

Guidance: Joint and Dual Doctoral Awards

This Guidance should only be read in conjunction with the University of Bristol's Policy on Joint and Dual Awards, which can be found on the Educational Partnerships webpage at <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/academic-quality/edpart/> where you can also find a narrative and flow chart of the approval process. While this Guidance refers to Joint and Dual Awards as defined by the QAA, there has been ambiguity across institutions and internationally so if you are having a conversation about our award based on our definition, it is possible you could still be talking about a different partnership so please define terms at the outset of any discussions.

The key aim of establishing a joint or a dual doctoral degree is to establish or strengthen deep and ongoing relationships with well-regarded universities through joint doctoral candidate supervision or the joint programme delivery. Establishing a joint or dual award is often rather complex and suitable timeframes need to be considered. The University of Bristol (UoB) permits joint or dual awards only when at least two of the criteria set out below are satisfied:

- a. It offers long-term strategic benefits for the University (for example, increased student recruitment, increased income, access to new sources of funding, opportunities for academic exchange);
- b. It will help to raise the University's global brand and reputation;
- c. It will deepen an existing research relationship and has the potential to involve more than one discipline;
- d. It involves cohorts of students rather than a single individual.

The key differences between a joint and a dual doctoral award are set out in the below table and explained in more detail in the text that follows. For more information, please contact the Academic Quality and Partnerships Office and read the accompanying Policy on Joint and Dual Awards mentioned above.

| | Joint Award | Dual Award / Cotutelle |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Registration | Joint registration at UoB and a partner institution | Joint registration at UoB and a partner institution |
| Institutional Agreement | Institutional level framework agreement always required | Institutional level framework agreement not always required |
| Lead | One university is designated as the lead partner | One university is designated as the lead partner |
| Progress | Jointly agreed progress monitoring arrangements | Separate progress monitoring run by each partner |
| Thesis | Single dissertation / thesis submitted to the lead university | Single dissertation / thesis submitted to both universities |

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| Examination | Jointly agreed examination process | Separate examination process run by each partner permitted. NB: Regulations of both institutions must be met. |
| Certificate | One joint degree certificate or transcript (with reference to joint nature of programme) | Two degree certificates or transcripts (making reference to dual nature of programme) |
| Graduation | One graduation ceremony | Two graduation ceremonies |
| Interdependency | Student must satisfy the regulations of both institutions to be awarded a joint degree. | Student may be awarded a degree by one institution only if fails to satisfy the regulations of one institution |

Joint Doctoral Award

A joint award is one which leads to a single award for a degree programme, which is offered jointly with a partner institution. A joint degree will require the development of an overarching institutional level framework agreement that establishes the parameters of the collaboration and the responsibilities of each partner. The framework agreement will be signed by the delegated signatories in both partner organisations. At UoB this will require signature at Vice-Chancellor/Deputy Vice-Chancellor level and there is a process of approval that needs to be followed. Please see <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/academic-quality/edpart/> for the Guidance for Proposer and the Approval Process requirements.

For each student that is registered to the joint award, there will be a further contractual agreement in place, signed by suitable authorities at each university, specifying the specific details of the programme, supervision arrangements, funding and examination processes (further to that detailed in the framework agreement). This must be finalised and signed before the student registers onto the joint doctoral programme.

Lead partner: For the purposes of administering the partnership, a lead partner will be identified. The lead partner in the collaboration is normally the institution at which the student will first register.

Registration: The decision to admit a student to the degree programme will be made jointly between the partner institutions. The entrance requirements for each university will be fully respected. Normally, the student would be expected to spend around half of their time at each university, but must be in attendance at UoB for at least 30% of their programme.

Supervision: A suitable supervisory team must be established to support students enrolled on the dual degree programme. The institution designated as 'lead' will appoint the main academic supervisor and the institution designated as 'partner' will appoint the academic co-supervisor. The supervisors will jointly supervise the student on the programme and it is required that the supervisors will maintain regular contact with each other. The student must be made aware of specific roles and responsibilities of each member of their supervisory team.

Progress Monitoring: Progress monitoring arrangements for joint programmes are jointly agreed. This may be either one of the university's own process or a merged process containing elements of both. Joint decisions are made within the specifications of the individual student agreement AND the accompanying overarching framework agreement.

Examination: For joint doctoral awards, a single thesis is prepared that is submitted to the lead institution for a single examination process agreed by both universities. This may be either one of the university's own process or a merged process containing elements of both.

Award of Degree: One award certificate is issued, which will carry the crests and security features of both universities and is signed by authorities in both universities. The lead university is responsible for the production of the award certificate, though the cost of this may be shared (if specified in the partnership agreement).

Graduation Ceremony: If successful, the student may attend a graduation ceremony at one university (to be specified in the partnership agreement).

Dual Doctoral Award / Cotutelle

A dual award or 'cotutelle' is a PhD programme which leads to separate awards from two partner institutions. A doctoral student registered on a dual award must complete all of the requirements of the PhD programme in both the home and partner university.

For each student that is registered to the dual doctoral award, there will be a contractual agreement in place, signed by suitable signatories at each university, specifying the study programme, supervision and progression arrangements, funding and examination processes. This must be finalised and signed before the student is registered with the partner institution.

Lead partner: A lead partner will always be identified in the collaboration. The lead partner in the collaboration is normally the institution at which the student spends the most time.

Registration: The decision to admit a student to the degree programme will be made jointly between the partner institutions, taking into consideration the core principles of the relevant admissions policy. Normally, the student would be expected to spend around half of their time at each university, but must be in attendance at UoB for at least 30% of their programme.

Supervision: A suitable supervisory team must be established to support students enrolled on the joint degree programme. The institution designated as 'lead' will appoint the main academic supervisor and the institution designated as 'partner' will appoint the academic co-supervisor. The supervisors will jointly supervise the student on the programme and it is required that the supervisors will maintain regular contact with each other. The student must be made aware of specific roles and responsibilities of each member of their supervisory team.

Progress Monitoring: Each university is permitted to make its own decisions about the monitoring of student progress through the research degree. There is no removal of any authority from either party.

Examination: A single thesis is prepared that is submitted to both institutions for independent examination. Each university's examination process is fully complied and will make its own decision about the award of the degree, including a grade or mark if that is the practice. Every endeavour should be made to minimise the impact of separate examination processes for the student.

Award of Degree: Students completing a dual degree will graduate with a single PhD degree from both the home institution and the partner institution and will receive a degree certificate from each university. The degree titles awarded may be different according to the local regulations. An award certificate will be issued from each institution, carrying a notation that the degree was obtained through a dual doctoral award arrangement.

Graduation Ceremony: If successful at each university, the candidate can attend a graduation ceremony at each university