Collaborative PhD Program Procedures

INTRODUCTION

The primary focus of establishing Joint or Dual-Award PhD programs is to facilitate co-operative research collaboration between the University and partner institutions. The University encourages the establishment of Joint and Dual-Award PhD degree programs with universities with which it has strong collaborative links. These programs support the University’s commitment to research quality, collaboration and “internationalisation” through offering an opportunity to strengthen links with research intensive Australian and international institutions.

This document must be read in conjunction with the Common Course Rules - Doctor of Philosophy.

COMPLIANCE

This is a compliance requirement under the:

- Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards);
- National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students

INTENT

The intent of this document is to define the University’s objectives and procedures for conducting a Joint, Dual-Award or Cotutelle PhD degree as part of the University’s current strategic plan.

RELEVANT DEFINITIONS

In the context of this document

**Cotutelle PhD degree** means a Dual-Award PhD degree where the partner institution is a French university;

NOTE: A Cotutelle award degree is only available to international students.

**Dual-Award PhD degree** means an arrangement whereby a PhD candidate is jointly supervised by the University and a partner institution, and receives two (2) awards, one from each institution;

NOTE: A dual award degree is only available to international students.

**Home institution** means the institution with which an applicant was first affiliated or is enrolled and

**host** institution is used to refer to the institution to which they will travel to undertake part of their studies;

**Joint PhD degree** means a PhD program jointly offered by the University and a partner institution pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Common Course Rules - Doctor of Philosophy; and

NOTE: A joint degree program is available to both domestic and international students.

**Partner institution** means a degree awarding institution, recognised by the University for the purposes of this document.
PROCEDURES

Objectives

The objectives of collaborative PhD Programs are:

- To expand the University’s research collaborations and enhance and deepen links to other research-intensive institutions;
- To promote and foster high-quality research through enhanced research cooperation, knowledge transfer and benefits from the use of the two universities’ infrastructure; and
- To provide opportunities for PhD candidates to be exposed to research environments and infrastructure at other institutions.

Establishment

Whether for a Joint, Dual–Award or Cotutelle PhD program, the partner institution should be a degree awarding institution and must have comparable academic standards to those of the University. The terms and conditions of the Joint/Dual-Award/Cotutelle PhD degree program must be detailed in a written agreement between the two participating institutions and determined prior to students commencing the degree program.

Joint PhD Degree

A Joint PhD degree program should only be established if there are demonstrable collaborative links between the two institutions and where a joint degree program would enhance those links. Joint degree programs may not be established to meet the needs of individual students. A joint degree program is available to both domestic and international students.

Dual-Award/Cotutelle PhD Degree

A Dual-Award degree Program is to be arranged on a candidate by candidate basis. However, it should only be established if there are demonstrable collaborative links between the two institutions, and where a Dual-Award degree would enhance those links. These procedures are not intended to be used to meet the needs of individual students in the absence of such collaborative links. A dual award degree is only available to international students.

Eligibility

Joint or Dual-Award programs will only be approved in cases where it can be clearly established that a strong collaborative link with the partner institution already exists or is actively being developed and that the agreement would serve to formalise or enhance this link. It is therefore necessary to have the full support of the Head of School and Faculty Pro Vice-Chancellor before proceeding with an application for a Joint or Dual-Award PhD program.

Both international students and Australian citizens/permanent residents are eligible to participate in the program, though only International students can apply for the dual award program.
Funding

The normal expectation is that candidates would be exempt from fees at one institution and any other fees and charges, travel, health cover, accommodation and personal expenses, are the responsibility of the candidate.

Application Process

Heads of Schools are encouraged to discuss proposals with their Pro Vice-Chancellor and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and other staff as they see fit. If, after such informal discussion there is agreement that the proposed link is one the University should pursue, a formal application may be lodged.

As part of the formal application process schools are required to submit the Collaborative PhD Program Proposal (available from the Office of Research and Innovation) to the Office of Research and Innovation. Students wishing to be enrolled in a Joint or Dual-Award PhD must apply for candidature in the normal way.

Enrolment and Administration

Programs of study will be administered in accordance with the Joint or Dual-Award PhD Agreement.

A copy of this will be provided to the student at the commencement of the Joint or Dual-Award PhD program.

ESSENTIAL SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Internal

Collaborative PhD program Proposal (electronic copy available from Office of Research and Innovation)

Joint or Dual-Award PhD Agreement (copy available from Office of Research and Innovation)

Responsible Conduct of Research Policy
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<td>Academic Board</td>
<td>Creation of original document and upload to CDU website.</td>
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<td>17 Aug 2011</td>
<td>Governance</td>
<td>• Convert guideline document to new procedure template</td>
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<td>• Amend Executive Dean to Pro Vice-Chancellor to reflect title changes.</td>
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<td>• Change name from Principles Governing Collaborative PhD Programs at CDU Guideline to Collaborative PhD program Procedures</td>
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