

Dual Award Policy Statement

NB: This document includes the text of the Statement passed by Academic Board (April 2011)

1. Policy Declaration

- This policy represents the considered policy of Academic Board on all academic matters relating to the provision of dual award doctoral programs between Southern Cross University ('SCU') and other institutions.
- Its purpose is to provide a model for dual award doctoral program agreements to be negotiated with partner institutions.

2. Policy Description

2.1. Scope

- This policy applies to candidates for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) or equivalent research degree at either SCU or a potential partner institution.

2.2. Objectives

- To enhance existing or emerging research relationships between SCU and other institutions.
- To provide opportunities for new research relationships between SCU and other institutions.
- To maximise the resources available to a specific research project being undertaken by an SCU PhD candidate.
- To enhance the research experience of an SCU PhD candidate.
- To provide a mechanism to attract high calibre research students who, but for a dual-award opportunity, would not enrol at SCU.

2.3. Implementation and Content

Implementation

- Precedent condition
 - For a dual-award program to be undertaken, the following two agreements must be settled and receive final sign-off from the Legal Office:
 - at institutional level, a high level memorandum of understanding ('MOU') (to be negotiated by the PVC (Research) and approved by the VC); and
 - at candidate level, an individually negotiated Agreement for the candidate's particular research project (to be negotiated at School/Centre level. The approval process for this Agreement is to include the HOS, the PVC of the Faculty and the PVC (Research)).

Content

- Degree Awarded
 - Conferral of a dually awarded single degree.

- Testamur: depending on the terms of the individual Agreement, either a single testamur or two separate testamurs could be provided. In the latter case, both the academic transcript and the testamur of each institution must transparently detail that the degree was awarded pursuant to a dual-award doctoral program.
- The terms of the precedent agreements must be consistent with the following details:
 - Enrolment:
 - a candidate must satisfy the entry requirements of both institutions;
 - a candidate is enrolled at both institutions (ie: he/she is not a mere visitor at the partner institution);
 - a minimum of 12 months (full-time) or 30% of the candidature (whichever is greater) must be spent at each institution.
 - Language:
 - Instruction shall normally be in the language of instruction for each institution. Therefore, a candidate must meet the language proficiency requirements of both institutions;
 - Students for whom SCU is the home institution must submit a thesis written in English;
 - In the event the language of instruction of the institutions is different, a thesis written by a student in one language must also provide a minimum of 5000 word summary including an introduction, brief chapter outline, and conclusion in the language of the other.
 - Training and Examination Standards:
 - prospective partner institutions must have research and research training standards at least equivalent to those of SCU. In the event a proposed partner does not have a particular relevant policy or standard, that of SCU must be applied;
 - SCU's examination standards must be incorporated into any Agreement as a minimum requirement. The decision about whether SCU examination standards have been met shall rest with the HDRC;
 - a partner institution may require additional examination components.
 - Pecuniary Matters:
 - the candidate would pay the tuition fees at the home institution and the partner institution would waive them. Thus, for an incoming international dual-award student, SCU would not be entitled to the receipt of tuition fees;
 - SCU must be satisfied that a student who proposes to undertake a dual-award program is able to pay all ancillary costs (eg: travel, cost of living) – including, but not limited to, by a stipend, a grant, a scholarship, or private or independent funding.

3. Related Policies, Documents, Legislation and Strategic Priorities

3.1. Institutional Context

This Policy forms part of a suite of policies developed to guide staff of the University towards the strategic achievement of the University's strategic research objectives.

3.2. Existing related documents

- University Rules (in particular those relating to Awards)
- Specific Award Rules