

DOUBLE BADGED / JOINT PHD PROGRAMME

RMIT UNIVERSITY (RMIT)

UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE (UT)

2019-2023





WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

THIS DOCUMENT SERVES TO GIVE A BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE JOINT PHD PROGRAMME BETWEEN RMIT AND UT.

As different terms are used for similar aspects, a terminology table can be found below. PhD candidates have a home university (where the candidate starts and spends the majority of his/her time) and a host university (where a candidate spends a minimum of 12 months). The process of entering the joint PhD programme usually starts by an academic at either of the two universities identifying a student that potentially could do a PhD within the scope of this programme.

What is the timeline? A joint PhD duration usually takes 4 years in total (minimum duration is 3 years).

Who's involved? PhD candidates have academics at both universities that supervise the research. Multiple academics can be involved. The final defense allows an official role for three supervisors in total. The home university is to register two academics, the host university one, with one PhD supervisor per university and an optional co-supervisor for the home university.

Before the start? When an academic at either of the universities identifies a new possible candidate, the negotiations on the content and the supervision can start. The supervisors have to submit the completed 'Annex A' document to their graduate schools for signing. The document should ideally be signed at the start of the trajectory, but ultimately at the 'qualifier' moment, 9 months after the start (see terminology below).

Contact your graduate school (details below) to initiate the admissions process and obtain this Annex A.

During the candidature? In the three to four years to follow, the candidate spends a minimum of 12 months at the host university. The candidate has to complete a number of mandatory and free-choice courses. There will be yearly progress meetings in which the progress of the candidate is addressed with academics at both ends. The courses and the progress reports will be submitted to the PhD tracking system at both universities.

Upon completion? The final result of the joint PhD trajectory is a thesis/dissertation. The main supervisors will obtain its approval, each from their own side, according to the local protocol and the agreement, and report the outcome of the defense to both graduate schools. Candidates must submit to both universities before the UT defense. Once the work is approved at both ends, it will be defended by the candidate in a ceremony that always takes place at the UT.

Finances for PhD students? PhD candidates starting at UT usually hold employment at UT (monthly salary and a pack of secondary employment benefits running through the complete project). PhD candidates can start at RMIT by registering with a full scholarship. RMIT's Travel Grant can be applied for by candidates at either university. Tuition fees are waived at both universities. Furthermore various (EU) grants can be used to facilitate the programme; Horizon 2020's project budget as well as ERC grants have been used.

What is in it for universities? Scientific and networking opportunities as well as financial compensation upon completion of a PhD trajectory.

TERMINOLOGY:

GENERAL SUBJECT	RMIT TERMINOLOGY	UT TERMINOLOGY
Graduate School	SGR: School of Graduate Research	TGS: Twente Graduate School.
System used to track progress	MyRMIT/ EoL- Enrolment Online	Hora Finita
Credit system used at the universities	Credit points / EFTSL (It's also counted in months)	ECTS credits; 30 for entire PhD phase; 1 credit equals 28hrs of education incl. preparation and self-study.
Mandatory components in the tracking of progress	Milestones	Qualifier (1st year) and subsequent Annual Interviews
Supervisory system	Supervisor	Promotor
Final academic work that completes the trajectory	Thesis	Dissertation
Qualification	Double Badged PhD degree	Joint PhD Degree

Where can I find more information? Details about the arrangements are in the RMIT-UT *Double-badged PhD Agreement* (including the documents: 'Annexure A – To be completed for each participating students', 'Annexure B – Agreed examination process' and 'Annexure C – Form of Testamur'). The document can be obtained for consultation at the graduate schools at both universities.

Contact?

RMIT contact: Louise Ballard (louise.ballard@rmit.edu.au) or sgr.admissions@rmit.edu.au
 UT contact: tgs@utwente.nl

TESTIMONIALS:



Bryan Hally (RMIT based): "Working at RMIT and the UT through my candidature afforded a lot of opportunities for collaboration, and the period of work in the Netherlands was a highlight of my PhD. The introduction to new people and differing work cultures, the opportunity to help with fieldwork on other student projects, and seeing the scale of the research done across the ITC faculty were all positives."



Valentine Cerutti (UT based): "The double badge PhD programme was a great experience, it provided an opportunity to work in a different research environment, to collaborate with supervisors with different backgrounds, to meet colleagues working on related topics and to establish international connections."



Koos Johannes (UT based): "For me the double badged PhD programme of UT and RMIT has been, and still is, a unique learning experience in which I learned a lot about my research topic, research cultures in different countries and about myself. It may cost you some extra effort and time to get everything lined up (supervisors, administration etc.) but it will give you the opportunity to connect to an interesting research community in the Australasian part of the world."

Edition August 2019, Melbourne/Enschede, Louise Ballard, Paul van Dijk, Inge Broekman

