

Graduate Research Degrees Joint Doctoral Degree (Research) Policy

Purpose:	To govern the establishment and activities of Joint Doctoral Degree (Research) arrangements.		
Audience:	Staff, Students		
Contact Officer:	Manager Graduate Research	Phone:	See Campus Directory

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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.

Definitions:

Host institution – the institution through which the candidate initiates the joint degree proposal.

Partner institution – the institution which is approached to support the joint degree candidature in partnership with the Host institution.

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. 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:
 - 1.1. strengthen relationships between existing partners;
 - 1.2. enhance the Doctoral Degree (Research) experience;
 - 1.3. provide opportunities for long-term research partnership building; and

- 1.4. serve as a “bridge” between individual researchers, research groups/laboratories, and institutions.
2. A JDDR enables a GRD candidate to enrol at and be jointly supervised by Murdoch University and another institution.
 - 2.1. A JDDR agreement with an institution in France is called a Cotutelle agreement.
3. Applications for a JDDR must be directed to the Manager Graduate Research using the attached form.
4. 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.
 - 4.1. This agreement, which outlines the terms and conditions, must be individually tailored for each candidate.

Eligibility

5. Partner institutions must have research and research training standards at least equivalent to those of Murdoch University in relation to:
 - 5.1. Organisation and governance;
 - 5.2. Workplace health and safety;
 - 5.3. Research ethics;
 - 5.4. Research active academic staff;
 - 5.5. Research infrastructure/facilities;
 - 5.6. Research support (e.g. technical staff); and
 - 5.7. Library and IT resources and support.
6. Candidates must meet the admission requirements for both institutions.
7. All candidates must comply with the Murdoch University *Graduate Research Student Degree Regulations*.

Enrolment

8. The maximum duration of a JDDR is 4 years.
9. A JDDR arrangement will normally only be offered on a full time basis.
10. Where Murdoch University is the Host institution, the following enrolment arrangements will normally apply:
 - 10.1. 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
 - 10.2. That the final year of candidature is completed at Murdoch University.
11. 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

12. 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

13. The thesis will be written in English.
14. The JDDR thesis must be examined through both institutions' processes.
 - 14.1. Specific examination processes must be outlined in the JDDR Agreement.
 - 14.2. 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

15. 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*.
16. A decision by one university not to award the degree does not preclude the other institution from awarding the degree.
 - 16.1. In the event that the other institution decides to award the degree unilaterally, the JDDR Agreement shall be effectively terminated.

Intellectual Property

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

Scholarships

18. Students may apply for Scholarship support.
 - 18.1. 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.
 - 18.2. Scholarship holders must meet all requirements relevant to their scholarship(s).
 - 18.3. There should be no assumption that a JDDR candidate will be awarded a scholarship at Murdoch University.

Tuition Fees, Living and Other Costs

19. A realistic budget for the project, including tuition fees, living expenses and any other cost must be outlined in the JDDR Agreement.
20. 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.
 - 20.1. International candidates may be required to pay fees at Murdoch University.

Supporting Procedures:

There are no supporting procedures.

Supporting Guidelines:

There are no supporting guidelines.

Supporting Standards:

There are no supporting standards.

Performance Indicators:

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

Definitions:

The definition of these terms appears in the "Dictionary of Terms". Please refer to the "Dictionary of Terms" in Policy and Procedure Manager™ to ensure you are referring to the latest version.

There are no key terms.

Related Documents:

[Award Nomenclature, Certification and Issuance Policy](#)

[Graduate Research Degrees Procedure](#)

[Graduate Research Degrees Regulations](#)

References:

There are no references.

Approval and Implementation:

Approval Authority:	Academic Council
Responsible Officer(s):	Manager Graduate Research

Revision History:

Version	Date Approved	Effective Date (if later than 'Date Approved')	Next Review Date	Resolution No. (if applicable)
Administrative amendments	08/03/2019			
Approved	09/03/2016		09/03/2019	AC/28/2016(i)
Rescinded AC/74/2014	09/03/2016			AC/28/2016(ii)
Approved	25/06/2014			AC/74/2014