Call for Joint PhD projects
The University of Melbourne and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem 2020

BACKGROUND

The University of Melbourne (UoM) and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2008, renewed in 2018, to foster exchange and research collaborations. Both Universities affirmed this partnership in November 2012 with an agreement to establish the Joint Research Workshop Grants Program.

The partnership was further expanded with the development of a joint PhD agreement and the launch of the Jerusalem-Melbourne Joint PhD program (JMJPhD) in 2019. The first cohort, with a thematic focus on biomedical research, successfully recruited 5 Joint PhD candidates across three research teams. In 2020 we are opening the call to consider project proposals across all research areas.

PURPOSE OF THE SCHEME

The Joint PhD program 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 in 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, the GR will be eligible to receive a PhD, recognised by two testamurs, one from UoM and one from HUJI, stating the joint nature of the award and name of the partner institution.

Pairs of UoM and HUJI eligible academics are invited to apply to this joint call for joint supervision of 2 PhD candidates per pair.

This second call for joint PhD projects will award up to six projects (across three collaborative research groups), each comprised of 2 primary supervisors (PIs) and 2 PhD candidates working on 2 not-interdependent research projects for jointly supervised and jointly enrolled PhD candidates. The six joint PhD candidates recruited to these projects will form the second cohort of the UoM-HUJI joint research training group to:

- Access expertise, resources and world-class training at UoM and HUJI, 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 HUJI researchers while developing a global perspective on their research.

ELIGIBILITY

The 2020 call for joint PhD projects is open to applications across all research areas.
This call for project proposals is open to academics employed by UoM and HUJI, with capacity to supervise two jointly enrolled PhD candidates. Additional colleagues (including Honorary and adjunct staff, and other partners in Australia, Israel or internationally) are not eligible to apply as primary supervisor, although they can participate in co-supervision of joint PhDs.

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.

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

PROJECTS

- If selected, joint PhD projects will be advertised online in August 2020.
- PhD candidates, i.e. work on a project, will start in 2021, likely between January and June 2021 at Melbourne, and at the latest 1 October 2021 at HUJI.
- Each pair of PIs should submit two projects (One for a UoM scholarship and one for a HUJI scholarship). There should not be any interdependence between these two projects.
- Up to six projects (across three collaborative research groups) will be supported in this second cohort of joint PhDs.

PROJECT PROPOSALS

- At least one PI/primary supervisor from each institution
- Duration of projects: 36 months, with the possibility of 6 months extension
- At least one third of the project should be spent at either institution (i.e. at least 12 months at UoM and 12 months at HUJI)

Proposal includes (3 pages maximum):  

- 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).
- Brief description of the two PhD projects:  
  - indicating which University will be the “home base” for the project, i.e. the University providing the scholarship and normally where the majority of time will be spent by the joint PhD candidate
  - an indicative plan for where and when the different parts of the research will take place at each institution.

FUNDING FOR PROJECTS

Up to a total of six (6) PhD scholarships will be awarded. UoM is funding up to 3 PhD scholarships and HUJI is funding up to 3 PhD scholarships in 2020-2021. Scholarship duration is 36 months, with possibility of extending it for 6 months if necessary.

Each PhD scholarship will be awarded to the recruited joint PhD candidate at the standard
living allowance stipulated by each institution per annum.

HUJI: All scholarships will be funded jointly by the Hebrew University (50%) and the Supervisor (50%).

UoM: All scholarships in this call will be funded according to the conditions stipulated by the participating Faculty.

Suggested project timing (flexible according to project needs):

- **UoM PhD scholarships**: 2 years in Melbourne, 1 year at HUJI; "home base" is Melbourne, start preferably in Melbourne
- **HUJI PhD scholarships**: 2 years at HUJI, 1 year in Melbourne; "home base" is HUJI, start preferably at HUJI;

UoM and HUJI will support home-base GR and supervisor travel at their respective Universities and allocate funds for expenses in hosting workshops for collaborative activities specified in the projects and for program coordination.

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

**EVALUATION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS**

UoM and HUJI rank the groups in order of meeting the selection criteria and agree on up to three top-ranking research groups (and six projects).

**SELECTION CRITERIA**

- The history and extent of collaboration between the UoM and HUJI PIs
- How the projects combine mutual areas of interest and strength at UoM and HUJI
- How the projects articulate the need for, and benefit of, spending a minimum of 12 months at UoM and HUJI
- The balance of gender and career stages of involved investigators (as primary- or co-supervisors)

**KEY DATES FOR 2020**

- Call for joint PhD projects opens: 4 May 2020
- Call for joint PhD projects closes: 6 July 2020 at 4:59 pm (Melbourne local time)
- Outcome notification: August 2020
- Projects advertised for joint PhD candidate recruitment: August-Sept 2020

**PIs must successfully recruit two candidates by March 31, 2021. If the PIs do not meet this deadline, the scholarship and mobility funding will be recalled for use in a future call.**

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

**SUBMISSION AND CONTACT INFORMATION**
A single, jointly prepared proposal (3 pages maximum) must be submitted in English in PDF form to mark.gregory@unimelb.edu.au by 4:59 pm on 6 July 2020 (Melbourne local time). All Melbourne applicants must ensure Head of Department approval is attached.

Please note no feedback will be given on any submissions until the joint evaluation has taken place.

UoM submission and contact details:

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For HUJI applicants please direct any additional questions to:

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