

Questions and Answers – Joint Doctoral Degree Macquarie University, Australia and Universität Hamburg, Germany

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1. Why should I join the joint doctoral degree program from Macquarie University and Universität Hamburg?

You will be simultaneously enrolled at Hamburg and Macquarie and be co-supervised by researchers from both universities. You can benefit from the resources and expertise of each partner.

2. Is this joint doctoral degree program open to all disciplines?

Macquarie is offering Universität of Hamburg research students the opportunity to undertake a joint PhD. Some of Macquarie's areas of research excellence are:

- Biological Science
- Chemical and biomolecular sciences
- Earth Science
- Environmental science
- History and archaeology
- Languages and linguistics
- Physics and astronomy
- Psychology and cognitive science, etc.

3. What are the next steps once I'm interested in joining the joint doctoral degree program?

The steps for students from the Universität Hamburg are as follows:

a) Check with your current (or proposed) supervisor at Hamburg whether they are in agreement with the idea.

b) If there is no existing relationship between the Hamburg supervisor and researchers at Macquarie (MQ), you should use the MQ website (and literature searches) to find potential MQ contacts and get these reviewed by your current supervisor. Macquarie keeps a searchable register of supervisors here: <https://mqsr.mq.edu.au/MQSR/>

c) Ideally the Hamburg supervisor should contact the proposed MQ supervisor with a brief outline of what is proposed. If this is a new contact, it might be best to put the Higher Degree Research Office (hdcotutelle@mq.edu.au) in the cc box, as they can assist the process. But you can also make your own enquiries directly.

d) When an MQ supervisor has agreed to the joint supervision, you should apply to enter the MQ PhD program. This is an online application that requires scanned copies of supporting documents (eg, transcripts, diplomas, research proposal, passport, CV, etc.) and an English language test result (IELTS or TOEFL). In the section of the form relating to the scholarship application, you should write 'MQRES Joint PhD Hamburg'. This will activate the special processes at Macquarie University. For application information, see:

http://www.hdr.mq.edu.au/information_about/how_to_apply

e) Wait!

4. How long does it take to process an application?

Applications take between 6-8 weeks to be processed, based on a complete application. It will take longer if there is any supporting documentation missing. Applications for admission and scholarship are assessed together in one application.

5. Is there any deadline?

Applicants can be considered all year round, there is no deadline at all.

6. Is there a possibility to get any financial support?

Generous scholarships are available to eligible candidates. Successful scholarship recipients at Macquarie will receive

- A return economy airfare from Germany to Australia
- Tuition scholarship (max. up to 3 years)
- Stipend while at Macquarie

7. And how much is the scholarship worth?

- Airfare: The airfare is generally the lowest available cost for a direct flight, with prior approval from the Higher Degree Research Office.
- Tuition scholarship: The fees currently vary between \$28,017AUD - \$35,846AUD per year depending on the discipline.
- Stipend while at Macquarie: A living allowance for the periods spent on campus at Macquarie (usually 1-2 years). For 2015, the allowance is valued at AUD\$25,849 per year and is tax free. For further details see:
http://www.hdr.mq.edu.au/information_about/Scholarships/forms_and_conditions

Estimated cost of living in Australia is AU\$19,000-AU\$22,000 per year for a single person. For further information on the cost of living in Sydney go to:

http://www.mq.edu.au/study/international/why_choose_macquarie/studying_in_sydney_australia/cost_of_living/.

8. How long should I stay at Macquarie University?

You must spend a minimum of one year at Macquarie University.

9. What are the eligibility criteria?

- i. Applicant to have completed the Macquarie University's Master of Research (MRes) with at least 75% in second year of the MRes; OR
- ii. Applicant to have completed a Master of Philosophy; OR
- iii. Applicant to have completed Master's degree from another institution with major research component. The size and length of the research thesis may vary, but it is expected to be of an equivalent scale and scope to the Macquarie University MRes thesis. Performance to be at Distinction level (75% or greater).

To be considered for scholarship, you must be approved for admission to the PhD at Macquarie and have a Master's degree by research or by coursework with a major research component at high Distinction level (85%) or above, a strong record of overall academic performance, two excellent academic references, and either:

- a) a record of significant competitive prizes or scholarships based on academic merit, **and/or**
- b) a record of peer-reviewed research activity (e.g., publications, conference presentations, etc.) In some cases, non-peer-reviewed research activity (e.g., reports for government agencies, NGOs or private companies) may be considered.

Joint Degree scholarships are dependent on the execution of a Joint Degree agreement with the proposed partner university.

Details of admission criteria are available here:

http://www.hdr.mq.edu.au/information_about/research_degrees/applications/entry_criteria

Details of scholarship criteria are available here:

http://www.hdr.mq.edu.au/information_about/scholarships/scholarship_requirements

10. Can I still join the joint doctoral degree program if I've already started a PhD program at Universität Hamburg?

Yes, but you should not be so far progressed that there is not a reasonable chance for a true joint participation. In practice this is interpreted as you should have at least 2 years to go by the time we have set up the joint supervision. It is also required that you should spend a minimum of one year at Macquarie University.

11. Will the level of a senior lecturer be sufficient to co-supervise the doctoral student?

Yes, most senior lecturers (and many lecturers) are able to be supervisors. They need to be on the MQ University's 'Supervisor Register'. This means that they have been approved to be supervisors officially. This register has research interests of all supervisors and it is searchable at: <http://mqsr.mq.edu.au/MQSR/>

12. How are the conditions of the examination process?

The following conditions of the examination process from Macquarie University will apply:

- The examiners shall include not less than one examiner from Universität Hamburg;
- The examiners shall include not less than one external examiner appointed by Universität Hamburg;
- The examiners shall include not less than one external examiner appointed by Macquarie University.

The doctoral degree regulations from Universität Hamburg (§ 15 or § 16 – Regulations for Joint Doctoral Degrees) you'll find here:

http://www.verwaltung.uni-hamburg.de/campuscenter/download/PromOHabilO_e.html

13. Will I get two degree certificates from both universities?

No, you will graduate with one single PhD degree certificate bearing the crests of both universities.

14. Who could help me in case I have questions about the process at the Macquarie University?

The higher Degree Research Office (hdrocotutelle@mq.edu.au) can assist in the whole process. They have a central responsibility for the joint PhD. At Universität Hamburg Ms. Stine von Förster, International Affairs (stine.vonfoerster@uni-hamburg.de) is your contact person and can assist in the whole process.