

## *Graduate Research Degrees Joint Doctoral Degree (Research) Policy*

### **Purpose and Scope**

This policy states the University principles to govern the establishment and activities of Joint Doctoral Degree (Research) arrangements.

This policy applies to all staff and students.

#### **Preamble**

Murdoch University actively supports Joint Doctoral Degree (Research) (JDDR) Agreements as an integral part of its strategy. The establishment of a JDDR agreement for each Graduate Research Degree (GRD) candidate should only take place where there is evidence of existing research collaboration between Murdoch University and the proposed partner institution, or where a joint enrolment would create a sustainable research relationship. In addition, the establishment of the agreement between each respective institution and GRD candidate must provide strategic value to Murdoch University.

#### **Objectives**

1. To ensure that JDDR Agreements meet Murdoch University's strategic values.
2. To foster and expand national and global research collaborations and research capacity.
3. To ensure that JDDR Agreements are consistent with relevant Murdoch University policies, procedures and regulations.
4. To safeguard Murdoch University's reputation in respect of JDDR arrangements.

### **Policy**

1. In this policy, the following words have the following meanings:
  - 1.1. "Host institution" means the institution through which the candidate initiates the joint degree proposal.
  - 1.2. "Partner institution" means the institution which is approached to support the joint degree candidature in partnership with the Host institution.
2. A Joint Doctoral Degree (Research) Agreement should only be formulated when evidence exists that such an arrangement will provide strategic value to Murdoch University, including a demonstration that the collaboration will:
  - 2.1. strengthen relationships between existing partners;
  - 2.2. enhance the Doctoral Degree (Research) experience;

- 2.3. provide opportunities for long-term research partnership building; and
- 2.4. serve as a “bridge” between individual researchers, research groups/laboratories, and institutions.
- 3. A JDDR enables a GRD candidate to enrol at and be jointly supervised by Murdoch University and another institution.
  - 3.1. A JDDR agreement with an institution in France is called a Cotutelle agreement.
- 4. Applications for a JDDR must be directed to the Manager Graduate Research using the attached form.
- 5. A written agreement between the partner institutions must be finalised prior to the commencement of the JDDR, and approved by Graduate Research, the relevant College Dean Research and Graduate Research Director.
  - 5.1. This agreement, which outlines the terms and conditions, must be individually tailored for each candidate.

### **Eligibility**

- 6. Partner institutions must have research and research training standards at least equivalent to those of Murdoch University in relation to:
  - 6.1. Organisation and governance;
  - 6.2. Workplace health and safety;
  - 6.3. Research ethics;
  - 6.4. Research active academic staff;
  - 6.5. Research infrastructure/facilities;
  - 6.6. Research support (e.g. technical staff); and
  - 6.7. Library and IT resources and support.
- 7. Candidates must meet the admission requirements for both institutions.
- 8. All candidates must comply with the Murdoch University *Graduate Research Student Degree Regulations*.

### **Enrolment**

- 9. The maximum duration of a JDDR is 4 years.
- 10. A JDDR arrangement will normally only be offered on a full time basis.
- 11. Where Murdoch University is the Host institution, the following enrolment arrangements will normally apply:
  - 11.1. That the first year of candidature is completed at Murdoch University, including all requirements for Confirmation of Candidature, in accordance with the *Graduate Research Degree Regulations and Procedure*, and *Confirmation of Candidature Guidelines*; and
  - 11.2. That the final year of candidature is completed at Murdoch University.
- 12. Where Murdoch University is the Partner institution, the candidate will normally spend a minimum of one year at Murdoch University, the timing of that residency period to be agreed at the time of enrolment or as soon thereafter as possible.

## **JDDR Agreement Conditions**

### Supervision

13. The JDDR Agreement must outline details of supervision arrangements including communication with the candidate, communication between supervisors and how progress is going to be monitored and reported.

### Examination

14. The thesis will be written in English.
15. The JDDR thesis must be examined through both institutions' processes.
  - 15.1. Specific examination processes must be outlined in the JDDR Agreement.
  - 15.2. Regulations of both universities shall apply in relation to format of the thesis, examination requirements (including any oral examination) and payment to examiners. If there is any conflict between the Regulations, the Regulations of the Host institution will prevail. Where necessary, other arrangements will be outlined in the JDDR Agreement.

### Award of Degree

16. Where it is recommended that a degree be awarded, each institution will acknowledge the other on the testamur, in accordance with the *Award Nomenclature, Certification and Issuance Policy*.
17. A decision by one university not to award the degree does not preclude the other institution from awarding the degree.
  - 17.1. In the event that the other institution decides to award the degree unilaterally, the JDDR Agreement shall be effectively terminated.

### Intellectual Property

18. Intellectual property and copyright arrangements should be agreed and clearly stated in the JDDR Agreement before commencement of candidature.

### Scholarships

19. Students may apply for Scholarship support.
  - 19.1. Where a student applies for Scholarship support from Murdoch University, any other Scholarship support held by the student will be taken into account when assessing the application.
  - 19.2. Scholarship holders must meet all requirements relevant to their scholarship(s).
  - 19.3. There should be no assumption that a JDDR candidate will be awarded a scholarship at Murdoch University.

### Tuition Fees, Living and Other Costs

20. A realistic budget for the project, including tuition fees, living expenses and any other cost must be outlined in the JDDR Agreement.
21. Candidates are required to pay for any tuition fees, living expenses and any other cost including incidental fees and charges, health cover, travel and associated costs, accommodation and personal expenses.
  - 21.1. International candidates may be required to pay fees at Murdoch University.

### Performance Indicators:

1. The numbers of national and global research collaborations are increased as a result of Joint Doctoral Degree (Research) arrangements.

## Governance

Approval Authority	Academic Council
Owner	President Academic Council
Legislation mandating compliance	
Category	Primarily academic
Related University Legislation and Policy Documents	<i>Award Nomenclature, Certification and Issuance Policy</i> <i>Graduate Research Degrees Procedure</i> <i>Graduate Research Degrees Regulations</i>
Date effective	09/03/2016
Review date	09/03/2019

## Revision History

Approved/Amended	Date Approved	Resolution No. (if applicable)
Administrative amendment	08/08/2023	
Administrative amendments	08/03/2019	
Approved	09/03/2016	AC/28/2016(i)
Rescinded AC/74/2014	09/03/2016	AC/28/2016(ii)
Approved	25/06/2014	AC/74/2014

## Attachments

## Establishment of a Joint Doctoral Degree (Research) JDDR Form

Please read the *Establishing a Joint Doctoral Degree (Research) JDDR Guideline* prior to completing this form.

NOTE: This is not an application form for PhD candidature.

If available, please attach the Joint PhD/Cotutelle agreement from the partner institution to this form.

1. Type of Award			
Joint PhD		Cotutelle	

2. Candidate Details				
Student Name				
Address				
Email				
Contact Number				
Murdoch Student Number (if applicable)				
Student Status	Domestic		International	
Has the nominee applied for admission to Murdoch University?	Yes		No	

3. Contact Details – Murdoch University	
Discipline	
Principal Supervisor	
Email	

4. Contact Details – Partner Institution	
Partner Institution Name	
Primary Contact Name	
Email for Primary Contact	
Proposed Supervisor	
Email for Supervisor	

5. Collaborative Arrangements				
<b>5.1 Collaboration Details</b>				
Statement of strategic value to Murdoch University				
Evidence of existing or developing collaboration				
<b>5.2 Candidature Details</b>				
Research Topic Description (max 200 words)				
Proposed length of candidature at each institution		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
	Murdoch University			
	Partner			
Oral Examination/Thesis defence required	Yes		No	
Proposed arrangements for reporting on progress between institutions				

6. Funding Arrangements	
Fee arrangements at Murdoch (if applicable)	
Details of fee arrangements at Partner Institution	
Scholarship arrangements (if applicable)	
Summary of other costs associated with program i.e. travel, accommodation, health cover etc.	

7. Signatures		
Candidate		
Title and Name	Signature	Date
College Endorsement – Murdoch University		
Title and Name	Signature	Date
Principal Supervisor		
Dean Research		
Graduate Research Director		
Endorsement and Approval – <insert Partner Institution name>		
Title and Name	Signature	Date
Principal Supervisor		
Authorisation – Murdoch University		
Title and Name	Signature	Date
Dean, Graduate Studies		

*Please refer to the electronic copy in the Policy and Procedure Manager to ensure you are referring to the latest version.*