

Policy: Joint and dual award PhD degree

Purpose

This document outlines the procedure for establishment and approval of Joint and Dual Award PhD degrees.

Overview

ANU is committed to the delivery of high quality research training of PhD candidates through the provision of an exceptional research environment and access to the opportunities to work with the best researchers nationally and internationally. ANU offers Joint and Dual Award PhD degrees through approved partnerships as one mechanism to deliver excellence in research and research training.

Scope

This policy applies to PhD programs only.

Definitions

Joint Award - is awarded by two collaborating institutions recognised by a single testamur.

Dual Award - is awarded by two collaborating institutions issuing two testamurs, each recognising that the program was carried out as part of a dual award.

An Institutional Joint or Dual Award PhD Program refers to a program agreed at an institution-to-institution level, for an agreed period, for a cohort of students. Such a program will normally but not always come under an overarching agreement for research cooperation between the institutions, which is typically signed by the VC or his/her Delegated Authority. Where no general agreement on research cooperation is in force, the agreement to establish an institutional PhD program will be signed by the Dean, Higher Degree Research (DHDR). Two institutions may establish an institutional PhD agreement without a candidate being identified in advance.

An Individual Dual Award/Cotutelle Program refers to a one-off, non-continuing program arranged for a single individual without an institutional-level agreement.

Policy statement

1. ANU offers Joint and Dual Award PhD programs where they are beneficial to ANU and its students through:
 - a. Expansion of the University's research collaborations through enhancing links and research collaborations to research-intensive institutions; and/or
 - b. allowing candidates:
 - to experience multiple research environments,
 - benefit from complementary expertise and facilities,
 - research training opportunities in other institutions; and/or
 - c. Increased engagement with partners and leading Universities including members of the International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU).
2. ANU ensures that for all Joint and Dual Award PhDs:
 - a. There are mechanisms in place to assure the quality of the program
 - b. The programs meet ANU requirements for establishment of approved partnerships
 - c. The programs are consistent with the Research standards in the Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards)
 - d. There is evidence of existing or prospective research links that will benefit from the collaboration
 - e. The requirements of the ANU Research Awards Rule are met.

Institutional Joint or Dual Award PhD Program

3. ANU may establish an Institutional Joint or Dual Award PhD Program with another higher education institution. PhD candidates are supervised by an ANU supervisor and a supervisor at the approved institution.
 - a. For an institutional Joint Award PhD Program, one testamur is awarded, bearing the Arms and Delegated Signatures of both institutions.
 - b. For an institutional Dual Award PhD Program, two testamurs are produced, one by each institution. The testamurs reference the collaborative study arrangement unless an alternative is approved by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor on the basis of restrictions arising from local legislative requirements.
4. The Institutional Joint or Dual PhD Program agreement that is signed between ANU and the approved collaborating University is for a specified period, and is available to a cohort of candidates.

5. A Candidature Agreement for Joint or Dual Award /Cotutelle PhD Program outlines specific conditions of the candidature and examination that are not covered in the other documents that relate to the Program.

6. The number of students incoming under an institutional agreement is expected to be comparable to the number of students outgoing.

Individual Dual Award/Cotutelle PhD Program

7. An Individual Dual Award/Cotutelle PhD Program agreement may be signed by ANU and another institution.

8. PhD Candidates are supervised by an ANU supervisor and a supervisor at the approved partner institution.

9. Two testamurs are awarded, one by each institution, but referencing the collaborative study arrangement at each institution unless an alternative is approved by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor on the basis of restrictions arising from local legislative requirements.

10. The Candidature Agreement for Joint or Dual Award /Cotutelle PhD Program outlines the specific conditions of the candidature and examination.

11. A Dual Award PhD is referred to as a Cotutelle only where the partner institution is a French University. The testamur records that the program is a Cotutelle PhD.

Candidature

12. Candidates enrolled in a Joint or Dual Award PhD are required to spend at least one year at ANU and one year at the approved partner during their degree.

13. Candidates must commence the Joint or Dual Award program within the first 12 months of candidature at either institution unless later entry is approved by the Dean, Higher Degree Research (DHDR).

14. ANU and the partner institution waive tuition fees of Joint and Dual Award PhD students for the periods when they are the host institution. Fees may continue to be required by the home institution.

15. Subject to meeting requirements approved by the DHDR, a student may at any stage transfer from a Joint PhD or a Dual-Award PhD to a PhD degree.

Approval

16. Approval of an ANU Joint or Dual Award PhD Program is based on the merits of the case presented as specified in the Procedure.

17. All Proposals to Establish a Joint or Dual Award PhD Program are signed off by the DHDR on the recommendation of the relevant Associate Dean of the College.

18. Where the Joint or Dual Award PhD Program comes under an overarching Head Agreement or MOU between institutions, the Head Agreement is signed off by the Vice Chancellor.
19. Joint PhD Degrees require CRICOS registration for the specific joint degree program.

Document information

Title	Joint and dual award PhD degree
Document Type	Policy
Document Number	ANUP_000437
Version	17
Purpose	To provide the criteria for the approval and award of Joint and Dual Award PhD degrees.
Audience	Staff-Academic-Research, Students-Graduate-Research, Staff-Professional, Students-Graduate
Category	Academic
Topic	Students
Subtopic	Higher Research Degrees
Effective Date	21 Dec 2018
Review Date	21 Dec 2021
Responsible Officer	Dean, Higher Degree Research (dean.hdr@anu.edu.au)
Approved By	Vice-Chancellor (vc@anu.edu.au)
Contact Area	Office of the Dean, Higher Degree Research (dean.hdr@anu.edu.au)
Authority	Research Awards Rule 2017
Printed On	13 Apr 2021

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