



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE
SCHOOL OF
GRADUATE
RESEARCH

Joint (PhD) Degrees

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Degree	Joint	Double
“Curriculum” design	Both	Both
Student visits	Both	Both
Tuition fees	Home only	Both?
Course sum	1	>1 (but <2)
Dissertation	1	1
Cross ‘credit’ (time...)	Yes	Yes
Assessment	Single or both	Both
Certificates	1 (or 2, cross ref)	2
Post-nomial	PhD (Melb & UniX)	PhD (Melb) PhD (UniX)
Acceptable for Masters	Yes	Yes
Acceptable for PhD*	Yes	Generally not

*at University of Melbourne

‘Vanilla’ advantages:

- international ‘curriculum’, defined in partnership by 2 universities
- access to high-quality institutions in two different countries
- different and complementary education approaches: different pedagogy, analytical skills, and problem solving approaches
- international qualification recognition and leveragable employment asset
- valuable cultural, linguistic and personal experience
- Helps develop ‘global researchers’

Specific advantages:

- access to research infrastructure and expertise
- 30-100% impact measured by higher citation rate
- validation across different environments (genetics, geography...)

Our approach (based on 30+ individual arrangements)

- small steps
- start by demonstrating research collaboration (e.g. joint papers)
- start with co-supervision (candidate enrolls in one place, visits other)
- High level discussions about joint degree framework
 - Due diligence on institution
 - Basic training rules and alignment?
 - Who pays?
- MOU + individual agreements for each candidate (templated)
 - MOU countrywide (France), system, or usually University-specific
 - spells out travel, supervision, stipend, fees, IP, ethics, disputes....

Where a joint PhD works

- Where training systems are well aligned
- Timing similar, content similar (e.g. UK/France and Australia)
- Good candidates, good leverage of expertise, equipment etc.

Where it doesn't

- Systems very different (inc. funding, teaching, timing)
- Where supervisors have no history
- Where the candidate is weak
- Where accreditation hurdles are high (e.g. previously China)

No joint PhDs between Melbourne and any US institution



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