

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR COTUTELLE AND JOINT PhD ENROLMENT

These principles apply to all Cotutelle and Joint PhD proposals for individual candidate agreements, individual candidature agreements, and enrolments of Cotutelle and Joint PhD candidates. Institutional level MOUs, framework agreements and cofunding scholarship agreements are excluded.

Cotutelle/Joint PhD proposals and agreements (individual candidate)

1. Proposals for Cotutelles and Joint PhD arrangements with existing partners are subject to approval by the PVC Graduate Research on recommendation of the Faculty Associate Dean Research Training and Performance.
2. Proposals for Cotutelles and Joint PhD arrangements with new partners are subject to approval by the PVC Graduate Research on recommendation of the Faculty Associate Dean Research Training and Performance with endorsement from the Faculty Executive Dean.
3. Cotutelle and Joint PhD candidature agreements are subject to execution by the DVCR, on the recommendation of the PVC Graduate Research.
4. Faculties and Supervisors should consider the length of time available to the prospective Cotutelle/PhD candidate when recruiting. Proposed Cotutelle and Joint PhD arrangements will only be approved where the proposed candidate has a minimum of **2 EFTSL** left in their program of study at the time of **intended enrolment**.
5. Cotutelle and Joint PhD agreements will be conducted under Australian law and are subject to the compliance requirements of the *Australian Foreign Relations Act 2020*. This means that any such arrangements may be notified to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade **when they are proposed and when they are agreed**. More information on the Australia's Foreign Relations Act (2020) can be found [online](#).

Cotutelle/Joint PhD applicants

6. Approved Cotutelle or Joint PhD arrangements are always subject to the student meeting the admission criteria to the MQ PhD program, and if applicable, the minimum scholarship rating criteria.
7. Applicants for Cotutelle or Joint PhD programs must meet the entry criteria to the MQ PhD program in accordance with the [Higher Degree Research Rules](#).
8. Applicants for Cotutelle or Joint PhD programs must meet the [MQ HDR English language requirements](#).

Cotutelle/Joint PhD enrolments

9. An applicant for a Cotutelle or Joint PhD program must not be enrolled in the Cotutelle or Joint PhD program prior to execution of the individual candidature agreement, and formal agreement to the terms by the student.
10. The **maximum duration** for a Cotutelle or Joint PhD is **3 EFTSL** in accordance with the [Higher Degree Research Rules](#).
11. The **minimum period** for which a Cotutelle or Joint PhD candidate must be **jointly enrolled** in both institutions is strictly **2.0 EFTSL**, excluding any periods of prior candidature consumed in the single program before enrolment in the Cotutelle or Joint PhD.
12. Cotutelle and Joint PhD candidates should aim to split their time at each institution evenly, and in accordance with the Higher Degree Research Rules, are expected to spend a **minimum of 12 months at each institution** either physically on campus, or in exceptional circumstances and subject to approval, at MQ enrolled on an offsite basis in accordance with the [MQ Offsite Research Enrolment Guidelines](#).
13. A Cotutelle or Joint PhD candidate may commence their enrolment at a Partner institution prior to enrolment in the MQ program, with prior candidature subtracted from their tenure available at MQ.

14. Variations to candidature for Cotutelle and Joint PhD enrolments are in accordance with the [Higher Degree Research Variations to Candidature Policy](#).
15. Candidates enrolled in a Cotutelle or Joint PhD who wish to terminate the arrangement and complete the MQ degree only may do so by application on the [MQ HDR Transfer Form](#).
16. A candidate wishing to transfer from an MQ only degree to a Cotutelle or Joint PhD program may do so by application via the [HDR Transfer Form](#), and in accordance with these Guiding Principles.
17. Cotutelle and Joint PhD candidates for whom MQ is the home institution must have at least two MQ Supervisors (Principle and Associate Supervisor) in accordance with the [Higher Degree Research Supervision Policy and Procedure](#).

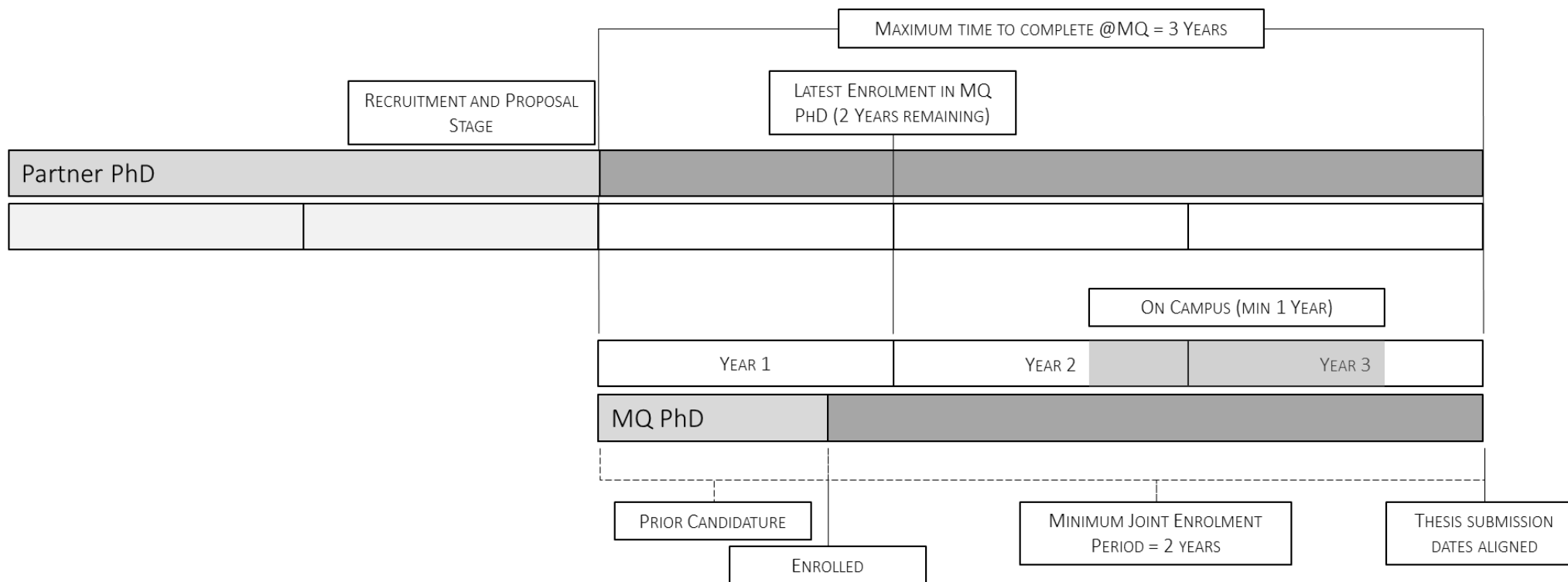
Cotutelle/Joint PhD Examinations

18. Under a cotutelle agreement the same work must be submitted to both institutions for examination at the same time with the following exceptions:
 - a. Where the thesis is going to be submitted in two different languages, there may be a period suitable for translation from one language to the other between the thesis submissions; or
 - b. Where the requirements of the thesis formatting are significantly different between the two institutions, there may be a period suitable for reformatting of the thesis between the thesis submissions.
19. Under a Cotutelle and Joint PhD agreement where MQ is the Lead institution the thesis must be examined in accordance with the rules, policies, procedures and guidelines at MQ. MQ supervisors should seek to work with cotutelle partner supervisors to identify examiners that meet the mutual requirements of both institutions.
20. Under a Joint PhD agreement where MQ is not the Lead institution the thesis must be examined by at least (two) examiners appointed according to the *TEQSA Higher Education Standards Framework 2015* and [MQ HDR Thesis Preparation, Submission and Examination Policy](#).
21. If required by the Partner institution the Student will undertake an oral/public defence of the dissertation as part of the examination procedure at the Partner institution. Any costs associated with the organisation and administration of the oral defence will be borne by the Partner institution (including any travelling expenses and accommodation).

Regulatory Obligations – TEQSA Guidance Note on Joint and Dual Awards

<https://www.teqsa.gov.au/sites/default/files/guidance-note-joint-and-dual-awards-v2-1-web.pdf?v=1581308657>

Figure 1. Candidature map for Cotutelle or Joint PhD candidate commencing at a partner institution prior to MQ, where the standard time to completion for the partner PhD is longer than MQ (assuming full time enrolment)



Key Features (assuming full time enrolment for the duration of the program)

- Candidate may commence at the partner before MQ
- Minimum joint enrolment period = 2 years excluding prior candidature
- Maximum joint enrolment period = 3 years including prior candidature
- Minimum period at MQ = 1 year
- If awarded, maximum MQ tuition scholarship tenure = 3 years including prior candidature
- If awarded, MQ stipend offered for duration of MQ 'on campus' period