



BRISBANE
AUSTRALIA

Collaborative Cohort PhDs at QUT

Queensland University of Technology (QUT), an Australian university, is affiliating with the University Grants Commission (UGC) Sri Lanka to support higher degree research (HDR) programs and research training of Sri Lankan early to mid-career academics. In this arrangement, it is anticipated that joint research efforts including a collaborative cohort model of doctoral supervision, research training, and shared supervision with local academic supervisors of Sri Lankan Universities will take place.

Sri Lanka, through the UGC and the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE), wish to enhance the research skills of its academic staff by offering PhD scholarships to increase the number of doctorate level academics.

Joining with UGC, QUT wish to increase its global outreach through collaborative research partnerships with Asian countries. QUT is a leading technology university which has research strengths in science, technology, engineering and health Sciences. This joint PhD model was initiated in partnership with the University of Colombo (UoC), the University of Peradeniya (UoP) and Sri Jayewardenepura University (SJP).

Focusing on strategic and innovative research relevant to the Sri Lankan context, a strength of the program is the opportunity for doctoral students to participate in research programmes featuring on national and international research agendas. The dominant focus of the research will involve data collection and/or field work experimentation in Sri Lanka. The research collaborations between all Universities involved are enhanced and candidates will receive collegial support from the cohort model.

QUT supports a cohort model of doctoral supervision, whereby 10-12 candidates of different disciplines from Sri Lankan Universities undertake a minimum of 12 months of their doctoral studies on QUT campus.

This approach is taken to minimise administrative costs and to facilitate timely completion at both the Sri Lankan universities and QUT. It will enhance the quality of learning and research outcomes anticipated from joint and/or split PhD study models

Joint PhD candidates will be co-supervised by two QUT academics, one academic from either UoC, UoP or SJP and another academic from the candidate's home University if applicable. Alternatively, candidates who choose to be in a split PhD model will have two QUT academic supervisors and a local supervisor. Split PhD candidates should obtain written approval of their release from all academic and administrative duties for the duration of their PhD degree.

The UGC will provide financial support to Sri Lankan academics who meet eligibility requirements of UGC for up to one year to cover expenses while attending QUT in Brisbane, Australia. This support includes return economy airfare, accommodation costs, Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) and associated incidental costs as required as per the UGC guidelines.

QUT will provide a full tuition fee sponsorship (valued at approximately \$100,000 AUD) for the duration of the PhD candidature (up to three years).

Comparisons between Joint PhD and Split PhD Models

Requirements	Joint PhD Model		Split/External PhD Model	
The Institution	QUT	University of Colombo, University of Peradeniya, University of Sri Jayewardenepura	QUT	Any Sri Lankan university upon completion of a MOU External Institutional Support Agreement
Admission	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Duration of the PhD program	3 years full time	3 years full time	3 years full time	N/A
Residency	1 year minimum	2 years minimum	1 year minimum	2 years minimum
Enrolment	Meet entry requirements	Meet entry requirements	Meet entry requirements	N/A
Supervision	Required (joint)	Required (joint)	Required (joint)	Required (joint)
Thesis	One thesis (one testamur)	Same thesis as QUT (one testamur)	One thesis examined by QUT	N/A
Examination requirements	As required by QUT	As required by Sri Lankan university	As required by QUT	N/A
Composition of final evaluation committee	Harmonisation	Harmonisation	As required by QUT	N/A
Award of the degree	Single degree	Single degree	Single degree	N/A
Administrative matters	Support/coordinator	Support/coordinator	Support/coordinator	N/A
Tuition fees and other financial matters	Tuition fee sponsorship only	UGC support for living expenses while in QUT and other expenses as per the UGC guidelines, and research expenses for local studies	Tuition fee sponsorship only (other costs case by case basis by UGC)	Refer to MoU
Infrastructure support	QUTs normal support	Sri Lankan university's normal support	QUTs normal support	N/A
Research Outputs	Collaborative commitments	Collaborative commitments	Collaborative commitments	Collaborative commitments
Intellectual Property	QUT policy	QUT and Sri Lankan university policy	QUT policy	QUT policy

The two PhD models have been supported with UGC's funding to cover travel costs to and from Australia, health insurance costs, project overhead costs (case by case basis), living stipend during the residency in Australia, and visa application costs within the approved limits of the UGC.



Learn more: www.ugc.ac.lk



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