



Context and Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to outline the requirements and processes for the establishment and administration of Dual Award and Jointly Badged PhD programs.

This procedure should be read in conjunction with [Policy AB-61: PhD Program Collaboration](#).

Responsibility

The Deputy Vice Chancellor: Research and Enterprise will ensure organisation-wide adherence to this procedure.

Confidentiality

Refer to [M-1 Privacy Policy](#).

Procedure

A. Establishment of Dual Award or Jointly Badged PhD Programs (Figure 1)

1. Responsibility for the establishment of a Dual Award or Jointly Badged PhD program resides with the Academic Unit. Endorsement from the relevant Executive Dean and Dean of Research should be obtained, with support from the Dean of Graduate Studies.
2. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UniSA and the other institution may be required in advance of developing the Dual Award or Jointly Badged PhD Program. In the case of international institutions, UniSA International will determine if an MOU is required, and for Australian institutions, the Enterprise Hub will provide support.
3. Establishment of a Dual Award or Jointly Badged PhD program involves development and approval of the following:
 - a. A PhD Agreement
 - b. A Program Plan (for each Academic Unit involved)
 - c. Research Student Schedule for each research degree student wishing to enrol in the program.
4. A PhD Agreement incorporating the terms and conditions of the new PhD program must be developed and agreed by both institutions. The Agreement contains information on how the PhD program will be managed (refer to Definitions).
5. A Dual Award or Jointly Badged PhD is considered to be a program amendment and therefore must be approved by the Research Degrees Committee, Research Leadership Committee and Academic Board.
6. A Dual Award or Jointly Badged PhD program may be established for multiple research degree students.

7. A joint research project must be established between the two institutions for a particular research degree student.
8. The other institution can be an Australian or overseas institution.

B. Standards

9. The academic standards of Dual Award and Jointly Badged PhDs must be at least equivalent to those of PhDs offered solely by UniSA.
10. The partner institution should have:
 - a. The academic standing to deliver Dual Award or Jointly Badged PhD programs and to guarantee that the student learning experience is equivalent to that of students in UniSA programs and therefore enables students to achieve the required academic standards;
 - b. Academic quality acceptable to UniSA, includes but is not limited to:
 - i. Quality assurance procedures for monitoring research education standards.
 - ii. PhD program structure and duration consistent with Australian Government standards.
 - iii. Supervision and supervisor training.
 - iv. Responsible conduct of research consistent with the [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#) and UniSA [Policy C-6.4: Health, safety and injury management](#).

C. Program Structure

11. A Dual Award or Jointly Badged PhD Agreement between the collaborating institutions and an individual Research Student Schedule for each student must be developed. The Dual Award or Jointly Badged PhD Agreement must be signed prior to any student commencing. The individual Research Student Schedule must set out the arrangements pertaining to that student.
12. This program is normally available to full-time PhD students; however, part-time candidature may be considered.
13. The PhD student is expected to engage with the home and partner institutions' research environment (refer to Procedure AB-58 P1: [Research Degrees Admissions and Enrolment](#), clause H).
14. The PhD student is expected to spend a minimum of 12 months full-time equivalent candidature at each of the institutions during the candidature.
15. The PhD student will typically complete the requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy within 4 years full-time equivalent study. A minimum 2 years full-time equivalent candidature is required.
16. Only one thesis, written in English, is required by the University of South Australia for either the Dual Award or Jointly Badged PhD. Partner institutions may have other requirements for the submission and lodgement of a thesis.

D. Admission

17. The PhD student must satisfy the usual entry and admission requirements for admission to the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy at both institutions.
18. The PhD student will be enrolled concurrently at both institutions for the duration of the candidature.
19. Confirmation of candidature must be approved by both institutions.

E. Supervision and appointment of supervisors

20. At least one supervisor from each institution will be appointed.
21. UniSA supervisors shall carry out the duties and responsibilities as set out in Guideline AB-58 AD10: [Key Responsibilities in Research Degrees Management and Supervision](#) and in Policy AB-64: [Supervision of Research Degree Students](#).

F. Language

22. Instruction shall normally be in a language of instruction for each institution. The PhD student therefore must be able to meet UniSA English Language proficiency requirements and any language proficiency requirements of the partner institution.
23. In order for a UniSA doctorate to be awarded the thesis must be written and examined in English. Other institutions may choose to translate the thesis if that is necessary for their requirements.

G. Examination

24. The examination process will be conducted as specified in the Agreement.
25. The thesis shall be examined by a minimum of two external, independent and internationally recognised examiners, agreeable to the supervisors from both institutions.
26. Examiner reports must be accepted by both institutions prior to the conferral of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Where there is a conflict, the Dean of Graduate Studies at the Home Institution will make a recommendation.
27. A copy of the final thesis will be submitted to each institution.

H. Withdrawal from candidature

28. A PhD student may withdraw from a Dual Award or Jointly Badged PhD program at any time prior to thesis submission.
29. Where the PhD student's home institution is UniSA, the student may transfer the enrolment into a relevant UniSA Higher Degree by Research program subject to the applicable academic program rules.

I. Conferral

30. Conferral of a PhD collaboration award at UniSA will be in accordance with Policy A-51.3: [Graduations and Records](#), and at the partner institution in accordance with that institution's policy.
31. All documentation related to a PhD collaboration award will state that it is a single PhD.
32. In the case of a Dual Award PhD:
 - a. The PhD student will receive one award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, which will be evidenced by a testamur (parchment) from each Institution.
 - b. The UniSA testamur (parchment) will contain the following expression: 'conferred as a single degree under a Dual Award PhD Program between the [name of Home Institution] and the [name of Partner Institution]'. It is preferred that the other institution's testamur (parchment) contain similar information.
33. In the case of a Jointly Badged PhD:
 - a. The PhD student will receive one award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, made jointly by UniSA and the partner institution, which will be evidenced by one testamur (parchment).

- b. The University's name and logo must be placed equally with the other institution's name and badge (emblem, logo, coat of arms, etc) on the testamur (parchment).
- c. The inclusion of another university's details on the University of South Australia testamur (parchment) must be requested in the program amendment documentation and must be approved by Academic Board.
- d. The inclusion of the UniSA logo on the testamur (parchment) of another university must be requested in the program amendment documentation and must be approved by Academic Board.

34. In the case of a Cotutelle PhD:

- a. The PhD student will receive one award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, which will be evidenced by a testamur (parchment) from each Institution.
- b. The UniSA testamur (parchment) will contain the following expression: 'conferred as a single degree under a Cotutelle PhD Program between the [name of Home Institution] and the [name of Partner Institution]'. It is preferred that the other institution's testamur (parchment) contain similar information.

J. Administration of Dual Award or Jointly Badged PhD programs

35. The administration of a Dual Award or Jointly Badged PhD (including Cotutelle) will be undertaken in accordance with Policy [AB-58: Research Degrees](#) and its supporting procedures except for the provision of minimum candidature at each institution (clause C.14).

Definitions

Cotutelle PhD is a Dual Award or Jointly Badged PhD where the other institution is a French university. The testamur (parchment) must have inscribed that the degree is a Cotutelle PhD and the name of the French partner institution. Further information can be found on the website of the [Embassy of France in Canberra](#).

Dual Award PhD is an arrangement whereby a PhD student is jointly supervised by UniSA and another institution. The PhD student is enrolled at both institutions and receives one award (qualification) conferred separately with a testamur (parchment) from each institution. A Dual Award PhD may also be referred to as a "double degree". The UniSA testamur (parchment) must have inscribed that the degree was undertaken under a Dual Award PhD arrangement and must include the name of the other institution. It is preferred that the other institution's testamur (parchment) should contain similar information. Each Dual Award PhD candidature is governed by a Dual Award PhD Agreement between the collaborating institutions and an individual Research Student Schedule.

Home Institution is the institution designated as the primary coordinating institution of a student undertaking a Dual Award or Jointly Badged PhD, normally on the basis that it invites the student to apply for the program and provides a greater share of resources throughout the candidature and is the institution at which the student intends to spend the greater period of time.

Jointly Badged PhD is an arrangement whereby a PhD student is jointly supervised by UniSA and another institution, enrolled at both institutions and receives one award (qualification) and a single testamur (parchment) jointly conferred by UniSA and the other institution. Each Jointly Badged PhD candidature is governed by a Jointly Badged PhD Agreement between the collaborating institutions and an individual Research Student Schedule.

Jointly Supervised PhD is an arrangement whereby a PhD student is jointly supervised by UniSA and a supervisor from another institution. The student will receive an award from the institution in which they are enrolled.

Partner Institution is an institution other than the home institution of a student undertaking a Dual Award or Jointly Badged PhD, to which the student will travel to undertake part of their studies.

PhD Agreement (Agreement) is a signed agreement which incorporates, but is not limited to, information associated with:

- Admission to the institutions
- Allocation of time between institutions
- Application of rules and regulations
- Supervisors
- Fees, scholarships, revenues and expenses
- Intellectual property, authorship and ethics
- Submission and examination of thesis
- Coordination of Agreement
- Alterations to Agreement
- Termination

Research Collaboration should demonstrate one or more of the following: jointly supervised PhDs, jointly published papers, research student exchange, academic visitor programs and research projects.

Research Student Schedule is a document which sets out the arrangements agreed upon by both parties for an individual research student undertaking a Dual Award or Jointly Badged PhD.

Further Assistance:

Enterprise Hub

International Relations, UniSA International

Related Documentation

[Policy AB-58: Research Degrees](#)

[Policy AB-61: PhD Program Collaboration](#)

[Policy AB-63: Quality Assurance and Improvement in Research Degrees](#)

[Policy AB-64: Supervision of Research Degree Students](#)

[Policy C-6.4: Health, safety and injury management](#)

[Policy A-51.3: Graduations and Records](#)

[Guideline AB-58 AD10: Key Responsibilities in Research Degrees Management and Supervision](#)

[Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#)

- **Officer Responsible for Update and Review:** Deputy Vice Chancellor: Research and Enterprise
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Figure 1. Establishment of Dual Award and Jointly Badged PhD Programs

