



## Call for Joint PhD projects The University of Melbourne and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem 2021

### 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 \(JM-JPhD\)](#) in 2019. The first two cohorts have successfully recruited eight joint PhD candidates across four research teams in biomedical research, veterinary parasitology and Natural Language Processing (NLP).

In 2021, UoM and HUJI are calling for proposals across all research areas for new joint PhD projects. **Pairs of UoM and HUJI Primary Investigators (PIs) are invited to apply to this call with proposed supervision of two joint PhD candidates per pair.**

### PURPOSE OF THE SCHEME

The Joint PhD program trains a core group of researchers who benefit from a collaborative international research experience. Candidates participating in projects that are part of the joint program will be enrolled at both institutions. The research work will be performed under joint supervision, with one primary supervisor from UoM and one from HUJI. The work will be judged according to the academic standards of both institutions. At the end of the program, each candidate will be eligible to receive a PhD, recognised by two testamurs, one from UoM and one from HUJI. Both testamurs will state the joint nature of the award and name of the partner institution.

All candidates must meet the minimum eligibility requirements to successfully enrol in the relevant PhD course at both institutions.

This call for proposals will award up to six joint PhD projects across three separate pairs of Primary Investigators (PIs). Each of these pairs will receive funding to support two joint PhD candidates, as well as associated collaboration activities and supervisor travel to enhance the partnership.

The six joint PhD candidates recruited to these projects will form the third cohort of the UoM-HUJI joint research training group, gaining:

- Access to expertise, resources and world-class training at UoM and HUJI, spending at least 12 months of their candidature at each institution;
- Complementary skills from their respective hosts that will increase the impact of their research; and

- A global perspective on their research via their involvement in the UoM-HUJI network.

## ELIGIBILITY

This call for proposals is open to academics from all research areas who are employed by UoM or HUJI. The two PIs must have capacity to be the primary supervisor for two jointly enrolled PhD candidates, one who will have UoM as their home institution, and the second who will have HUJI as their home institution.

### *UoM academics*

UoM academics must be registered to supervise as per the [Supervisor Eligibility and Registration Policy](#). Primary supervisors should be employed at UoM beyond the envisaged submission date of their PhD candidates (2025). If their employment contract does not extend beyond the candidates' submission date, then alternative arrangements must be in place, by either having:

- a) a named co-supervisor employed at UoM beyond the envisaged submission date of their PhD candidates (2025); *or*
- b) a letter of support from the respective Head of Department/Head of School detailing the arrangements in place to ensure continuity of supervision.

For more information, please consult the [information for supervisors section on the Graduate Research Hub](#).

Honorary employees whose primary academic affiliation is with UoM are eligible to lead an application as a PI if they are a registered Principal Supervisor at UoM, and either:

- a) their primary employer has entered into a written agreement for this call to fund the Melbourne cash component of the collaborative activity; *or*
- b) they participate at their own expense if they are otherwise unaffiliated (for example, they hold an emeritus position).

### *HUJI academics*

HUJI academics must be eligible to supervise PhD candidates as per the relevant HUJI [regulations for research students](#).

### *Additional notes for all applicants*

Previous UoM and HUJI recipients may not currently reapply to the scheme but may participate as a co-investigator.

Additional colleagues (including other partners in Australia, Israel or internationally) are not eligible to apply as PIs or primary supervisors, although they can participate in co-supervision of the PhD candidates as part of a joint application by UoM PIs.

Adherence to respective equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) policies are a core feature of this program to ensure that all participants can do their best work, thrive and succeed. Applicant teams should consider how they can take meaningful steps in their future collaborations to

foster an environment that values, supports and respects a diverse range of views, knowledge and experiences. Applicants should consider EDI as it applies to gender, Indigenous peoples, disabilities, career stages and sectors.

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

## FUNDING FOR PROJECTS

Up to a total of six (6) PhD scholarships will be awarded. In 2021-2022, UoM is funding up to 3 PhD scholarships and HUJI is funding up to 3 PhD scholarships. The initial duration of the scholarship is 3 years, with the candidate able to apply for an extension for a total scholarship duration of 3.5 years. The maximum course duration for the candidate to complete the project is 4 years.

Each successful application will receive funding for two joint PhD candidates – one with UoM as the home institution and one with HUJI as the home institution. The home institution is where the PhD candidate will spend most of their research time and likely commence/conclude their degree. Each PhD scholarship will be awarded to the recruited home candidate at the standard living allowance (stipend) rate stipulated by each institution per annum.

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

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

A suggested timeline for project is below. This can be altered depending on the project's needs, but each candidate must spend at least 12 months at each institution during their candidature:

- UoM home candidates (scholarships provided by UoM): 2 years in Melbourne, 1 year at HUJI. Ideally, the candidate would commence at UoM.
- HUJI home candidates (scholarships provided by HUJI): 2 years at HUJI, 1 year in Melbourne. Ideally, the candidate would commence at HUJI.

UoM and HUJI will support home-base GR and supervisor travel at their respective Universities, as well as 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.

A summary of the funding provided for each project (2 PhD candidates) is provided below.

| University of Melbourne (UoM)   | Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJI)  |
|---|--|
| Tax-free scholarship (stipend) for the Melbourne based joint PhD candidate, via a <a href="#">Graduate Research Scholarship</a> | Scholarships for the HUJI based joint PhD candidate will be funded jointly by the Hebrew University (50%) and the Supervisor (50%) |
| Tuition fee waivers for both joint PhD candidates   | Tuition fee waivers for both joint PhD candidates  |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) Single Membership for international candidates who require a student visa to study in Australia, when in Australia, and travel insurance whilst on Study Away | OSHC for the duration of research in Australia will be covered, as well as health insurance for international candidates who have HUJI as their home institution |
| Support to each UoM PI for relevant activities, including mobility support for the Melbourne-based candidate to travel: \$10,000 AUD lump sum  | Support for each HUJI PI for relevant activities, including mobility support for the HUJI-based candidate to travel: \$8,000 USD lump sum                        |

## REPORTING AND OTHER CONDITIONS

UoM recipients will be required to provide regular updates on project progress during the candidature of their joint PhD candidates. These updates will be requested quarterly by the IRTG Academic Lead. Recipients who fail to participate in regular reporting mechanisms for this IRTG may be found ineligible for participation in future Researcher Development Schemes.

## PROJECT PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Before preparing a proposal, please note the following:

- Up to six projects (across three collaborative research teams) will be supported in the third cohort of the UoM Jerusalem-Melbourne Joint PhD program.
- PIs should ensure that they have capacity to take on two joint PhD candidates in line with their institution's policies and meet the eligibility requirements to participate in the scheme.
- Each pair of PIs should propose two projects, with no interdependence between them. The projects can be on a similar research topic or theme, but the candidates cannot rely on each other's results or completed thesis work to progress in their candidature.
- The candidate must submit their thesis within 4 years (the maximum course duration). The candidate is eligible to receive a scholarship up to 3.5 years, with a request for a scholarship extension to be submitted by the candidate at the 3-year milestone if required.
- Candidates recruited for the successful projects will be required to commence their PhD in 2022. At least 12 months should be spent at each institution (i.e. at least 12 months at UoM and 12 months at HUJI).

Proposals should include (3 pages maximum):

- A cover sheet containing the details of both PIs and any co-supervisors, using the provided template.
- If applicable, a summary of previous collaboration between the PIs.
- CVs for investigators. This includes the PIs from both institutions and all who are listed on the project team. Each CV should include an overview of the current position and employment history, 10 career-best publications, awards and relevant presentations, and current grant income.

- The investigators' supervision history of graduate research candidates, noting timely completions and previous supervision of any international candidates.
- A brief description of the two PhD projects:
  - Indicating which University will be the home institution for the project (the University providing the scholarship and normally where the majority of time will be spent by the joint PhD candidate).
  - Providing an indicative plan for where and when the different parts of the research will take place at each institution.
- An outline of any proposed additional collaborative research activities and associated costs.
- Evidence of approval from the relevant School or Department at **both** institutions. UoM PIs will also need to obtain approval from their Faculty's Associate Dean (Graduate Research).
- For proposals involving a PI from UoM's Faculty of Arts: You must also provide a statement addressing how the candidates will meet the Faculty's PhD coursework requirements in your application. Please refer to the [Faculty's guidelines](#) for additional information. It is recommended to contact the Associate Dean (Graduate Research) for any further guidance.

## EVALUATION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS

UoM and HUJI will rank the proposals against selection criteria and agree on up to three top-ranking research groups (six projects) to award funding. The selection criteria are as follows:

- **Collaborator complementarity** – What is the evidence of an existing research relationship or added value of a new collaboration? How does the collaboration combine mutual areas of interest and strength?
- **Quality of supervision** – Do the PIs have a track record of supervising PhD candidates to completion? Do the PIs have experience of co-supervising PhD candidates internationally? How will the PIs work together effectively in jointly supervising their shared PhD candidates? What are the beneficial learning outcomes and experiences for the joint PhD candidates?
- **Project design and rationale** – How clearly presented and justified is the basis for, and design of, the joint PhD project? What are the anticipated benefits of involving joint PhD researchers in the collaboration? What is the benefit of the candidate spending a minimum of 12 months at each institution?
- **Potential impact** – What is the level of originality and innovation in the research proposal? To what extent does the research proposal plan to address significant challenges and what is the anticipated benefit to local or international communities?
- **Capacity for expanded collaboration** – What is the extent of the planned collaboration between the PIs beyond joint supervision? How well does the proposal plan to leverage external funding? To what extent are future collaborations made possible as a result of the proposed activities?

## KEY DATES FOR 2021

- Call for joint PhD projects closes: 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021
- Outcome notification: End of August 2021
- Projects advertised for joint PhD candidate recruitment: September 2021

**PIs must successfully recruit two joint PhD candidates by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022. If the PIs do not meet this recruitment deadline, the scholarship and mobility funding will be recalled for use in a future call.**

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

#### **SUBMISSION AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

A single, jointly prepared proposal (3 pages maximum, excluding the cover sheet) must be submitted in English in PDF form to Keri Rosenbluh ([keriro@savion.huji.ac.il](mailto:keriro@savion.huji.ac.il)) by 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021. All applicants must ensure relevant Head of Department/School approval is attached, as well as Associate Dean (Graduate Research) approval for UoM projects.

*HUJI submission and contact details:*

**Keri Rosenbluh**

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International Office  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
[keriro@savion.huji.ac.il](mailto:keriro@savion.huji.ac.il)

*UoM contact details:*

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