

Joint PhD Programs

Factsheet

The University of Sydney supports a small number of Joint PhD programs with key partners, which are governed by the [Dual and Joint Degree Policy 2019](#). Joint PhD programs require a **Principal Agreement** to be in place with the partner institution and a subordinate Student Agreement to be in place for the individual candidate.

What is a Joint PhD?

Joint PhD programs were previously called 'Cotutelles'. A Joint PhD refers to a Doctor of Philosophy degree program that shares candidature between the University of Sydney and a partner institution. The candidate produces a single thesis, undertakes one examination, and receives one PhD, which is jointly awarded by the University of Sydney and the partner institution. The program is administered on an exchange basis and is fee-waiver (i.e. tuition waived by host institution). Candidates spend time at both institutions (with a minimum 30% at the University of Sydney).

Current partners

USYD's current Joint PhD partnerships are listed in the table below.

Partner	Location	Scope of Agreement	Faculties currently participating
The Group of Eight	Australia-wide	Multi-Faculty	Science
University of New South Wales	Australia-wide	Multi-Faculty	Science
Aix-Marseille University	France	Multi-Faculty	Engineering and Science
Ca' Foscari University of Venice	Italy	Single Faculty	Science
Grenoble Alpes University	France	Multi-Faculty	Engineering and Science
University of Copenhagen	Denmark	Multi-Faculty	Science and FASS
Sorbonne University	France	Multi-Faculty	Science
University of Glasgow	Scotland	Multi-Faculty	FASS, Science, Business, Law
Paris-East Créteil University (UPEC)*	France	Multi-Faculty	Engineering and Science
University of Bordeaux*	France	Multi-Faculty	Engineering and Science
Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Arts et Métiers*	France	Multi-Faculty	Engineering
Ecole Centrale de Lyon*	France	Multi-Faculty	Engineering and Science
University of Gottingen	Germany	Single Faculty	Engineering

Please note that participation in a Joint PhD program is subject to approval by individual Schools/Faculties. There are no current opportunities within the Faculty of Medicine and Health.

**This Joint PhD program was launched in 2024 under the Australia-France Network of Doctoral Excellence (AUFRANDE) Program, however applications outside the AUFRANDE Program are welcome.*

Setting up a Joint PhD Principal and Student Agreement

Joint PhD programs are only established with the university's and faculties' key international partners, where there are strong prospects for multi-faculty engagement and a sustainable two-way flow of joint PhD candidates.

Joint PhD programs are not set-up to support individual candidates or collaborations. International (inbound) PhD candidates interested in an international experience at USYD are encouraged to consider the [Visiting Researcher Program](#) (VRP).

Fees and Scholarships

The Joint PhD program operates on an exchange basis. Tuition fees are paid to the home institution (or offset by an RTP or tuition fee scholarship). Tuition fees are waived at the host institution. Both domestic and international candidates are eligible to apply.

Applications for the Joint PhD program will only be considered if the applicant has secured:

- In-principle support from both the home and host supervisors and;
- an [RTP stipend scholarship](#) or equivalent (or is in the process of applying for one) to support their living costs for the duration of their candidature.

The University of Sydney has a small number of funded joint PhD opportunities with the University of Glasgow each year. These scholarships are advertised in October each year on the relevant faculty's scholarships webpage.

Joint PhD candidates (for whom Sydney is the home institution) are encouraged to apply for a [Sydney Global Mobility Joint PhD Travel Scholarship](#) to support their offshore travel.

Applying for a Joint PhD Program

Joint PhD programs have the same admission requirements as stand-alone PhD programs. Please refer to the relevant link below for faculty-specific admission requirements, or variations in the PhD application process, which may apply:

- [Architecture, design and planning](#)
- [Arts and social science](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Engineering and computer science](#)
- [Law](#)
- [Music](#)
- [Science](#)

Once a home and host supervisor have been identified, applicants can reach out to joint-degrees.sfs@sydney.edu.au for assistance with next steps, including application instructions.

Please refer to the University's [Dual and Joint Degree Policy](#) for full policy details. For more information, please email the Dual Degree and Joint PhD Coordinator: joint-degrees.sfs@sydney.edu.au