

MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

JOINT DOCTORAL SUPERVISION and AGREEMENTS

JOINT ENROLMENT PHD STRATEGY - BACKGROUND

The French 'Cotutelle' for bilateral doctoral enrolment/co-enrolment and exchange is recognised as the foundation international model, and has been adopted (with variations) by other countries. While the term Cotutelle is used to describe co-enrolment agreements with French universities, the term "Joint Enrolment" is now commonly used in Australia for all such agreements, regardless of the partner country. This is the term Macquarie University uses.

Joint Enrolment agreements are a key method of enhancing international research collaboration through co-supervision of doctoral candidates between overseas and Australian Universities. Macquarie University's strategy is to maximise joint enrolments to expand international research collaboration with leading research Universities.

Joint enrolment agreements are based on two way mobility of doctoral students between institutions where there is existing active research collaboration or where there is a firm opportunity to develop such collaboration. Jointly enrolled PhD students in Australia apply for and are enrolled at two universities (e.g. 1 Australian, 1 other) under individual student contract agreements between the universities. On successful completion students receive either two doctoral degrees, each specifying that the degree was obtained under a joint enrolment agreement for the individual student; or a single double-badged degree for an approved joint doctoral degree program (currently under consideration at Macquarie).

Under a joint enrolment agreement a PhD candidate will normally spend a minimum of one year under supervision at a partner institution, and the remaining two years at the home institution, or durations as agreed by the institutions. There is flexibility in determining the duration of individual periods of time which can range upwards from three months. Shorter periods of time tend to be costly both in funding and in the time required to make sufficient research progress.

A joint enrolment international doctoral applicant to Macquarie (MQ) is eligible to apply for an international stipend scholarship at MQ, and will normally receive primary funding from, and pay any fees to the overseas institution. Such international applicants to MQ may apply for a tuition fee and stipend scholarship for the period at MQ at the same time as lodging an application for admission. If the amount of candidature time spent in Australia by the international candidate is less than half of the total candidature time, then the stipend payment will be available only for the period of time spent in Australia.

Under the terms of the individual student agreement, Macquarie will pay at least one return airfare between Australia and the partner country. Jointly enrolled PhD candidates and their supervisors should explore other funding options for additional travel including that available from other internal funding streams. Candidates should also investigate other funding sources such as those through embassies and private and public sector organisations, particularly those within the discipline area of the research study.

Domestic joint enrolment doctoral students are allocated a Research Training Scheme (RTS) funded place, while overseas students are enrolled as International candidates. Under Research Training Scheme guidelines, only one research degree completion is counted per jointly enrolled candidate whether domestic or international. Examples of Joint Enrolment Agreements underway with Universities in

- Belgium
- Brazil
- Canada
- Chile
- China
- Czech Republic
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Iceland
- Italy
- Poland
- Portugal
- Sweden
- Thailand.

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPING A COTUTELLE

The Contract

A Joint Enrolment Agreement is a legal document and requires the approval of supervisors, the candidate, Head of Department, Dean of Division/Faculty and DVC Research. Joint Enrolment agreements can be developed with any country, except for New Zealand, subject to the provisions of that country.

These agreements can result from, but are not limited to, the following circumstances:

- A study exchange student may develop an interest in joint enrolment following a successful international study placement at Macquarie.
- Collaborative research activity may already exist with an offshore University and the development of a joint enrolment agreement may further strengthen this partnership
- A currently enrolled domestic or international student may have an interest in joint enrolment in an overseas University with expertise in their research field.
- Macquarie may have a signed agreement in place for collaborative research activity and joint enrolment may be a key feature of this agreement. A standard Memorandum of Understanding template has been developed for use by authorised Macquarie staff.

The MOU

The development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is not a prerequisite for the development of a joint enrolment agreement. However, an MOU provides an opportunity to specify any additional considerations and to provide an indicative assessment as to how active the partnership is likely to be. The authorised signing authority for a research MOU is the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research.

Procedure

1. Download the Template from the HDR Office website at http://www.research.mq.edu.au/students/scholarships/joint_university_degrees#joint
2. Review the template and add details relating to the partner university, the candidate and other relevant matters. Include specific requirement relating to additional funding, enrolment or legislative requirements for the country with which the joint enrolment is being negotiated.
3. Obtain the agreement of the Division/Faculty to proceed with the joint enrolment agreement.
4. For agreements originating in Australia
 - the candidate and/or Principal Supervisor forward a soft copy of the proposed agreement to the Director International HDR Marketing and Development Ernest.Jordan@mq.edu.au at Macquarie International for review.
 - Following review and agreement by all parties and document finalisation, four copies signed by the candidate and Division/Faculty staff are to be sent to HDRO for approval and DVC Research signature.
 - The signed copy is sent to the overseas University for signature and two copies are returned to Macquarie for filing.
5. For agreements originating outside of Australia
 - the candidate and/or Principal Supervisor should forward a soft copy of the proposed agreement to the Director International HDR Marketing and Development Ernest.Jordan@mq.edu.au at Macquarie International for review.
 - Following review by all parties and document finalisation, four copies signed by the candidate and representative staff from the partner university should be sent to HDRO for approval and DVC Research signature.
 - Two fully signed copies back to the overseas University and their records.
6. Once fully signed, a certified copy is sent to the student and the Macquarie Principal Supervisor. An original copy is kept on a Central Records File and an original copy is sent to the student file.

Note: Macquarie University will not sign an agreement unless the translation has been undertaken by a certified translator or by a staff member of one of the partner universities. Any translation costs are the responsibility of the Division/Faculty.