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1. Background

- ## 2. Program

- ### 3. Institutional Policies Apply

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4. Candidates – admission, enrolment and other requirements

4.1. Admission

- 4.1.1. To be eligible for enrolment to the Program, an applicant must satisfy all usual entry and admission requirements or criteria of both Institutions, including English language proficiency and any admission requirements specific for the Program as either Institution may require.
- 4.1.2. Nothing in this Agreement affects either Institution's right or discretion to refuse to enrol an applicant to the Program.

4.2. Enrolment and progression

- 4.2.1. For the purposes of this Agreement, an admitted Candidate will be enrolled in the Master of Research at WSU and have 80 credit points of academic credit applied against the Master of Science at HAU
- 4.2.2. A Candidate is subject to the policies, regulations and/or rules of both Institutions with respect to their admission, enrolment and academic progression during the period of study.
- 4.2.3. For HAU the Candidate's academic progression must meet the conditions specified below (the Coursework year).
 - The Candidate must successfully complete (that is, must pass all units) of the Program at HAU
 - The Program must be equivalent to 80 credit points (i.e. one-year full time study with Distinction average).
 - Written confirmation of academic performance must be provided by the Principal Supervisors (as identified in Clause 4.4) of both Institutions.Knowledge, skills and the learning outcomes are equivalent to the WSU's Bachelor of Research Studies (Course Code 8083), meeting Australian Qualifications Framework Levels 7 and/or 8.
- 4.2.4. For WSU the Candidate's academic progression into the thesis year, they must meet the conditions specified below.
 - The Presentation of Proposal must be completed to a satisfactory level in order to enrol in the Thesis year at WSU equivalent to the unit *Proposing Development 2: Proposing and Justifying Research*. The research proposal should be developed with the academic advisors at both Institutions during the Coursework year.
 - The Presentation of Proposal comprises a 3,000-word project proposal and presentation over a video/conference call.
 - The Candidate's proposed thesis must be agreed by the Principal Supervisor of both Institutions before commencement.
 - Ethics clearances (if required) must be prepared and approved before research commences. Ethics approvals can only be applied for once the Candidate has passed the Presentation of Proposal (or equivalent) specified above prior to research commencing.
- 4.2.5. The Candidate's date of enrolment is the date of enrolment stated in WSU's written notice of enrolment.
- 4.2.6. The maximum duration of candidature at WSU is one year, full time only, calculated from the date of enrolment. Approval to extend must be compliant with Clause 4.2.7 below.
- 4.2.7. The maximum duration (specified in clause 4.2.6) will only be extended in exceptional cases, and will require:
 - 4.2.7.1. written application for extension lodged by a Candidate no later than 3 months before the due date for the Candidate's thesis/submission;

4.2.7.2. support of both Principal Supervisors; and

4.2.7.3. approval in writing by an authorised signatory of each Institution.

4.3. Allocation of time between Institutions

4.3.1. The period of work that a Candidate is required to complete at each Institution is 12 months.

4.3.2. The duration of the above periods at each Institution may be amended by agreement between the Institutions having regard to the progress made by the Candidate and the regulations/policies of each Institution.

4.4. Supervision

4.4.1. Each Institution must appoint a Principal Supervisor to supervise and assess a Candidate's work and progress in the Program (jointly with the Principal Supervisor of the other Institution).

4.4.2. Each Institution may nominate an Associate Supervisor to be a member of the supervisory panel for a Candidate.

4.4.3. Each Institution must promptly identify its Principal Supervisor (and Associate Supervisor) to the other Institution.

4.4.4. If a supervisor is unable to continue in that role, or leaves the Institution, the relevant Institution will provide alternative supervision arrangements in a timely manner.

4.4.5. The Principal Supervisors (and Associate Supervisor) on the supervisory panel will consult regularly with each other and the Candidate (in person, via email, by telephone/conferencing, etc.) on the progress of the Candidate's work. Both Principal Supervisors will be physically present or be present via virtual technology at significant events in the progress of candidature. The Principal Supervisors will make reasonable efforts to meet face-to-face at conferences or at the Institutions during the period of candidature.

4.5. Thesis, examination and award

4.5.1. The language of the thesis will be English.

4.5.2. The examination process for awarding the degree will be managed according to policies/regulations and processes of each Institution.

4.5.3. Without limiting clause 4.5.2:

4.5.3.1. the principal policy at WSU for examination and awarding the degree is the WSU Research Masters (Hons) Policy; and

4.5.3.2. the principal policy at the Institute of HAU for examination and awarding degree is the Master of Science policy and guidelines.

4.6. Conferral of award

4.6.1. If a Candidate is successful, each Institution will award a degree as follows:

4.6.1.1. WSU: Master of Research.

4.6.1.2. HAU Master of Science.

4.6.2. Each testamur must contain an acknowledgement that it has been issued under a joint program between the two Institutions.

4.7. Withdrawal from candidature

4.7.1. The Institutions acknowledge and agree that a Candidate may:

4.7.1.1. withdraw from his or her degree program at an Institution at any time before submission of thesis; and

4.7.1.2. subject to the agreement of the relevant Institution, continue with that Institution for the remainder of his or her enrolment.

4.8. Suspension or termination of candidature

- 4.8.1. If a Candidate's enrolment at either Institution is suspended or terminated for any reason, his or her enrolment at the other Institution will be considered suspended or terminated (as applicable) automatically.
- 4.8.2. An Institution must notify the other Institution of any suspension or termination of the Candidate's enrolment.

5. Governance and administrative details

- 5.1. The Institutions agree to fully and accurately communicate to an applicant the financial and other costs of Candidature, which may include (but not necessarily limited to):
 - 5.1.1. transport to and from the Institutions (including air fares) and other travelling expenses during the course of his/her enrolment with either Institution unless otherwise specified below;
 - 5.1.2. accommodation and other living expenses;
 - 5.1.3. textbooks, clothing and other personal expenses;
 - 5.1.4. any student services or amenities fees or contributions payable to either Institution;
 - 5.1.5. all costs and other expenses incurred by the Candidate during the course of his or her enrolment with either Institution; and
 - 5.1.6. the purchase for themselves (and their family if appropriate) Overseas Student Health Care Cover as prescribed by the Australian Government, Department of Home Affairs.
- 5.2. Each Institution is responsible for all costs and expenses incurred in connection with the examination, evaluation and assessment of a Candidate's research.
- 5.3. WSU arrangements:
 - 5.3.1. Tuition Fee
 - 5.3.1.1. A tuition fee will be specified prior to admission with 25% discount applied.
 - 5.3.2. Scholarship Stipend
 - 5.3.2.1. No WSU scholarship stipend will be awarded for the Master of Research Thesis year.
 - 5.3.3. Candidature Project Funds: WSU will provide Candidature Project Funds (up to the value of \$3,000 AUD per annum pro rata) for the duration the Candidate is onshore at WSU as agreed in Clause 4.3.
- 5.4. HAU arrangements:
 - 5.4.1. HAU will nominally allocate 5 to 10 seats each year in the Master of Science program for the India-Australia Dual award program with WSU in one or more areas of mutual interest provided adequate supervision is identified as per Clause 4.4.
 - 5.4.2. Any fee, scholarship, project funding, or travel support at HAU is to be managed by HAU

6. Ethics clearances

- 6.1. Each Institution must ensure the Candidate does not commence any research work requiring animal and/or human ethics approval unless and until that ethics clearance has been given in accordance with the requirements of both Institutions.

7. Intellectual property rights

- 7.1. The Institutions acknowledge and agree that:
 - 7.1.1. the Candidate will own copyright in his or her thesis; and
 - 7.1.2. unless the Candidate otherwise assigns or licences his or her intellectual property rights in writing,

the Candidate owns any intellectual property rights he or she generates of his or her own.

- 7.2. If, as a condition of funding of the Candidate's research by any third party, that third party requires the Candidate to assign or licence any intellectual property rights, then both Institutions and the Candidate must negotiate a separate Agreement with that third party.
- 7.3. Issues related to authorship and publication shall follow the protocols of both Institutions. The Candidate is required to indicate his or her affiliation with both Institutions in any published works.

8. Grievances and disciplinary matters

- 8.1. Any grievances, allegations of academic misconduct and any other disciplinary matters (including termination of candidature) as well as any appeals in relation to decisions made on such matters will be managed in accordance with the policies and processes of the Institution where the matter arose. An Institution that becomes aware of such a matter must promptly notify the other Institution of the matter and any action that it is taking or is proposing to take in response.

9. Exchange of information about candidate

- 9.1. The Institutions agree to exchange all relevant information and reports concerning the Candidate's candidature.

10. Examination process

10.1. The examination process for WSU will be as follows:

- i. On the recommendation of all supervisors and the relevant HDR Director or equivalent, the relevant WSU Research and Higher Degrees Committee shall approve and appoint two external examiners of the thesis (plus one reserve).
- ii. Any conflicts of interest or potential for conflicts of interest relating to examiners must be declared.
- iii. An external examiner is a person who is not an employee of the University at the time when invited to examine the thesis, and who has not been an employee of the University within the five years prior to the examination.
- iv. Past supervisors of the candidate cannot act as an examiner.
- v. Examiners will hold qualifications at the level of or the equivalent to that which they are examining and be recognised academic leaders in their discipline.
- vi. The Candidate may advise their Principal Supervisors if there is a particular person in their field who they would prefer not to have as an examiner.
- vii. The Candidate will not be informed of the composition of their examining panel at the time of examination. After examination, the Candidate may learn the identity of an examiner, if the examiner agrees to their name being disclosed on the thesis report. Examiners may request that their identity not be disclosed but they will be informed that this information may be requested by candidates under the right to information provisions.
- viii. The examiners will be asked to assess the work to determine if:
 - the thesis as a whole makes an original contribution to the knowledge of the subject with which it deals;
 - the thesis provides a sufficiently comprehensive study of the topic appropriate to the degree in the discipline area, or in related interdisciplinary areas;
 - the methods adopted are appropriate to the subject matter and are appropriately applied;
 - the research findings are suitably set out, accompanied by adequate exposition and are discussed critically in the context of the discipline; and

- the quality of English and general presentation is satisfactory.
- ix. Each examiner shall report in writing to the Graduate Research School at WSU within six weeks of the date of posting of the thesis. Examiners may be replaced if a report is not received within two months unless the examiner is given leave to report late.

10.2. The outcome of the thesis examination once all due processes have been completed will be as follows:

- i. 85-100% A candidature producing work of this quality is capable of going on to original and innovative research and is strongly suited for enrolment in PhD. A thesis at this level:
 - clearly and fully outlines its research topic and objectives, explaining and justifying the project in relation to key developments in the field and recent literature;
 - clearly and fully outlines and explains the research undertaken, in terms of the methodology chosen and why it was chosen in preference to alternatives;
 - draws clear and fully-supported conclusions from the research that allows for critical reflection on the research questions, the current status of related research and possible future directions for research; and,
 - is clearly and cogently structured and well-written, and conforms to disciplinary conventions in terms of its presentation.
- ii. 75-84% A candidate producing work of this quality is capable of undertaking a PhD. A thesis at this level:
 - provides a good account of the research objectives in relation to developments in the field and recent literature;
 - explains the research undertaken and why a certain methodology was chosen as appropriate;
 - draws conclusions that are broadly supported by the research, and that respond clearly to the research question; and,
 - is clearly structured and written, and conforms to disciplinary conventions in terms of its presentation.
- iii. 65-74% A candidate working at this level is capable of higher degree research, but not yet at a doctoral level. A thesis at this level:
 - has a clear research objective informed by developments in the field and recent literature;
 - explains its methodology clearly;
 - relates its conclusions clearly to the research undertaken; and,
 - is adequately written, structured and presented.
- iv. 50-64% A student working at this level is not capable of further higher degree research at this stage of their research career. A thesis at this level:
 - identifies its research objective;
 - has a clear methodology;
 - draws conclusions based on the research undertaken;
 - is written and presented adequately.
- v. Below 50%
 - The thesis does not meet the standard for the award of the degree.

SIGNATURE PAGE

SIGNED for and on behalf of the **WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY**

ABN 53 014 069 881 by its authorised delegate:

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Signature of authorised delegate

Professor Barney Glover

Vice-Chancellor

SIGNED for and on behalf of **CCS HARYANA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, HISAR**

by its authorised delegate:

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Signature of authorised delegate

Professor B R Kamboj

Vice-Chancellor