

Policy Title: Joint Doctor of Philosophy Programs

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1. INTENT

- 1.1** The University supports the establishment of joint Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programs, as they expand the University's research collaborations, and enhance and deepen links to strategic partner institutions.
- 1.2** This policy sets out the criteria for approval and process to establish a joint PhD program between two institutions.

2. ORGANISATIONAL SCOPE

All supervisors of ECU Research Candidates
 Higher Degree by Research Candidates

3. DEFINITIONS

TERM	DEFINITION
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)	The Doctor of Philosophy is compliant with the specifications of the Australian Qualifications Framework. Research in the program of learning will be for at least two years and typically two-thirds or more of the qualification. The program of learning may also include advanced coursework to enhance the student's capacity to make significant contribution to knowledge in the discipline (or cross-disciplinary field). Referred to in this document as PhD.

Joint PhDs	<p>Is an arrangement whereby institutions collaborate on research training activities, and includes dual award and jointly badged PhD programs.</p> <p>Dual Award PhD is an arrangement whereby a PhD student is jointly supervised by ECU and another institution, enrolled at both institutions, and receives two testamurs acknowledging one award. Each dual award PhD candidature is governed by a Joint PhD Candidate Agreement. The ECU testamur will have inscribed that the degree was undertaken under a joint PhD arrangement and must include the name of the other institution.</p> <p>Jointly Badged PhD is an arrangement whereby a PhD student is jointly supervised by ECU and another institution, enrolled at both institutions, and receives one award made jointly by ECU and the other institution. Each jointly badged PhD candidature is governed by a Joint PhD Candidate Agreement. One testamur will be provided.</p>
MOU	A Memorandum of Understanding
Home Institution	The lead institution nominated by the candidate as the primary co-ordinating institution, typically where the majority of candidature will be spent.
Host Institution	The collaborating institution that is not the Home institution.

4. POLICY CONTENT

Dual Award and Jointly Badged PhD

4.1 Establishment

- 4.1.1 **A joint PhD program should** only be established if there are demonstrable collaborative links between the two institutions, and where a joint PhD program would enhance those links.
- 4.1.2 A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ECU and the partner institution may be used for joint PhD programs. The MOU should, as a minimum, outline the general conditions that will govern the arrangement, including maintaining a duty of care to the candidate.

- 4.1.3 Jointly Badged PhD programs are generally established where there is every likelihood that the program will be enduring over time and attract a cohort of students on a regular basis.
- 4.1.4 A dual award program could be established to meet the needs of an individual student.
- 4.1.5 Meet the requirements of the Conditions of Award of PhD at each institution.

4.2 Eligibility

- 4.2.1 Prospective candidates must meet the admission requirements for the PhD program at each institution.
- 4.2.2 A joint PhD program is available to both domestic¹ and international² candidates.

4.3 Candidature

- 4.3.1 For each candidate proposing to enrol in a joint PhD program, a specific Joint PhD Candidate Agreement must be entered into by collaborating institutions, and provide clarification on the following:
 - 4.3.1.1 Which institution will be the Home institution. This will normally be the institution where the candidate spends the higher proportion of time;
 - 4.3.1.2 The amount of time to be spent by the candidate at each institution, and the process for ensuring the candidate's leave entitlements are calculated and apportioned accurately;
 - 4.3.1.3 Financial arrangements including payment of tuition fees, living support stipends, travel and accommodation support and research support;
 - 4.3.1.4 Supervisory arrangements, including the proportion of time each member of the supervisory team will spend with the candidate;
 - 4.3.1.5 Progress review and monitoring arrangements;
 - 4.3.1.6 Submission and examination arrangements;
 - 4.3.1.7 The processes for the submission of grievances and instances of misconduct;
 - 4.3.1.8 Intellectual property, confidentiality and copyright issues, data management, sharing commercial returns, responsibility for

¹ As defined within the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*

² Refers to "overseas students" as defined in the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*

ethics and safety clearances, reporting to appropriate agencies, dissemination of research outcomes and authorship, and the management of primary research materials and data;

4.3.1.9 Provision of equipment, facilities, resources, funding and IT; and

4.3.1.10 The proportion of the completion that will be counted by each institution once the candidate has completed.

4.3.2 The terms and conditions of the joint PhD program must be detailed in a Joint PhD Candidate Agreement between the two participating institutions and determined prior to the candidate commencing the joint PhD program. Specific terms relating to all aspects of candidature and examination must comply with Edith Cowan University's higher degree research policies and guidelines, and require approval in accordance in 4.2.

4.3.3 Approval of a joint PhD candidature is on the basis of the merits of each case presented in the Joint PhD Candidate Agreement.

4.3.4 Joint PhD Candidate Agreement approval must be given by the Head of School, Dean, the Dean (GRS) or their equivalents in both the Home and Host institution.

4.3.5 Candidates will be actively enrolled at both institutions. However at any one time, the candidate must be only active at one institution, while on leave from the other.

4.3.6 Candidates must spend a minimum of one year of their degree at each institution, unless otherwise agreed between institutions.

4.3.7 At least one supervisor must be provided for the full term of candidacy from each institution for each candidate. The principal supervisor would normally be located at the candidate's Home institution.

4.3.8 Arrangements may be changed by mutual agreement of both institutions due to the occurrence of unforeseen circumstances.

4.4 Completion and Conferral

- 4.4.1 The examination process will normally be administered by the Home institution and must satisfy the examination requirements of both institutions.
- 4.4.2 In the case of a Dual Award PhD:
 - 4.4.2.1 The student will receive one award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, which will be evidenced by a testamur from each institution.
 - 4.4.2.2 The ECU testamur will contain the following expression: 'conferred as a single degree under a Joint PhD program between [name of Home institution] and [name of Host institution]'.
- 4.4.3 In the case of a Jointly Badged PhD:
 - 4.4.3.1 The student will receive one award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, made jointly by ECU and the Host institution, which will be evidenced by one testamur.
 - 4.4.3.2 The design of the testamur must comply with ECU's policy on jointly badged awards.
- 4.4.4 All documentation related to the award will state that it is a single PhD jointly awarded by the Home and Host institutions.
- 4.4.5 The graduand will attend the graduation ceremony of their Home institution.

4.5 Financial arrangements

- 4.5.1 Tuition fees will normally only be payable by the candidate at the Home institution, unless stipulated in the Joint PhD Candidate Agreement.
- 4.5.2 If ECU is the Home institution, fees will be payable appropriate to the residency status of the candidate and take into account any fee support scholarships held.

5. ACCOUNTABILITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

In relation to this policy, the Policy Owner, Dean (GRS) has overall responsibility for the content of this policy and its operation in ECU.

Higher Degree by Research Candidates, supervisors and support staff are required to comply with the content of this policy and to seek guidance in the event of uncertainty as to its application.

6. RELATED DOCUMENTS

6.1 The policy is supported by the following templates:

- MOU for Joint Doctor of Philosophy Program Template
- Joint Doctor of Philosophy Candidate Agreement Template

6.2 Other documents which are relevant to the operation of this policy are as follows:

- [Principles for Joint Higher Degrees by Research Between Australian Higher Education Providers](#)
- [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#)
- University Rules: Admission, Enrolment and Academic Progress
- Supervision of Students Undertaking Higher Degrees by Research
- Jointly-Badged Awards Policy
- Candidature Management Policy

7. CONTACT INFORMATION

For queries relating to this document please contact:

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8. APPROVAL HISTORY

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