

Bristol-Macquarie Global PhD

Guidance for Students and Supervisors

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Introduction

Global PhD programmes, such as Cotutelles, offer a transformative experience for doctoral candidates and their supervisors. These programmes are not just about earning a PhD degree across borders—they are about **amplifying research impact, accessing diverse resources** and **building enduring global networks**.

The **Global PhD Programme** between the University of Bristol and Macquarie University stands out as one of the most successful and impactful joint doctoral initiatives in the UK and Australia. Originating from strong research ties in **Natural Sciences and Psychology**, the programme has since expanded to encompass **all disciplines of mutual research interest**, reflecting the depth and breadth of collaboration between the two institutions.

Students in the Bristol-Macquarie Global PhD benefit from:

- **Dual supervision & expertise:** students are jointly recruited and supervised by teams from both universities, ensuring a rich, interdisciplinary research experience.
- **Cohort-based support:** the programme's cohort structure fosters peer learning, community and shared milestones, enhancing the doctoral journey.
- **Access to world-class infrastructure:** students benefit from the combined research facilities, labs, libraries, and support services of both institutions.
- **Global research impact:** international collaboration boosts the visibility and relevance of research, often leading to high-impact publications and broader dissemination.
- **Career-readiness:** exposure to diverse academic cultures and networks prepares students for global careers in academia, industry and beyond.

Supervisors of Global PhD students benefit from:

- **Collaborative project design:** supervisors co-develop research projects, enriching them with complementary perspectives and methodologies.
- **Expanded research networks:** participation in the programme opens doors to international funding, joint publications, and long-term partnerships.
- **Additional scholarship funding:** shared costs of the studentship allow for recruitment of more students. Macquarie has a generous pool of centrally-funded scholarships allocated to the Global PhD programme with Bristol.
- **Mentoring excellence:** the structured, supportive environment nurtures high-performing doctoral candidates.

Studying a Bristol-Macquarie Global PhD under a Cotutelle structure requires collaboration between supervisors, administrative staff and students, as well as an understanding of the processes and expectations of the two universities.

We have developed this document to support students and supervisors involved in a Global PhD between the University of Bristol and Macquarie University. This document covers information surrounding the expectations, processes and requirements of these collaborative, parity-based PhD programmes.

1. Funding support for Global PhDs

As this is a split-site program, each university provides funding for the student only while the student is on the campus of the institution. The duration of the program is 3.5 or 4 years depending on the discipline and length of funding.

Periods of registration/enrolment

Students register to the PhD at UOB first for 3.5 or 4 years. They register to the equivalent PhD at MQ after 6 months or 12 months for a 3-year period keeping the program end dates the same at each university.

Students are required to spend two consecutive blocks of study time at each university's campus:

- two periods of 21 months in the case of 3.5-year projects, or two periods of 24 months in the case of 4-year projects
- during these periods, students must study at the respective campus location to be eligible for the scholarship funding provided by Macquarie and University of Bristol.

Scholarship structure

Students on the Bristol-Macquarie Global PhD programme are usually funded through scholarship awards. The duration of a student's PhD depends on the funding awarded to the student.

This financial support covers tuition fees at each institution throughout a student's funded period: i.e., each student's fees are covered from enrolment until the expected thesis submission date. Please note, if a student requires an extension to their study period, this may incur additional fees that are not covered by their funding award.

While the student is at Bristol, this scholarship includes:

- Tuition fees for the duration of the enrolment period
- Stipend at [UKRI minimum rates](#)
- Research Training and Support Grant (RTSG), to contribute towards research-related costs.

While the student is at Macquarie, this scholarship includes:

- Tuition fees for up to three years
- Stipend indexed annually in accordance with the Australian Consumer Price Index (CPI). (2026 rate: AUD \$39,700)

- Travel allowance for flights between the UK and Sydney.
- Single Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) with Macquarie's preferred provider.

Macquarie University will arrange for a Single OSHC policy with its preferred provider once the student has accepted the Macquarie offer. The Applications Team at the Macquarie Graduate Research Academy arranges the OSHC via gr.admissions@mq.edu.au. If a student requires a couple, family or single parent family policy, they will be required to pay the additional cost. Students should refer to the amounts listed on the [Accepting Your Offer](#) webpage and contact the Applications Team for information on how to organise this.

Macquarie University provides an airfare allowance for flights between the UK and Sydney up to AUD \$4,000 (rate as at August 2025). The Lifecycle Team at the Macquarie Graduate Research Academy arranges ticket purchases via gr.candidatesupport@mq.edu.au.

Other costs covered

While located at Bristol, students have access to a Research Training Support Grant (RTSG) that can be used for costs related to their research. Students should discuss all RTSG expenditure with their supervisor and should get in touch with their Faculty PGR Administrative team for information on how to access their RTSG allowance.

While located at Macquarie, the student will have access to funding within the faculty for PhD research project support during their time at Macquarie. The amount available per year per student is different in each faculty, so students are requested to speak to their supervisor and Research Training Director to find out the exact amounts and how to access them. The funding can be used for direct support of the research project, such as fieldwork, travel to present at a conference, or research visit.

The funds cannot be used as a top up of the stipend, to cover costs of an Australian visa or health insurance. For all approved research travel activity, the student is covered by the Macquarie travel insurance policy. Travel bookings are arranged by the administration of the academic unit (e.g., School or Department).

If a student is unsure about the details of their funding arrangement, they should contact their Faculty or academic unit administration team.

Out of pocket costs for Global PhD students

There are other costs that students are liable to pay during their degree that are not covered by the scholarship. These can include costs for visas, health cover and language tests.

Costs for students requiring a UK visa

To study in the UK, international students may require a Student visa. More information about eligibility and the costs involved in the application process is available on the University of Bristol [student visas page](#). These will include visa application fees and the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS).

Costs for students requiring an Australian visa

To study in Australia, international students will require an [Australian Student visa](#). More information about eligibility and the costs involved in the application process is available on the [Australian Student visa](#) (Subclass 500) page of the Australian Government Department of Home Affairs website.

Depending on where a student is from, they may also be required to undertake [biometric testing](#) as part of the application process.

All Student visa holders must have [Overseas Student Health Cover](#) (OSHC) as a condition of their student visa. Information about Macquarie University's preferred OSHC provider is available on the Macquarie University [Accept your offer](#) page. OSHC costs for cotutelle students will be based on a student's planned time at Macquarie University. A Single OSHC is included in the Macquarie scholarship provisions. For a couple, family or single parent family OSHC cost estimate, students can contact the Graduate Research Applications Team via gr.applications@mq.edu.au.

English proficiency test costs

When applying to each University, some international students may need to provide evidence of their proficiency in the English language. Students can find information about English language requirements for study on the [University of Bristol](#) and [Macquarie University](#) web pages. The prices of these tests vary according to location.

Summary of costs

Potential costs while in UK:	
- UK Study visa	£558
- Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS)	£1,552 (£776 per year)
Total for students requiring a UK visa	From £2,110
Potential costs while in Australia:	
- Australian Student visa	From AUD \$2,500 (approx. £1,300)

Total for students requiring an Australian visa	From £1,300
Other potential costs:	
- English proficiency tests	Variable
- Biometric tests	Variable

Information correct as at July 2026.

In some cases, and where approved by the main supervisor at Bristol, the Research Training Support Grant (RTSG) may be used to cover or contribute towards the additional costs outlined above.

Once approved by the supervisor, students should get in touch with their Faculty PGR Administrative team at Bristol to discuss their available RTSG and how to access it.

Please note, in some cases, this may require students to cover costs from their own funds and be reimbursed by the University at a later date.

2. Academic requirements, standards and progression

Completing a Global PhD will entail meeting the academic and administrative requirements of each university. These are agreed to within the institutional Cotutelle Framework Agreement between both universities.

The institutional agreement prescribes the template for the Individual Doctoral Agreement used for each Global PhD student. Candidature management, examination policies and processes are referenced in the agreements.

Here we cover common questions about what will be expected of students and supervisors. Students and supervisors are strongly encouraged to familiarise themselves with the details of the framework and individual agreement. Once finalised, students will receive copies of the Individual Doctoral Agreement with the Framework Agreement attached.

We have also created a [Milestones Checklist](#) to help guide students through their studies.

Top Tip:

It can be daunting navigating different administrative systems, review processes and supervisory perspectives but try to be open, communicate well, ask questions and those are the key to success.

Global PhD supervisor

Registration (UoB) / Enrolment (MQ)

After accepting their offer to study from Macquarie and from Bristol, students will begin their studies in Bristol. The duration of a student's PhD programme depends on the funding awarded to the student.

For the first few months of their degree, students (outbound to Macquarie) are solely registered at Bristol. However, students are considered candidates of both universities from the outset and should work with both of their supervisors from the initial date of registration at Bristol. This period normally lasts between 6-12 months, depending on the student's funding arrangement. Students will receive an email with information about registration from Bristol, including the registration deadline and other tasks to complete before beginning studies.

After 6-12 months, students will also need to remotely enrol (register) at Macquarie to initiate their joint enrolment. They will receive an email from Macquarie informing them how to enrol, which involves an online consultation. This email also contains information on how to prepare for moving to Australia. A hybrid in-person/online preparation session will be held for the students to inform them of the next steps and what to expect.

Students are then registered/enrolled at both universities for the duration of their studies.

Delays to travel

If a student is expecting delays to travel to Australia, they should contact the [Graduate Research Academy Lifecycle team](#) at Macquarie. Macquarie and Bristol Doctoral College will then work together to explore the implications of the delays to travel to the student's situation.

Please note, it is generally not possible to extend the student's expected work submission date at Macquarie except in case of approved periods of candidature suspension (leave). This means that the student could have a shorter period of study at Macquarie than originally intended.

Deciding not to travel

We recognise that in some exceptional circumstances, reasons might arise that cause a student to be unable to travel to Australia. These might include personal reasons or if a student does not meet the necessary academic criteria.

As funding for the Bristol-Macquarie Cotutelle is for a Global PhD, if a student does not travel to Australia and transfers to a single degree (one that is awarded by Bristol only), funding will not be available to support the student for the portion of their degree that would have been funded by Macquarie. For example, if a student was supposed to be on campus and funded by Macquarie for years 3 and 4 of their degree but changes to a single degree based at Bristol for years 3 and 4, the student will need to self-fund for these two years.

Transfer of samples

The IDA will stipulate if the student project requires the transfer of materials such as research samples from the UK to Australia. The Bristol and Macquarie principal supervisors should work together to ensure that the necessary institutional and Government permissions and approvals to facilitate this have been obtained.

If any virtual and/or physical materials are required to be transferred from Bristol to Macquarie, the Bristol principal supervisor must submit an assessment to Bristol Research Compliance: [Complete an initial assessment](#). Whether export control or other clearance is required will depend on the nature and use of material and the Research Compliance team can provide practical advice. Supervisors can contact the team on research-compliance@bristol.ac.uk. Further information can be found on the [Research Compliance SharePoint](#).

At Macquarie, Material Transfer Agreements (MTAs) require approval and signature through the Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research Services' portfolio. The process is managed by the [Research Awards](#) team and depends on whether the associated candidacy is connected to research income. All requests must be made by the Macquarie principal supervisor (not the candidate).

Candidates without associated research income:

- Create a [Contract Service Request](#) in Onit (Macquarie's Research Contract Management System), or contact Research Contracts on researchcontracts@mq.edu.au for assistance.
- A Research Contracts Specialist will be in touch to assist.

Candidates with research income / industry-funded scholarships (with Pure Award record):

- Contact Research Post Award on research.postaward@mq.edu.au. Please include the Pure Award record ID and attach the MTA to be reviewed or details regarding a request for an MTA to be drafted.
- Post Award will initiate the MTA process with the Research Contracts team through Onit via Pure.
- A Research Contracts Specialist will be in touch with the Macquarie principal supervisor with next steps.

Ethical standards and approval

The ethical standards must be met at each University, regardless of the student's study location, so that all relevant material can be included in the final thesis. In Bristol, students must submit an ethics approval request in line with their Faculty or School procedures. In Macquarie, the supervisor will consult the Ethics Advisor in their Faculty to determine if ethics approval is required by Macquarie and in what form.

Top Tip:

Have a solid plan about what you plan to do in terms of data collection/research when you arrive in Australia—applying for ethics is more time consuming and complex at Macquarie and may take longer than you expect.

Anna Lithgow, Global PhD student in Psychology

Progress Monitoring

Progress is monitored annually at each institution to ensure that students meet the academic expectations of both universities. This means that students will need to follow the procedures for annual monitoring at both universities. We have created a [Milestones Checklist](#) to help students to keep track of the dates of these reviews.

We recommend students familiarise themselves with the [Annual Progress Monitoring \(APM\)](#) expectations and requirements at Bristol, and the [Confirmation of Candidature \(CoC\) and Annual Progress Reports \(APR\)](#) at Macquarie.

At Macquarie, departments/schools may have an APR process that runs in parallel with the University process. Students should look out for communications from their department/school, faculty or supervisor at Macquarie. Students may contact their department/school Research Training Director if they have concerns about their progress or completing the APR.

Annual leave, absences and suspensions

All students are entitled to take **annual leave** during their studies. The [PGR Code](#) details entitlements while the student is located at Bristol, and while at Macquarie these entitlements are as stated in the [Graduate Research Variations to Candidature Policy](#).

If a student needs to **suspend studies** (Bristol) / **take personal leave** (Macquarie), they must discuss this with their supervisors and review the suspension/leave guidance available on the [Bristol](#) and [Macquarie](#) websites. All suspensions/leave must be coordinated between Bristol and Macquarie, to ensure that the expected progress and submission dates can be supported by both Universities, and that funding arrangements can be re-evaluated in line with relevant entitlements and policies. To find out how to seek approval from both Universities for suspension/leave please contact

gr.candidatesupport@mq.edu.au and doctoral-college@bristol.ac.uk. Additionally, all periods of suspension/LOA must be considered in line with any restrictions or implications arising from a student's visa.

The Universities' administrative teams will support students throughout this process. Once any changes have been agreed by the Universities, this will be confirmed with the student.

Extensions

Every effort should be made to ensure thesis submission happens during the scholarship funding period. If an extension period is necessary, the student must follow the policies and procedures of both universities to apply for an extension, and prior to doing so we recommend engaging early with the Bristol Doctoral College and Graduate Research Academy Lifecycle team to discuss any implications.

At Macquarie University, international students who do not submit their thesis by the end of their planned enrolment duration are liable to pay [International out of time \(iOOT\)](#) fees as their Macquarie tuition fee scholarship will end. At Bristol, if an extension to the course end date is approved, it is likely to be unfunded, and it may require the payment of additional fees: students are advised to talk to a [UoB Money Adviser](#) before making an application.

3. Thesis and examination

Thesis format

Students are required to submit the same thesis to each university for an independent examination according to the local policies and procedures of each institution. There can be differences in formatting if the requirements differ between the two universities, but the content of the thesis needs to be the same.

For example, to conform to the expectations of both universities, theses must:

- Meet these formatting criteria:
 - have a maximum word count for a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) thesis of 80,000 words (excluding references).
- Comply with the following regulations:
 - comply with the academic integrity and responsible conduct standards for both [Bristol](#) and [Macquarie](#)
 - be written in English (unless otherwise agreed in the Individual Doctoral Agreement)
 - if ethical approval was required as part of the thesis, evidence for this must be included in the thesis
 - proofreading is permitted at both institutions; students must adhere to the regulations provided [by Bristol](#) and [by Macquarie](#)
 - published work may be integrated into the final dissertation in line with the policies at [Bristol](#) and [Macquarie](#).

To avoid having to reformat the thesis for each institution, we further recommend that theses:

- are in A4 format
- are double or 1.5 line spaced
- have page margins of no less than 3cm on the left border, 1.5cm on the right border and 1.5cm on the top and bottom
- are in a legible font of an appropriate size
- have pages numbered consecutively at the bottom centre of the page
- use references or footnotes in a style appropriate to the discipline.

The formatting may differ in the information in and ordering of the preliminary pages.

Please see the guidance for [dissertation content and format at Bristol](#) and for [graduate research thesis preparation at Macquarie](#).

Including publications in the thesis

Students are allowed to incorporate relevant papers published, accepted, submitted or prepared for publication in their thesis, in line with the policies of both institutions.

This guidance synthesises the policies of both institutions to help students and supervisors to determine the best format for the thesis, noting that students submit a single thesis that is examined separately at both institutions.

The papers must form a coherent and integrated body of work, which focusses on a single thesis project or set of related questions or propositions. These papers form the chapters of the thesis, rather than a separate component (or appendix). The thesis must include a critical introduction to the work, sections that link the papers together, and a concluding section that synthesises the material as a whole.

Publications may include relevant papers, including conference presentations that have been published, accepted, submitted or prepared for publication. At least half of the work included in the publications must have been original research completed by the student during their research degree. Please note this is different to the normal University of Bristol policy which states that a substantial amount of the research must be completed during the period of study (and does not specify this as being at least half) but to meet the requirements of both institutions, it is recommended that the above guidance is followed.

The student should usually be the principal author of the proposed or published research, and this should be stated in the relevant declaration for each University. Please note, this is different to the normal University of Bristol policy, which allows for students to be co-authors outside of being the lead author, but to meet the requirements of both institutions, it is recommended that the above guidance is followed. At Bristol, students must declare authorship [as outlined in the PGR code](#). University of Bristol has a '[Statement on the use of published and collaborative work](#)'. When submitting to Macquarie, students should submit an [Authorship Contribution Statement](#) alongside their thesis.

Further details on including publications within the PhD can be found on the Bristol website ([Policy on integrating publications as chapters in a PGR dissertation](#)) and in the Macquarie policy on [Graduate Research Thesis Preparation, Submission and Examination](#) (Part C).

Thesis submission

Students will need to submit their thesis to both institutions. Students can find guidance about how to submit their thesis on [Bristol's website](#) and [Macquarie's website](#).

As with other PhD programmes, supervisors will need to follow the procedures outlined by their University to support student submission (for example, [Bristol's BEAM guidance](#) and [Macquarie's procedures](#)).

Thesis examination

Students will have a final examination at each university, subject to the regulations of each institution.

For Bristol, this takes the form of a Viva, which should normally occur within 4 months of submission. The Viva may be conducted remotely. The panel for the Viva will usually consist of one internal examiner and one external examiner, and if necessary, an independent chair. The thesis will be examined according to the [Academic Quality and Policy Office guidance](#).

In Macquarie, the thesis is examined by two independent external examiners, according to [Macquarie's examination procedures](#).

In the interest of meeting the requirements of the program for a separate examination, the composition of the thesis examination panels at both universities should not be the same. In recognition of availability constraints and to ensure the most appropriate examiners are selected, it is recommended that the examination panels have one examiner in common.

Supervisors should discuss possible arrangements with the student to ensure that the most appropriate exam panels are selected.

Examiners

Supervisors and students should discuss potential examiners early on during a student's research degree so that the student can receive a high-quality, impartial examination by academics who have closely related expertise. As theses are examined at both Bristol and

Macquarie, we recommend that there is one (1) examiner who will be involved in both examination processes, to ensure consistency in review of the student's work.¹

Examiners should not have had any involvement in the preparation of the thesis. This means that they cannot have been a member of the supervisory team, an academic advisor or mentor to the student. They also should not have been co-authors or co-editors of publications or collaborated in research with the student or the supervisors.

For examination at Macquarie, guidance can be found in 'Schedule 1: Graduate Research Appointment of Examiners', which can be found in the [Graduate Research Thesis Preparation, Submission and Examination Policy](#). Please refer to the Schedule for full information, but note that examination panels at Macquarie should consist of:

- at least two (2) examiners external to the University
- no more than one (1) examiner from any single institution
- at least one (1) international and one national examiner
- at least two (2) examiners will have previous graduate research thesis examination experience.

Information correct as at April 2026.

Macquarie applies the [Australian Council of Graduate Research Good Practice Guidelines for Disclosing and Managing Interests in Graduate Research](#).

Exceptions to the examiner appointment requirements require a fully substantiated case to be submitted for consideration and approval by the Research Degree Subcommittee (RDSC) at Macquarie.

For examination at Bristol, please refer to the [PGR assessment regulations in the PGR code https://www.bristol.ac.uk/academic-quality/pg/code-of-practice/assessment/examiners-chairs/](https://www.bristol.ac.uk/academic-quality/pg/code-of-practice/assessment/examiners-chairs/). The examination panel normally consists of one (1) internal member of staff and one (1) external examiner who are experienced in their research areas and do not have any connection with the student's research project. Other panel configurations are possible if approved by the Faculty Academic Director PGR or delegate (information correct as at April 2026).

¹ Please note, there should only ever be one common examiner.

The examiner who the examination panels at both universities may have in common would be the external examiner on the Bristol examination panel.

Final exam dates and visa duration

Students will normally be in Australia, on an Australian Student visa at the end of their programme. The visa duration is extended beyond their final submission date to allow for the marking of the thesis. More information is available on the [Department of Home Affairs website](#).

4. Supervision

Role of the supervisor

Students have a principal and a co-/associate supervisor at each university.

Each supervisor should represent their university within the Global PhD programme and be responsible for informing the student of their institutional requirements for assessment and examination, regardless of where the student is located. Supervisors at Macquarie and Bristol are expected to maintain contact amongst each other and have regular (monthly) joint meetings with the student.

If there may be delays in the student submitting their thesis, supervisors must advise both [Bristol Doctoral College](#) and the Macquarie Graduate Research Academy Lifecycle team.

Transfer of samples: If a student needs to take research samples from the UK to Australia, Bristol supervisors should please ensure that the necessary institutional and Government permissions and approvals to facilitate this have been obtained.

Top Tips:

It is key to meet regularly online to maintain a good supervisory relationship. The distance definitely makes it harder, so meeting regularly online helps keep the connection and make sure the student is thriving.

Global PhD supervisor

Make sure to discuss what the main aims of the PhD are from the outset to keep [the student] on track as well as discuss other potential avenues to go down if something goes wrong.

Global PhD student in Biological Sciences

We recommend that students and supervisors, particularly new starters, use [Bristol's Student-Supervisor Agreement](#) to help to outline the details of supervisory relationships and manage expectations.

Scheduling international meetings

Meetings must be arranged with consideration of the time difference between the UK and Australia at a reasonable time of the day.

To support student well-being, we advise that meetings do not start earlier than 6 am and do not end later than 9 pm, in either time zone.

This [international meeting planner](#) can help to find suitable times in each time zone.

Changing the supervisory team or programme

If a student or supervisor feels that the supervisory team needs to change, or that the student should change programme, this must be agreed with the Bristol Doctoral College and the Global Programs Team at Macquarie. This is to ensure that appropriate support will be available at both institutions and that the project can progress.

Students and supervisors will need to contact gr.candidatesupport@mq.edu.au (Macquarie) and doctoral-college@bristol.ac.uk (Bristol) for advice.

5. Global PhD, family, work and visa post-graduation

Travelling with children and/or a partner

Students can travel with dependents on a Student visa. For information on bringing family to Australia please see the [Study Australia website](#). For information on bringing family to the UK, please see [this government guidance](#).

There are additional costs that will be incurred when travelling with dependents, such as increased visa fees and additional Health Cover. Please note, additional costs for dependents cannot be covered by RTSG.

Working while studying

Some students choose to work part-time while studying, for example through teaching at the university or through paid employment outside of the university. When on a visa, students must comply with the terms and conditions of their Student visa and will be subject to restrictions on the number of hours they can work. Additional restrictions apply for scholarship holders. Students should check the Scholarship Conditions of Award supplied to them at the time of offer, or available at Macquarie [here](#) and Bristol [here](#).

We also recommend students discuss with their supervisors before taking on paid work, to ensure they can manage their research and work activities appropriately.

Top tip:

Global PhD students have said that it can take time to settle into Australia and find teaching opportunities or work. If students plan on teaching in Australia, they should make sure to discuss teaching opportunities with their Macquarie supervisor well before travelling, and factor in any delays in starting employment when considering their finances.

UK Graduate visa eligibility

There are several conditions that international students must meet when applying for a UK [Graduate visa](#). These currently include:

- the student must be in the UK
- they must have a current [Student visa or Tier 4 \(General\) student visa](#)

- they must have studied a postgraduate degree or other eligible course for a minimum period of time with a Student visa or Tier 4 (General) student visa.

As students begin their studies in Bristol for the first two years and complete their degree in Australia, this means that they will not be in the UK or hold a UK student visa in the final years of the degree, and will be **ineligible for a UK Graduate visa**.

Australian Post-Higher Education Work stream visa eligibility

There are several conditions that students must meet when applying for a [Post-Higher Education Work stream visa](#). Students should check the Australian government website for up to date information and visa eligibility criteria if interested in applying for this visa.

6. Undertaking an internship

We recognise that internships offer a number of benefits for students and encourage them to consider this as an option during their PhD programme.

Please note a student is permitted to do **one** internship while on the Global PhD programme, either during the time they are in Bristol, or during the time they are in Macquarie. It will not be possible to accommodate an internship at each location, or more than one internship at either location.

We recommend students get in touch before applying to discuss the specifics of the internship opportunity, as the details of the internship (for example, funding, duration, number of hours per week) and individual student circumstances (for example, visa restrictions, mode of attendance, scholarship terms and conditions) can affect whether or not the internship is permissible under the conditions of the student's programme and funding.

Due to the additional logistics required for the Global PhD, unfunded student internships are discouraged but may be considered feasible on an exceptional case by case basis, for example, where the outputs from the internship can be integrated into the PhD thesis. Where it is not possible to provide approval for an unfunded internship opportunity, the reasons will be communicated to the student and supervisory team.

Students who are currently located at Bristol and are considering undertaking a funded or unfunded student internship should engage first with their supervisors about the opportunity and then contact doctoral-college@bristol.ac.uk. If a student is international, they must also [contact the Student Visas team](#) to talk about any implications to their visa status.

Students who are currently located at Macquarie and are considering undertaking a funded or unfunded student internship should engage first with their supervisors about the opportunity and then contact gr.industry@mq.edu.au.

Macquarie guidelines state that it is most advantageous for a student to participate in an internship where a minimum of 60 days of engagement with the industry host takes place over a minimum period of 90 days. Students and supervisors are encouraged to obtain an acknowledgement of the internship opportunity being available as soon as possible.

When can an internship be taken by Global PhD candidates? (individual student cases may differ from these standard models)

4-year PhD (48 months)	Internship taken within months 0-24	Internship taken within months 24-48	Thesis submission date
Student study location	Bristol campus	Macquarie campus	
Joint enrolment date	Joint enrolment at 12 months Transfer to Macquarie at 24 months		
Funded internship	Take internship ideally between the 12- and 24-month enrolment mark (first year of joint enrolment). Student to take Suspension/LOA and transfer to Macquarie is postponed by length of time in internship If the internship is taken in the 0-12 month period (prior to period of joint enrolment), Student to take Suspension/LOA and the joint enrolment and transfer to Macquarie are postponed by length of time in internship.	Take internship ideally between the 24- and 42-month mark. Student to take Suspension/LOA.	Extends thesis submission date by time spent in internship.
Student should be aware that there may be implications for any support they currently receive from Disability Services in both Bristol and Macquarie while their studies are suspended.			
3.5 year PhD (42 months)	Internship taken within months 0-21	Internship taken within months 21-42	Thesis submission date
Student study location	Bristol campus	Macquarie campus	
Joint enrolment date	Joint enrolment at 6 months Transfer to Macquarie at 21 months		
Funded internship*	Take internship ideally between the 6- and 21-month enrolment mark. Student to take Suspension/LOA and transfer to Macquarie is postponed by length of time in internship. If the internship is taken in the 0-6 month period (prior to period of joint enrolment), student to take Suspension/LOA and the joint enrolment and transfer to Macquarie are postponed by length of time in internship.	Take internship ideally between the 21- and 36-month mark. Student to take Suspension/LOA.	Extends thesis submission date by time spent in internship.
Student should be aware that there may be implications for any support they currently receive from Disability Services in both Bristol and Macquarie while their studies are suspended.			

*In the case of [UKRI Policy internship funding](#), the student will not be recorded as suspended while on the internship, but will have their submission date extended in line with the funding terms of the internship. The student will continue to receive a stipend during the internship, which is how they are paid while on that internship scheme (correct as at April 2026). Depending on when the UKRI Policy internship takes place, the period of joint enrolment at Macquarie may be affected. If it takes place in months 0-6 (prior to period of enrolment), the joint enrolment and transfer to Macquarie will be postponed by length of time in internship. If taken in months 6-21, transfer to Macquarie will be delayed by the length of time of the internship.

The approval process for internships undertaken whilst at Bristol or Macquarie

Depending on where the student is located at the time of the internship taking place:

1. Student and supervisors contact their supervisors about the opportunity and then contact [Bristol Doctoral College](#) or [Macquarie Industry Programs](#) team with specifics of the internship that is being intended.
2. Bristol Doctoral College and Macquarie Industry Programs team colleagues liaise with the student and supervisors to discuss implications of undertaking the internship and agree in principle between the two institutions. Bristol or Macquarie teams work with the student and supervisors to provide approval. Where it is not possible to provide approval for the internship opportunity the reasons will be communicated to the student and supervisory team.
3. Any internship documentation is provided to the student and supervisors by the internship program or host.
4. Student to provide a copy of the formal internship agreement to either Bristol or Macquarie teams depending on where the student is located at the time of the internship taking place (doctoral-college@bristol.ac.uk or gr.industry@mq.edu.au).
5. The host of the internship would be expected to provide financial support equivalent or greater than the stipend being suspended.
6. Students who are located at Bristol during the internship would need to spend their RTSG in the original timeframe. For example, if a student receives an annual RTSG amount needing to be spent by the end of July 2027, and took a 3-month internship in June-August, they would still be expected to spend their RTSG by the end of July 2027.

7. Budgeting

Everyone's needs and financial situations are different, and we recommend students look at [Bristol's budgeting advice](#).

As part of the Global PhD programme, students will be moving country and will need to factor in the cost of finding housing when in Australia. The additional costs of moving might include deposits, furniture, and transport costs, in addition to the cost of rent and bills.

Once students commence their studies in Australia, their stipend will be paid by Macquarie University. Students will need to register on campus and [update their bank details in eStudent](#) prior to being paid. Macquarie University recommend ensuring students have sufficient funds to cover all expenses for the first 4-6 weeks of living in Australia, to account for any gaps between their final stipend payment from Bristol and their first payment from Macquarie.

Top Tips:

Both universities are in very popular cities, I would advise to look for accommodation in advance so the student can focus on research.

Global PhD student, Biomedical Sciences

Take a look at Macquarie's advice on [finding accommodation](#) and [travelling to campus](#).

Finance planning help sheet

The Money Advice team at Bristol have developed this helpful [budget planner](#). While some elements of this (like Student Loan and Tuition Fees) are unlikely to be directly relevant to funded PhD students, this tool can nonetheless help students to start monitoring and planning their finances.

Milestones Checklist

A handy checklist to help students and supervisors keep track of key dates and milestones. We recommend students discuss this checklist with their supervisors and add the key dates to their calendars. It might also be helpful to engage with [Bristol's PGR Student-Supervisor Agreement](#) to help outline the details of supervisory arrangements.

	Date
Key Dates	
☐ Programme begins in Bristol on:	
☐ Register/enrol (off-site) with Macquarie University:	
☐ Apply for Australian Student Visa by (approximately 6 months before intended move to Australia):	
☐ Move to Australia on:	
☐ Begin studying in Sydney on:	
☐ Thesis submission date:	
☐ Viva (Bristol):	

Date

Before the course begins

Non-UK students

- | | | |
|---|--------------|--|
| ☐ Apply for Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS), <i>if applicable</i> | <p>.....</p> | <p>PGR Admin teams will inform students if this is necessary for their course. Find out more about ATAS here.</p> |
| ☐ Apply for UK Student visa and pay Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) | <p>.....</p> | <p>Students can apply up to 6 months before their course starts. We advise starting as early as possible. See the Bristol guidance here.</p> |

All students

- | | | |
|--|--------------|---|
| ☐ Register for studies at Bristol | <p>.....</p> | <p>Students will receive an email from Bristol with information on how to register. This normally happens 2-4 weeks before the course begins. More information on registration can be found here.</p> |
|--|--------------|---|

Year 1

- | | | |
|--|--------------|---|
| ☐ Begin studies and meet with all supervisors | <p>.....</p> | <p>Students should do this within a few weeks of beginning their studies. For information about supervision at Bristol, see here.</p> |
| ☐ Register for joint enrolment at Macquarie | <p>.....</p> | <p>Students will receive an email from Macquarie with information on how to enrol</p> |

Date

- remotely. Students funded for 3.5 years will register with Macquarie around 6 months after starting at Bristol. Students funded for 4 years will register with Macquarie around 12 months after beginning at Bristol.
- ☐ 1st [Annual Progress Monitoring](#) (APM) (Bristol) This usually happens around 1 year after beginning studies. Students will be reminded about APM via email.

Year 2

- ☐ [Confirmation of Candidature](#) (CoC) (Macquarie) This usually happens 6-8 months after enrolling remotely at Macquarie. Students will receive a notification (email or calendar request) about the CoC typically one month before the due date.
- ☐ 1st [Annual Progress Report](#) (APR) (Macquarie) This happens annually in September after enrolling at Macquarie. Students will receive a notification via email about the APR typically one month before the due date.
- ☐ Request [Confirmation of Enrolment \(CoE\)](#) document from Macquarie This document is necessary for a student's visa application. The Graduate Research Lifecycle team will advise the student on this process.
- ☐ Get [Overseas Student Health Cover \(OSHC\)](#) This will need to be purchased prior to the student's visa application.

Date

- | | | |
|---|-------|---|
| ☐ Apply for Australian Student visa | | We recommend students start this process 6 months before their expected transfer date to Macquarie. |
| ☐ Look for accommodation in Sydney | | We recommend students begin to look for accommodation 6 months before their intended transfer date to Macquarie. |
| ☐ Book Air Travel to Sydney | | Students are requested to get in touch with the Graduate Research Academy Lifecycle team to make arrangements. This should be done at least 3 months prior to travel. |
| ☐ Move to Sydney | | |
| ☐ Enrol on campus at Macquarie | | Students must enrol in person at Macquarie on arrival. Appointments can be booked via this form . |
| ☐ 2 nd Annual Progress Monitoring (Bristol) | | This usually happens around 2 years after beginning studies. |

Year 3

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- | | | |
|---|-------|--|
| ☐ 2 nd Annual Progress Report (Macquarie) | | This happens annually in September after enrolling at Macquarie. |
| ☐ 3 rd Annual Progress Monitoring (Bristol) | | This usually happens around 3 years after beginning studies. |

Date

Year 4

- | | | |
|--|----------------------------|---|
| ☐ Thesis submission (Bristol & Macquarie) | | For EPSRC-funded students, this should happen 3.5 years after beginning studies at Bristol. |
| | | For Bristol PGR Scholarship students, this should happen 4 years after beginning studies at Bristol. |
| ☐ Thesis examination | Bristol Viva date
..... | All students at Bristol are required to do a Viva (oral exam). This should happen within 4 months of submitting the thesis. |
| | | At Macquarie, theses are examined by a panel of examiners. There is no Viva, and the student is not in attendance. |
| ☐ Submit corrections (if required) | | Depending on the outcome of the final examinations, students may be required to make corrections to their thesis. |

Other Milestones



.....

Date



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How to get involved in a Global PhD with Bristol and Macquarie

All successful Global PhDs are formed of four essential elements. All of these will need to be in place before the project can begin.

1. Project

For any Global PhD, there must be a clear project. This is usually collaboratively designed by a supervisory team in order to:

- perfectly leverage the expertise and resources available at each institution for the PhD project
- align the project with research strengths of both institutions to build research capacity and enable growth of collaboration in the future
- have equal oversight of the student's project, equal and joint responsibilities and clarity of expectations from the beginning.

Supervisors might develop a project on an ad hoc basis when opportunities for collaboration are identified, or in response to a call for projects from the universities. Alternatively, a student might come up with a research project themselves and they would then need to identify an appropriate supervisory team.

2. Supervisory Team

The supervisory team must be formed of four members: a main supervisor and a co-supervisor at each institution. The team should have relevant research interests (both in terms of the project and with each other), and must be able to work together collaboratively for the duration of the programme. The supervisory team will also jointly assess applications from candidates. They should discuss the plan and feasibility of the project prior to the student beginning on the programme.

3. Funding

All Bristol-Macquarie Cotutelles are co-funded between the University of Bristol and Macquarie University. Funding must be agreed by both universities prior to the project starting. Attaining funding is dependent on how the project is designed: some collaborative calls for projects will award funding in principle to the project, dependent on a successful student applying. In other cases, students may need to apply independently for funding opportunities from Bristol and Macquarie. To discuss the best approach for securing

funding for a Global PhD project, please contact the [Bristol Doctoral College \(Bristol\)](#) or the [Graduate Research Academy \(Macquarie\)](#) in the first instance.

4. Student

No project can go ahead without a student. Candidates must apply to both universities and be accepted for a place on their programme at both institutions. The student is jointly recruited to the project and 4-6 months must be allowed for set up of the arrangement between the two institutions.

How to apply

Advertised Global PhD projects

Advertisements for specific Global PhD opportunities will be on the Bristol and/or Macquarie webpages. At Bristol, these projects will be advertised by the Faculties directly on their websites (see here for the Faculty of Science and Engineering, here for the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, and here for the Faculty of Arts, Law and Social Sciences). At Macquarie, Global PhD opportunities are advertised on the graduate research scholarships site and can be found via the [Scholarship search](#).

Applying for an advertised project will require the candidate to show that they are capable of satisfying the entry requirements of both institutions. For these projects, funding and supervisors are already in place, so the only element needed is a successful applicant.

Applicant-led Global PhD projects

Candidates who have an idea for a project must identify a potential supervisory team with a main supervisor at each institution. They should discuss their proposed project with both supervisors to determine the feasibility of the project.

The applicant will then be required to apply to the relevant programme and show that they are capable of satisfying the entry requirements of both institutions. They will also need to apply for funding from each university from appropriate available funding sources.

If you have questions, or are interested in discussing a Global PhD opportunity, please contact doctoral-college@bristol.ac.uk or gr.globalprograms@mq.edu.au.

Contacts

University of Bristol	
PGR Admissions Team: matters pertaining to submitting an application, accepting an offer, funding offer letters	uob-pgradmissions@bristol.ac.uk
PGR Admin Team: matters pertaining to advice for current students and supervisors, RTSG, leave, extensions, progress monitoring, change of supervisor or programme, examination	uob-pgrsupport@bristol.ac.uk
Bristol Doctoral College: Matters pertaining to setting up a funded position at Bristol, developing projects, Individual Doctoral Agreement	doctoral-college@bristol.ac.uk
Macquarie University	
Applications Team: matters pertaining to submitting an application, accepting an offer, Confirmation of Enrolment	gr.applications@mq.edu.au
Lifecycle Team: matters pertaining to booking of airfares, leave, extension, change of supervisors or programme, examination	gr.candidatesupport@mq.edu.au
Examinations Team: matters pertaining to the thesis preparation, submission and examination at Macquarie	gr.exam@mq.edu.au
Global Programs Team: matters pertaining to setting up a funded position at Macquarie, Individual Doctoral Agreement	gr.globalprograms@mq.edu.au

Acronyms

APM	Annual Progress Monitoring (Bristol)
APR	Annual Progress Report (Macquarie)
ATAS	Academic Technology Approval Scheme
CoC	Confirmation of Candidature
CoE	Confirmation of Enrolment
GRA	Graduate Research Academy
IDA	Individual Doctoral Agreement
IHS	Immigration Health Surcharge
MQ	Macquarie University
OSHC	Overseas Student Health Cover
PGR	Postgraduate Research
RTSG	Research Training Support Grant
UoB	University of Bristol

Table of changes

Section	Change	Date
Section 1	Content amended to state Macquarie will arrange for a single OSHC policy. Costs for OSHC removed from the Summary of costs table.	September 2026
Contacts	Bristol PGR Admissions and Support teams contact email updated	September 2026
Section 2	Information about Transfer of samples added	September 2026
Section 1	Summary of costs table: Total for students requiring and Australian visa updated	July 2026
Section 3	New section and section text added: ' Examiners '	April 2026

Section 3	New section and section text added: 'Including publications in the thesis'	April 2026
Section 2	Text added (underlined): Progress is monitored annually at each institution <u>to ensure that students meet the academic expectations of both universities.</u>	April 2026
Section 1	Text added to Macquarie stipend rate (underlined): Stipend <u>indexed annually in accordance with the Australian Consumer Price Index (CPI).</u> (2026 rate: AUD \$39,700)	April 2026
Contacts	Faculty of Arts, Law and Social Sciences contact email updated to ALSS-PGR@bristol.ac.uk	April 2026