Call for Joint PhD Projects with paired Seed Funding
The University of Melbourne and Shanghai Jiao Tong University 2020/21

Deadline: 17 August 2020

PURPOSE OF THE SCHEME

The University of Melbourne (UoM) and Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU) seek to support research collaboration and the development of globally-engaged researchers by establishing an international research training group for jointly awarded PhDs. The international research training group will help to train a core group of researchers who will have international research experience. Graduate Researchers (GRs) participating in the joint program will be enrolled at both institutions. The research work will be performed under joint supervision, with one primary supervisor from each of the two institutions. The work will be judged according to academic standards of both institutions. At the end of the program, each GR will be eligible to receive a PhD, recognised by two testamurs, one from UoM and one from SJTU, stating the joint nature of the award and name of the partner institution.

In 2020, the UoM and SJTU are calling for project proposals to establish up to 10 joint graduate research projects across five separate pairs of Primary Investigators (PIs). Each of these five PI pairs will receive seed funding and access funding for two joint PhD candidates, including tuition fee waivers, a full living allowance, health insurance and relocation support.

All candidates must meet the eligibility requirements to successfully enrol at both universities.

The ten joint PhD candidates recruited to these projects will form the first cohort of the UoM-SJTU international research training group to:

- Access expertise, resources and world-class training at UoM and SJTU, spending at least 12 months of their candidature at each;
- Gain complementary skills from their respective hosts to increase the impact of their research; and
- Grow the network of UoM and SJTU researchers while developing a global perspective on their research.

These awards will also include seed funding for the principal investigators to provide initial support for development of high-quality research projects with other members of the research group in areas of mutual strength and shared interest.

Funding is available at both institutions to undertake short-term visits to initiate, deepen and extend collaborative research links with a view to enabling investigators to subsequently make joint proposals to external funding sources for the next phase of their research.

Project proposals are open to all research areas, with preference given to the following priority research areas:

- Environment and Climate Change
- Governance and Institutions
- Health and Wellbeing
- Engineering and Natural Sciences

ELIGIBILITY

This call for project proposals is open to a supervisory team of at least two principal investigators (PI) with capacity to supervise two jointly enrolled PhD candidates, one with SJTU as the home institution and one with UoM as the
home institution. One PI must be employed by SJTU and the other must be employed by UoM.

UoM academics must be registered to supervise as per the Supervisor Eligibility and Registration Policy. For more information, including forms for supervisor registration, please consult the information for supervisors section on the Graduate Research Hub. Honorary employees whose primary academic affiliation is the University of Melbourne are eligible to lead the application if:

a) they are eligible to be a primary supervisor at the University of Melbourne; AND
b) if their primary employer has entered into an agreement to fund the Melbourne seed fund component of the collaborative activity; or may participate at their own expense if they are otherwise unaffiliated (for example, they hold an emeritus position).

SJTU academics must be eligible for supervising Ph.D. candidates and follow the university and relevant school/college’s policy of graduate student recruitment.

Additional colleagues (including other partners in Australia, China or internationally) are not eligible to apply as primary supervisors, although they can participate in co-supervision of joint PhDs.

Principal investigators must be able to demonstrate existing research relationships and must provide evidence of such collaborative relationships as part of the application.

Applications that do not satisfy these criteria will not be eligible.

PROJECTS

- If selected, joint PhD projects will be advertised online in August/September 2020.
- Joint PhD candidates, i.e. work on a project, will start in 2021. The periods spent abroad will be decided by supervisors from both sides, with 12-24 months spent at the Host Institution.
- Each pair of PIs should submit two projects.
- There should not be any interdependence between these two projects.
- Up to 10 projects (across five collaborative research groups) will be supported in this first cohort of joint PhDs.

PROJECT PROPOSALS

- Must be led by at least one PI/primary supervisor from each institution.
- Joint PhD projects should be designed to be completed in 3.5 years, with possibility to extend to a maximum of 4 years for PhD submission.
- Duration of seed funds:
  o SJTU seed funds for supervisors (85,000RMB) will be allocated in June 2021 and must be used within 24 months (by June 2023)
  o SJTU mobility funding to support Melbourne-based candidates to travel to SJTU (15,000RMB) will be available during the full length of candidature of the Joint PhD candidates.
  o UoM seed funds ($20,000 AUD) will be allocated in June 2021 and will be available during the full length of candidature of the Joint PhD candidates.

Proposal includes

- Names of PIs/research groups involved and any evidence of previous collaboration (if applicable).
- Links to the PIs’ websites (Important! Candidates should be able to inform themselves before applying).
- CVs for investigators (all listed on the project team; no more than 2 pages each and including current position and employment history; 10 career-best publications; awards and relevant presentations; current grant income)
- Brief description of the two PhD projects:
  o indicating which University will be the “Home Institution” for the project, i.e. the University where the majority of time will be spent by that candidate, and where they will likely commence and conclude their PhD.
  o an indicative plan for where and when the different parts of the research will take place at each institution.
FUNDING FOR PROJECTS

(i) Joint PhD scholarships package:

Joint PhD projects should be designed to be completed in 3.5 years, with possibility to extend to a maximum of 4 years for PhD submission.
The Home Institution will fund 1.5-2.5 years and the Host Institution will fund 1-2 years of candidature, up to a maximum of 4 years total funding.

All candidates recruited to the program will receive tuition fee waivers, a living allowance, health insurance and relocation support.

For UoM, all candidates will receive a Graduate Research Scholarship for the time they are at Melbourne.
For SJTU, all scholarships in this call will be funded according to SJTU policies for the time they are at SJTU.

Suggested project timing for joint PhD candidates (flexible according to project needs, but each joint PhD must spend at least 12 months at each university during their candidature):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University of Melbourne</th>
<th>Shanghai Jiao Tong University</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 months Melbourne</td>
<td>12 months SJTU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-18 months SJTU (maximum 24 months)</td>
<td>12-18 months Melbourne (maximum 24 months)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-18 months Melbourne</td>
<td>12-18 months SJTU</td>
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*Note: PhD candidates whose Home Institution is SJTU will be required to complete mandatory coursework requirements. This will be completed in their first 12 months of candidature at SJTU before enrolling at Melbourne and commencing work on their research project.*

(ii) Seed funds:

Each PI pair will also receive seed funds (20,000 AUD provided by UoM to the UoM PI and 85,000 RMB from SJTU to the SJTU PI). These funds can also be used for affiliated research travel, for expenses in hosting workshops for collaborative activities, and for program coordination.

**Note:** SJTU will also provide up to 15,000 RMB additional support to cover round-trip airfare and travel insurance for Melbourne-based candidates to travel to SJTU. UoM will support SJTU-based candidates’ relocation to Melbourne through their scholarship (up to $3,000 AUD).

It is up to the partners involved in the individual projects to cover any consumable costs.

Summary of funding per project:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University of Melbourne</th>
<th>Shanghai Jiao Tong University</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seed Funding to UoM supervisors for relevant activities:</td>
<td>Seed funding to SJTU supervisors for relevant activities:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$20,000 AUD</td>
<td>$85,000 RMB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax-free scholarship (stipend) for two joint PhD candidates</td>
<td>SJTU scholarship (stipend) for two joint PhD candidates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>when at Melbourne: Graduate Research Scholarship</td>
<td>when at SJTU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition-fee waivers (covered by Graduate Research Scholarship) for two joint PhD candidates</td>
<td>Tuition fee waivers (covered by SJTU scholarship) for two joint PhD candidates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) Single Membership</td>
<td>Health Insurance for two joint PhD candidates when in China</td>
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<tr>
<td>for international students who require a student visa to</td>
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<tr>
<td>study in Australia, when in Australia</td>
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</table>
Relocation allowance to come to Melbourne for two joint PhD candidates:
$2000 for students moving from States or Territories other than Victoria or $3000 for students moving from outside Australia

Relocation allowance to come to SJTU for Melbourne-based candidates:
Round-trip ticket fare and travel insurance of up to 15,000RMB.

Travel insurance while on Study Away for two joint PhD candidates

EVALUATION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS

UoM and SJTU rank the groups in order of meeting the selection criteria and agree on up to five top-ranking research groups (and ten joint PhD projects).

SELECTION CRITERIA

- The history and extent of collaboration between the UoM and SJTU PIs
- How the projects combine mutual areas of interest and strength at UoM and SJTU
- How the projects articulate the need for, and benefit of, spending a minimum of 12 months at UoM and SJTU
- The balance of gender and career stages of involved investigators (as primary- or co-supervisors)
- The capacity for future collaboration/funding: What is the extent to which future collaborations are possible as a result of the proposed exchange activities? What is the ability of the proposal to leverage future external funding?
- The capability of the project to seed the development of a larger network of researchers across the universities within this research area.

KEY DATES FOR 2020

- Call for joint seed fund projects opens: 29 June 2020
- Call for joint seed fund projects closes: 17 August 2020 (5pm AEST)
- Outcome notification: August/September 2020
- Projects advertised for joint PhD candidate recruitment: September 2020 – May 2021
- Joint PhD candidates commence in 2021
- Seed funding commences in June 2021

PIs must successfully recruit at least one of their two candidates by May 31st 2021. If the PIs do not meet this deadline, the scholarships, seed and mobility funding will be recalled for use in a future call.

If PIs have only recruited one candidate by May, they must demonstrate their plans to recruit a second candidate to commence their PhD before the end of 2021, in order to retain their scholarships, seed and mobility funding.

Projects will be published on the UoM and SJTU websites during the application rounds so that candidates can apply for specific projects.

Please note, members of the two universities can still seek to recruit jointly awarded Ph.D. candidates, even if they their application is unsuccessful, provided their nominated candidates meets the admission requirements of both institutions. Policies for recruitment, admission and candidate management for jointly awarded PhDs will be published on the website for each university (as for SJTU, it is the graduate school’s website).

SUBMISSION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

A single, jointly prepared application must be submitted in English through the University of Melbourne’s Smarty Grants system. Only one of the coordinating investigators will be able to create and submit the joint application, so collaboration on the application contents must be done offline. Evidence of approval from the relevant School/Department, from both institutions, needs to be uploaded as part of the submission.

Applications are due by COB on 17 August 2020 (5pm AEST).
Please note no feedback will be given on any submissions until the joint evaluation has taken place.

Submission and UoM contact details:

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SJTU contact details:

For more information on joint PhD program, please consult:

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For more information on joint seed funding, please consult:

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