

# COLLABORATIVE DOCTORAL RESEARCH DEGREE PROGRAM: FRAMEWORK AND CONDITIONS

## Purpose

Establishment of a framework for the approval and award of Collaborative Doctoral Research Degrees.

At the University of Technology Sydney (UTS), the Collaborative Doctoral Research Degree Program recognises the international nomenclature used to describe collaborative degrees such as joint, cotutelle and dual degrees.

## Overview

**Inbound students:** Inbound students are students whose home university is one of UTS's [international partner universities](#).

**Outbound students:** Outbound students are students whose home university is UTS.

UTS is committed to the delivery of high-quality research training through the provision of an exceptional research environment. This includes access to UTS's collaborative PhD program with Key Technology Partners and other leading international universities. At the successful completion of the Collaborative Doctoral Research Degree Program, students' research will be recognised formally by both institutions, with the award of a PhD degree. The framework for the Collaborative Doctoral Research Degree Program is designed to support both inbound and outbound students. There are many benefits to the program, including:

- providing students with an opportunity to participate in jointly-supervised research projects and the ability to enrol in a doctoral degree at two universities;
- allowing students to take advantage of UTS's and the partner institutions' strong academic, research, research training, and industry collaboration links to gain international experience and professional mobility; and
- allowing for academics to attract high-quality graduate research students and further develop their research portfolio.

Collaborative Doctoral Research Degree Programs may be proposed by one or more UTS faculties, or be developed through a central university approach. As outlined below, due diligence must be undertaken and UTS template agreements should always be used during discussions and negotiations with potential partner institutions. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) and/or the Graduate Research School (GRS) Dean are authorised to approve and establish these programs.

## Due Diligence Proposal

**Due diligence must be completed and approved BEFORE entering into discussions with a potential partner institution.** In the first instance, the supervisor/faculty should contact the [Graduate Research School](#) (GRS) where the overall process will be explained.

The due diligence proposal is to be prepared by the faculty and be endorsed by the faculty Dean before submitting to GRS. The proposal should include the following components:

- current ranking\* of the proposed university;
- academic, research and research training leadership profile of the proposed partner institution and fit with UTS;

- evidence of discipline research and training leadership and compatibility with growth/sustainability strategy of faculty and UTS;
- evidence of industry and other links that would benefit student experience and professional mobility;
- evidence of collaboration between proposed supervisors;
- benefits to UTS/faculty/partner institution;
- proposed number of students (inbound and outbound) and supervisory capacity;
- financial support (e.g. living stipend) – from faculty/partner institution;
- contact details of the GRS equivalent at the proposed partner institution;
- any intellectual property issues that need to be considered; and
- acceptance by the partner institution to use the UTS Collaborative Doctoral Research Degree Program template agreement.

[\*Times Higher Education; QS World Rankings; Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU – also known as Shanghai Jiao Tong)]

The due diligence proposal will be considered by the Dean of GRS. If endorsed, GRS will provide UTS Collaborative Doctoral Research Degree Program template agreements to enable the supervisor/faculty to enter into discussions with the proposed partner institution.

## Agreements

A bilateral institution agreement providing the framework for the Collaborative Doctoral Research Degree Program must be established between UTS and the partner institution.

In addition to the overarching agreement, individual candidate agreements are required for each student and must be signed by all parties (student and authorised personnel at both institutions). Generally, the candidate agreement should be negotiated at admission stage, but there should be sufficient flexibility to modify the agreement at a later date if required.

As outlined in the previous section, the supervisor/faculty may enter into discussions with the proposed partner institution once the due diligence proposal has been endorsed. The UTS template agreements should be used in these negotiations and once the supervisor/faculty has an in-principle agreement with the potential partner institution, GRS will facilitate the finalisation of a bi-lateral institution agreement.

It should be noted that final negotiations and executing agreements will depend on resources and availability of appropriate personnel who can authorise such agreements in both institutions.

The UTS Graduate Research School will oversee the administration of both the bilateral institution agreement and the candidate agreement/s. Each of these agreements will address the conditions outlined below, where applicable.

## Conditions

### Fee liability

Where applicable, the student will pay the tuition fee at their ‘home’ institution. An inbound student, if eligible, will be provided a tuition fee scholarship for the full candidature period at UTS, up to a maximum of 4 years. The UTS tuition fee scholarship will be the international tuition fee amount registered under CRICOS. Students exceeding the maximum UTS candidature period will be subject to fees.

Other costs such as, but not limited to, UTS Student Services and Amenities fee (SSAF), study related costs, health cover, travel and associated costs, accommodation, and personal expenses are the responsibility of the student.

For an outbound student, a statement on the type of financial support, its duration, amount and award conditions is required. A stipend scholarship offering benefits equivalent to a minimum rate Commonwealth Research Training Program Stipend (RTPS) is assumed. If the student is unsuccessful in obtaining an RTPS level stipend, the relevant faculty would be expected to arrange a scholarship to support the student whilst at the partner institution.

### **Apportionment of research time at each of the participating institutions**

A minimum of one year of the candidature is to be spent at each of the participating institutions. The student's application for the Collaborative Doctoral Research Degree Program requires a draft timetable for the apportionment of such time.

### **Supervision**

Students enrolled under a Collaborative Doctoral Research Degree Program agreement will be supervised by staff from both institutions, under joint supervision arrangements. At UTS, a panel of at least two supervisors will be provided to the student, in accordance with the [UTS Graduate Research Supervision Policy](#).

### **Language of Instruction**

The language of instruction at UTS is English. The participating institution specifies their language(s) of instruction. Outbound students must be aware of the language of instruction at their participating institution. Students must be able to meet the language proficiency requirements of both institutions, as appropriate.

### **Candidature Management**

Students are subject to both institutions' policies, rules and regulations. Where variations to standard practice are required, either prior to commencement of candidature and/or during candidature, such variations should be approved by both institutions and included in the individual student candidate agreement. Such matters could include:

- research proposal
- ongoing assessment of progress and candidature assessment
- intellectual property/copyright
- ethics approval
- risk assessment protocols
- variations to candidature (e.g. Leave of Absence, off-campus study, withdrawal; change of supervisor, etc)
- grievance and appeals procedures
- termination and discipline/research misconduct procedures
- thesis submission and examination process
- testamur and graduation

### **Withdrawal**

Where a student's circumstances prevent him/her from continuing under the Collaborative Doctoral Research Degree Program, withdrawal will be governed by the requirements outlined in the student's individual candidate agreement.

## Approval information and management

<b>Contact</b>	Director, Graduate Research School
<b>Approval authority</b>	Graduate Research School Board
<b>Review date</b>	Three years post approval
<b>Version</b>	1.2
<b>File number</b>	TBC
<b>Superseded documents</b>	Cotutelle Doctoral Program: Framework and Conditions

## Version history

<b>Version</b>	<b>Approved by</b>	<b>Approval date</b>	<b>Effective date</b>	<b>Sections modified</b>
1	Academic Board	4/10/17	4/10/17	N/A
1.1	Academic Board	19/9/18	19/9/18	N/A
1.2	Academic Board	11/11/20	11/11/20	3 year review and changes throughout. GRSB designated as future approval authority.

Please contact the UTS Graduate Research School at [grs@uts.edu.au](mailto:grs@uts.edu.au) for further information.

### Additional reading:

- [Graduate Research and Supervision Policy](#)
- [Graduate Research Candidature Management, Thesis Preparation and Submission Procedures](#)
- [Collaborative Doctoral Research Degree Candidate Guide](#)