

Cotutelle PhDs at Victoria

The purpose of this paper is to lay the foundation for a policy on cotutelle arrangements for PhDs at Victoria University of Wellington.

Motivation

At present, Victoria has no overt policy on cotutelles, but the matter is becoming pressing enough for a coherent policy to be adopted, rather than treating each individual case on its merits. Having a policy in place allows a streamlined approach, with individual staff members not being put in the position of having to reinvent the wheel.

It is assumed here that whatever form of cotutelle arrangement may be sought, it is motivated by the following desires (or some subset of them):

- To enhance the internationalisation of Victoria's programmes by having more students who study in two countries
- To allow the student access to facilities which are not available at the home university
- To allow the student access to expertise which is not available at the home university
- To broaden the student's experience by exposure to different conditions, supervision patterns, types of input, and so on
- To allow enhanced research cooperation between Victoria and an overseas institution.

Students involved in a cotutelle arrangement are expected to be a minority of our PhD students, and the fundamental notion of a Victoria PhD undertaken in Wellington is not compromised.

Cotutelle versus other arrangements

The cotutelle policy affects only those students who enrol officially at two universities in different countries. There are many other patterns of students travelling as part of their PhD experience: to visit other laboratories, to discuss matters with people who have particular expertise, to visit museums, libraries or other tertiary institutions. None of these is threatened by the cotutelle policy. Students who come to Victoria under these other arrangements should be treated as visiting fellows.

Proposed guidelines

- 1 A formal cotutelle agreement must be drawn up between the two

- participating institutions in respect of each candidate. It must detail the particular arrangements pertaining to that particular candidate.
- 2 Cotutelle candidates are candidates for a Victoria PhD and must accordingly meet all the normal requirements for a Victoria PhD.
 - 3 Cotutelle candidates will be enrolled as full-time PhD candidates at Victoria University and will therefore be subject to Victoria University's regulations, rules, and policies. This includes payment of normal fees and requirements for reporting on progress, such as the six-monthly report. They will also be enrolled at a foreign university, and be subject to the rules and regulations governing PhD students at that university as well.
 - 4 A cotutelle arrangement cannot be established as a prerequisite to enrolment; it must emerge from the project and the relationships between supervisors and researchers at other institutions. It cannot be demanded by a student nor imposed by a supervisor.
 - 5 A cotutelle arrangement must be proposed to Victoria by the candidate's supervisor and must normally be formally established no later than the end of the first year of enrolment.
 - 6 If a cotutelle arrangement is initiated by the overseas university, the student may be enrolled at Victoria using the exception route for enrolments.
 - 7 Victoria University will not be responsible for any costs that accrue to the student as a result of undertaking the cotutelle arrangement.
 - 8 Every cotutelle agreement must have a section which details responsibilities in cases of conflict or dispute and matters of intellectual property.
 - 9 Students who are involved in a cotutelle arrangement should have this status noted in their Victoria file.
 - 10 Individual cotutelle arrangements must be approved by the Dean, Faculty of Graduate Research.