

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

*April 2021*

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

You will be simultaneously enrolled at Hamburg (UHH) and Macquarie (MQ), and be co-supervised by researchers from both universities. By undertaking a Joint PhD with UHH and MQ, you will:

- Benefit from the resources and expertise afforded by two world-leading institutions.
- Be exposed to different academic environments through joint enrolment and co-supervision.
- Enjoy international networking opportunities that will expand your future employment opportunities – whether through exposure to new academic institutions or new industries.
- Be able to apply for an expanded range of funding opportunities.
- Experience the personal benefits of living and studying in a new culture and environment – both Hamburg and Sydney are ranked in the Top 20 cities in the world for quality of living.

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

Yes. MQ offers UHH research students the opportunity to undertake a Joint PhD in any discipline offered at Macquarie University.

Some of MQ's areas of research excellence are:

- a. Biological Science
- b. Chemical and Biomolecular Sciences
- c. Earth Science
- d. Education
- e. Environmental Science
- f. History and Archaeology
- g. Languages and Linguistics
- h. Law
- i. Philosophy
- j. Physics and Astronomy
- k. Psychology and Cognitive Science

To view details on the official research strengths of Macquarie University, please see:

<https://www.mq.edu.au/research/phd-and-research-degrees/areas-of-research>

### **3. What are the eligibility criteria for entry into the Joint PhD program?**

To be considered for the MQ-UHH Joint PhD program, you must meet Macquarie's PhD admissions and scholarships criteria.

Details of Macquarie's admissions criteria are available here:

<https://www.mq.edu.au/research/phd-and-research-degrees/how-to-apply>

Details of Macquarie's scholarship criteria are available here:

[http://www.hdr.mq.edu.au/information\\_about/scholarships/scholarship\\_requirements](http://www.hdr.mq.edu.au/information_about/scholarships/scholarship_requirements)

### **4. What are the next steps once I am interested in joining the joint doctoral degree program?**

The steps for students from UHH are as follows:

- a) Check with your current (or proposed) supervisor at UHH whether they agree with your idea of pursuing a Joint PhD with MQ.
- b) Check that you meet the eligibility criteria for PhD candidates at MQ.
- c) If there is no existing relationship between the UHH supervisor and researchers at MQ, you should use the MQ website (and literature searches) to find potential contacts and have these reviewed by your current supervisor. MQ keeps a searchable register of supervisors here: <https://hdrss.mq.edu.au/>
- d) Ideally the UHH supervisor should contact the proposed MQ supervisor with a brief outline of what is proposed. Please include MQ's Office of HDR Training and Partnerships ([hdrpartnerships@mq.edu.au](mailto:hdrpartnerships@mq.edu.au)) in your email, as they can assist in the process. You are also welcome to make your own enquiries directly.
- e) When an MQ supervisor has agreed to the joint supervision, you should apply to enter the MQ PhD program via the [online application portal](#). Please ensure you review the documentation required for assessment of your application at MQ before commencing your application. In the section of the form relating to the scholarship application, you should write 'iMQRES Joint PhD Hamburg'.
- f) At the same time, your Supervisors at MQ and UHH should complete MQ's Cotutelle/Joint PhD Proposal form (Please refer to the Supervisor FAQs section on [MQ's website](#)). Your MQ supervisor will need to submit this form to the Office of Higher Degree Research Training and Partnerships at MQ ([hdrpartnerships@mq.edu.au](mailto:hdrpartnerships@mq.edu.au)).

### **5. How long does it take to process an application?**

Once you have submitted a PhD application, it should take between 6-8 weeks to assess. However, the Joint PhD agreement takes longer as the agreement must address each individual candidate's research needs, as well as suit the requirements of both universities. The Joint PhD agreement process can take anywhere between 3-7 months from start to finish.

## **6. Is there any deadline?**

There is no deadline for applications to the Joint PhD program. Applicants are welcome to apply at any time.

## **7. Is there a possibility to receive any financial support?**

Generous scholarships are available to eligible candidates. Successful scholarship recipients at MQ may receive:

- a. A return economy airfare from Germany to Australia.
- b. A tuition-fee offset scholarship for up to 3 years. PhD program fees currently amount to up to AUD \$46,800 per annum depending on the discipline.
- c. A living allowance stipend for the period(s) spent on campus at Macquarie (usually 1-2 years). For 2021, the allowance is valued at AUD \$28,597 per annum.

Candidates may also apply for a range of faculty and department-level funding. For more information about such funding opportunities, please refer to:

<https://students.mq.edu.au/study/hdr/managing-candidature/grants-and-funding>

For further information on the cost of living in Sydney, please refer to:

<https://www.mq.edu.au/study/international-students/why-study-here/studying-in-sydney-australia/living-costs-and-part-time-work>.

## **8. How long should I stay at Macquarie University?**

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

## **9. Can I still join the joint doctoral degree program if I have 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 means you should have at least 2 years remaining in your program by the time the joint enrolment commences and you can comfortably schedule a minimum of 12 months at MQ.

## **10. What are the requirements for supervisors at Macquarie University?**

Macquarie University supervisors are appointed in accordance with the HDR Supervision Policy. Academic staff at all levels are eligible to be appointed as a supervisor provided they meet the minimum standards for appointment in accordance with [MQ Supervision Policy](#) and are available to supervise. A searchable register of MQ supervisors can be found at: <https://hdrss.mq.edu.au/>

## **11. What are the conditions of the examination process?**

For a Joint PhD, the thesis is submitted to the lead university. The conditions of the examination process will be laid out in the Joint PhD agreement but in general will be a single, joint examination.

However, the following conditions of the examination process from Macquarie University

will apply at a minimum:

- 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 external examiners will be appointed in accordance with the HDR Research Thesis Preparation, Submission and Examination Policy ([Schedule 2: HDR Appointment of Examiners](#)).

The doctoral degree regulations from Universität Hamburg (§ 15 or § 16 – Regulations for Joint Doctoral Degrees) can be found here:

<https://www.uni-hamburg.de/campuscenter/studienorganisation/ordnungen-satzungen/promotionsordnungen>

**12. Will I receive two degree-certificates from both universities?**

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

**13. Who can help me if I have any further questions about the program?**

At Macquarie University, the Office of Higher Degree Research Training and Partnerships has central responsibility for organizing and administering the Joint PhD program. Macquarie's dedicated Partnerships team ([hdrpartnerships@mq.edu.au](mailto:hdrpartnerships@mq.edu.au)) can assist you with any queries.