



Part A- Overarching Agreement for Joint PhD Programs

Between

Indian Institute of Technology Madras

and

Queensland University of Technology

Preamble

In consideration of:

- laws and regulations governing the cooperation between public universities of a scientific, cultural and professional nature and other public or private organisations in India
- the regulations governing a PhD at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras

The **Indian Institute of Technology Madras** with legal domicile at Indian Institute of Technology Madras Chennai -600036, represented in this deed by, Dean Academic Research and the **Queensland University of Technology (QUT)** with legal domicile at 2 George Street, Brisbane, Queensland 4001, Australia represented by the Dean of Research and Research Training, agree to jointly develop a system of academic exchanges that will allow for a joint PhD student:

- to perform coordinated research studies at both universities with a minimum total duration of one year full-time studies spent at each university;
- to be jointly guided by supervisors from both universities with the aim of obtaining the joint PhD by satisfying the requirements and quality standards for the degree of each university;
- to submit one single thesis based on the result of the research undertaken in both universities, for examination to each university.

This agreement is based on the principles and articles specified hereunder. It refers specifically to the joint PhD between QUT and the Indian Institute of Technology Madras.

General Principles and Articles of the Agreement

(1) Admission

A student wishing to gain admission to the joint PhD must be admitted separately by each university subject to the following:

- Where the student is not yet enrolled into a PhD program of either university.

If the student gains admission to the PhD program of QUT, QUT may recommend acceptance of the student into the PhD program of Indian Institute of Technology Madras. The Indian Institute of Technology Madras may, at their discretion, either accept the



recommendation or may require the student to attend an interview. Acceptance will be subject to satisfactory performance in this interview.

- Where the student is already enrolled in a PhD of either university and has at least 67% of the candidature remaining (as per QUT PhD course regulations), the student may make an application to both universities to undertake a joint PhD accompanied by a recommendation from QUT. Either university may, at their discretion, either accept or reject the recommendation or otherwise may require the student attend an interview. Acceptance will be subject to satisfactory performance in this interview.

(2) Language requirements

The joint PhD student must demonstrate proficiency in the *English language* as approved by QUT and IIT Madras.

(3) Duration of the joint PhD

The total combined duration of a given joint PhD full-time studies at both universities shall be up to four years for the PhD unless circumstances justify an extension or reduction subject to the agreement and approval of both universities. In the particular case where the specified aims and objectives of the joint degree have not been met, the duration of the studies may be extended in accordance with the regulations of both universities for PhD.

(4) Residency

The research and study activities will be carried out at both universities and the minimum total duration of the periods spent at each of the two universities shall be no less than 12 months. The periods of study may comprise several shorter periods alternating between the universities or two single periods or a single period spent at each university subject to the agreement of both supervisors. Visits to universities other than those which are party to this agreement may be authorised if it is considered by both supervisors to be beneficial to the studies.

(5) Enrolment

The minimum academic entry requirements for students intending to apply to undertake the joint PhD will be qualifications acceptable to each university as set out in their rules (QUT's admission rules are in MOPP D/5.3 and PhD Course Regulations).

(6) Supervision

Each university will appoint at least one suitably qualified academic to the supervisory team. Within the agreed timetable, the joint PhD student and supervisors shall develop the research proposal in accordance with the requirements of the PhD of both universities which, as a minimum, shall include:

- a) title of the research project;
- b) aims and objectives;
- c) description of the proposed project and work activities;
- d) project milestones;
- e) methodology; and
- f) references.



The joint PhD student shall consult both supervisory teams for advice and assistance and the two supervisory teams shall jointly exercise the function of scientific guidance of the joint PhD student and shall be jointly responsible for the student's education and research training.

(7) Periodic evaluations

Each university shall advise the other of their particular requirements for the periodic evaluation of the progress of the joint PhD student including, where appropriate, the requirement to undertake progress milestone events. The supervisors shall agree to a timetable to meet these requirements and advise the student accordingly, who shall then comply in all respects with the specified requirements. The progress report schedule is specified as per course rules of each university with respect to their joint PhD degree.

(8) Academic training

The main academic activity for the joint PhD student is the completion of the research work and the writing and defending of one single thesis for submission to both universities. In addition, the joint PhD student may take academic courses and associated examinations at each of the two universities in accordance with a study curriculum agreed with the supervisors and complying with the requirements of the PhD of each university.

The student shall fulfil all requirements and regulations governing both universities and their PhD. In particular, the student shall comply with the course credit recognition requirements/advanced standing of the PhD of each university and with their examination requirements where this is relevant.

(9) Thesis

The single thesis shall be written in English with an extended summary in the language of each university and shall be submitted to the respective boards of each university for examination as per their rules and regulations. The PhD thesis will be submitted to both supervisory teams prior to final submission, who will assess it for suitability and quality at their university. The thesis will be examined at each university consistent with their PhD rules and regulations.

The statement of Original Authorship must state that *"The work contained in this joint PhD thesis undertaken between QUT and IITM has not been previously submitted to meet requirements for an award at these or any other higher education universities. To the best of my knowledge and belief, the thesis contains no material previously published or written by another person except where due reference is made."*

(10) Public oral examination as required by the Indian Institute of Technology Madras IITM

Upon acceptance of the final thesis by the supervisory teams, the student may undergo a public oral examination by a final evaluation committee if this is in accordance with the governing regulations of the Indian Institute of Technology Madras. If required the defence shall be in English or in the language of one of the two Universities by agreement between the evaluation committee and the joint PhD student. The oral examination shall take place within four months of submission of the thesis.



(11) Final Thesis Examination

To award a Joint PhD the student must meet the thesis examination requirements of both universities. An outcome of the process may be that the student is eligible for a single or no award depending on the advice of examiners and regulation and requirements of each institution. Some harmonisation of examination process between QUT and the IITM may be required to ensure a clear process for the student and supervisory teams.

(12) Final grading

IITM

If applicable: Upon completion of the thesis examination, a single final grade shall be determined by taking into consideration the individual grades of the courses undertaken during the degree, grade for the thesis and oral examination. The thesis and the oral examination shall be graded using the university's standard grading system.

QUT

Under the Australian system PhD thesis are not graded. However at QUT, in recognition of outstanding contribution to knowledge and/or demonstration of excellence in postgraduate research, the PhD thesis may be recommended for the QUT Outstanding Doctoral Thesis Award, as per established guidelines.

(13) Award of the degree

After the student has satisfied all the relevant requirements of each university, and received a positive assessment of the thesis work by the thesis examiners, the student will be awarded the PhD degree. The degree certificate/testamur of each university must attest to the joint framework under which the student completed the joint PhD program between QUT and the IITM. The following words must appear on each university's testamur:

<Student's Name>having fulfilled all the conditions of a joint program prescribed by the Queensland University of Technology and Institute of Technology Madras in India has been admitted to the degree of Doctor of the Indian Philosophy

or other such words as agreed by both universities. The academic transcripts of both universities (where applicable) must also state that the degree was undertaken as a consequence of a joint PhD between QUT and IITM. A decision by one university not to award the degree does not preclude the other university from awarding the degree of that university with their standard testamur.

(14) Research results protection

The protection of the thesis content and the publication and exploitation of the research results and acknowledgement of the researchers involved will be subject to the regulations of both universities.

If required, specific agreements will be arranged for the protection of the intellectual property by the appropriate university entities that are formally responsible for this. The policies of QUT relating to Intellectual Property are outlined in the Manual of Policies and Procedures: (http://www.mopp.qut.edu.au/D/D_03_01.jsp).



(15) Administrative matters

Each university shall designate one individual to fulfil the responsibilities of Coordinator of the Joint PhDs in order to facilitate student exchanges under the terms of this agreement. At QUT, the Dean of Research and Research Training or nominee will be the responsible body. The Coordinator shall exchange all relevant information about the joint PhD offered at their respective university and provide the necessary assistance in respect of the administration of this agreement.

At IITM, the Dean International and Alumni Relations will be the responsible body.

(16) Tuition fees and other financial matters

QUT may grant a tuition fee scholarship, if required, while the student is enrolled at QUT. The offer of a tuition fee scholarship is subject to satisfactory academic progress and governed by the *Conditions of Award* of such a fee scholarship. Students will need to satisfy eligibility criteria for the award of a fee scholarship.

IIT Madras will award the scholar either half time teach/research Assistantship (HTRA) as per the institute rules or pay the scholar a monthly stipend on par with IITM Scholar.

The travel expenses for supervisors shall be met by the respective supervisors' own research funds. The travel expenses for the other members related to thesis examination requirements shall be covered by the research funds of the supervisor from their university. There are no other financial charges for the universities to consider.

(17) Health insurance and protection measures

The joint PhD student is responsible for health insurance and will be required to show proof of paid health insurance for the required duration, consistent with visa conditions, before assuming residency at either university.

(18) Disagreement and disputes

The parties to this agreement undertake to solve in a friendly manner any disagreement or dispute arising from the implementation and interpretation of this agreement.

In the event that the disagreement or dispute cannot be resolved satisfactorily, the issue(s) will be resolved by way of dispute resolution between the Dean Academic Research at IITM and QUT's Dean of Research and Research Training or their respective nominees.

(19) Infrastructure support

Normal infrastructure support arrangements will be provided by each university, consistent with those provided to joint PhD students at that university and any relevant regulations which address this issue. QUT's Statement of Infrastructure Provision for Higher Degree Research Students is at <http://www.student.qut.edu.au/research/your-degree/getting-started>.



(20) Renewal, termination and amendment

This agreement shall remain in force for a period of 5 years from the date of the last signature, with the understanding that it may be terminated by either party giving six months prior notice to the other party, in writing. The agreement may be extended by mutual consent of the two universities.

This agreement may be amended by the exchange of letters between the two universities. Such amendments, once approved by both universities, will become part of this Memorandum of Understanding.

Signatories to the Agreement

Queensland University of
Technology
Professor Paul Burnett
Dean of Research and Research
Training

Brisbane, Australia

Date: 16/12/15

Indian Institute of Technology
Madras
Prof. R. Nagarajan
Dean International & Alumni
Relations

India

Date: Dec 8, 2015