs, each acknowledging that the degree was awarded jointly by the two named institutions

Revision History

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<th>Version</th>
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<th>Approval date</th>
<th>Effective date</th>
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Supporting Information

Supporting Procedures and Guidelines | Joint PhD Program Procedure

Related Documents

- Research Code of Conduct
- Conflict of Interest Policy
- Admissions Policy and HDR Admissions Procedure
- Intellectual Property Policy
- Work Health and Safety Policy
- Facilities and Resources to Support Higher Degree Research Candidates Guideline
- PhD Conditions for Award Policy
- Progress Review and Confirmation of Research Candidatures Procedure
- Supervision Policy and Supervision Procedure
- Thesis Examination Procedures
- International MOU & Student Agreement Policy
- International MOU & Student Agreement Procedure

Superseded Documents

- Joint PhD Program Policy version 1.0
- Approved September 5, 2014

UNSW Statute and / or Regulation

Any variation to Policy or Procedure must remain consistent with the parent statute or regulation

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Register of Delegations</th>
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<tr>
<td>7.4.1 Approve admission of a student to a program of study for:</td>
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<tr>
<td>(a) research higher degree programs;</td>
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<td>(b) other.</td>
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Relevant State / Federal Legislation

Higher Education Standards Framework (Effective January 1, 2017)
### Accountabilities

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<tr>
<th>Responsible Officer</th>
<th>Dean of Graduate Research</th>
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<td>Contact Officer</td>
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### Further Information

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### Definitions and Acronyms

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