



iuai | **IRISH
UNIVERSITIES
ASSOCIATION**

IRELAND'S NATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH DEGREE PROGRAMMES

euacde COUNCIL
FOR DOCTORAL
EDUCATION

THE IRISH UNIVERSITY CONTEXT

Irish Universities Association (IUA)

Membership includes seven universities in the Republic of Ireland:

- Dublin City University
- Maynooth University
- University College Cork
- University College Dublin
- University College Galway
- University of Limerick
- Trinity College

Research Student Enrolments

2017-18: 10,015 (HEA)

9/10 research students in Ireland are studying in universities

Full Time

Research Masters: 1,150

PhD: 6,888

Part Time

Research Masters: 352

PhD: 1,625

2018 REVIEW OF COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH DEGREE PROGRAMMES

Key Issues:

- Strategic importance of collaborative research
- Quality assurance for CRDPs
- Diverse political and legal frameworks across international universities.

Additional Issues:

- Lack of common terminology
- Funding/Fees
- Administrative process
- Joint supervision vs joint award; joint parchments.



INITIATIVES

Irish National Guidelines for (CRDPs)—in progress

The guidelines:

- Standardise the definition and type of CRDPs
- The criteria for development of CRDPs
- The standard regulations of Irish Universities.

Database of CRDPs—proposed

Central database, containing:

- Existing CRDPs at Irish universities
- Statutory requirements of international partners.



IRISH NATIONAL GUIDELINES: DEFINING CRDPs

In Ireland, a Collaborative Research Degree Programme is defined as:

A collaboration between two or more institutions in which the cooperating institutions as a group are responsible for admission, academic supervision, the conferral of the degree and other elements as described in these recommended guidelines. The collaboration is normally organised in the form of a consortium and is regulated by a Memorandum of Understanding/Agreement between the consortium members.

University Act, 1997; QA Act, 2001; QQI and IHEQA guidelines

Collaborative Research Degree Programmes are usually developed after a general Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which includes a statement of *Due Diligence* in relation to legal, financial and academic capacity has been agreed amongst the partner institutions.

IRISH NATIONAL GUIDELINES: TYPES OF CRDPs

Collaborative research may lead to:

- Joint Degree (one parchment)
- Dual/Double Degree (two parchments)

- Co-tutelle (individual contract)
- External supervision arrangement
- Single Degree from one Institution

The Irish National Guidelines comprehend the first two types of CRDPs.

In Ireland, the Joint Degree model is the university sector's preferred model.

In cases where national statutes mandate Dual/Double Degrees, Irish universities may award them.

IRISH NATIONAL GUIDELINES: CRITERIA FOR DEVELOPMENT OF CRDPs

CRDPs are developed by Irish universities only when at least one of the following criteria has been met:

- The proposed CRDP is in line with the strategic plan of the university
- The proposed CRDP is linked to a funding call
- A department/discipline provides evidence that collaboration with the partner institution will be linked to no fewer than five students and is likely to lead to additional integrated programmes

In addition, Irish universities will only develop CRDPs with institutes that are approved by a national accreditation agency.

IRISH NATIONAL GUIDELINES: STANDARD REGULATIONS

Structured PhD credits

	DCU	MU	NUIG	UCC	UCD	UL	TCD
Credits Required	0	30	30	15	30	30	10-30

Additional Regulations

Lead Institution	Duration	Supervisor	Fees	IP	Viva Voce Examination	Graduation & Parchment
A lead institution must be identified.	All PhD programmes are 4 year duration. A minimum of one year in Ireland.	One eligible supervisor from each partner institution is required.	Fees are open to negotiation, but each partner should receive, at minimum, fees for one year.	Foreground IP developed by the student will normally be jointly owned by the partner institutions.	<i>Viva Voce</i> examination is mandatory.	Graduation at one ceremony only. Joint degrees preferred.

PROPOSED DATABASES

Database of Irish Collaborative Research Degree Programmes

A central database of existing CRDPs will enable a sharing of expertise across the sector. The database will be located in the IUA and will contain details on:

University in Ireland	Partner University	Type of Agreement	Date of Agreement	Comments

Database of Statutory Requirements by EU Country

Details on statutory requirements by EU country could contain information on:

Country	University	Legal Status of Candidate	Degree Legislative Requirements	Governed under National Quality Guidelines	IP	Viva Rqmts

KEY QUESTIONS

Will national guidelines enhance collaborative research and doctoral mobility?

Is there merit in developing an EU database of collaborative research degree programmes and EU countries' regulatory requirements?

Would these initiatives lessen the administrative burden in developing CRDPs?



Thank you

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