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# Memorandum of Understanding Institutional Collaboration for Dual Awards and Joint Higher Degrees

between

Western Sydney University

and

Kaveri University

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# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding is made on 01 September 2025

**BETWEEN**                      **WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY** ABN 53 014 069 881

(**“Western Sydney University or WSU”**)

**AND**                              **KAVERI UNIVERSITY**

(**“Kaveri University or KU”**)

## **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 This Memorandum is a non-binding statement of intention of both institutions named above to cooperate in arrangements that enable research students to undertake and be awarded dual awards or joint higher degrees for programs of study and research undertaken at both institutions.
- 1.2 This Memorandum records the goodwill of both institutions to commence exploring suitable arrangements.

## **2. Term and termination**

- 2.1 This Memorandum remains in force for a period of five (5) years following signature by both parties unless terminated earlier. It may be renewed or extended for an additional five (5) year term with the written approval of both institutions.
- 2.2 Either institution may terminate this Memorandum by giving the other institution written notice at least one (1) year in advance of the proposed termination date. Any termination of this Memorandum does not affect any existing agreements due to expire after that termination date.

## **3. Status of this Memorandum**

- 3.1 Subject to clause 3.2, this Memorandum does not create any legally binding relationship between the institutions, but by signing this Memorandum the parties express their intention to comply with its terms.
- 3.2 Clauses 7 (Privacy) and 9 (Media and Publicity) are intended to be binding.

## **4. Implementation details**

- 4.1 The institutions will work together to identify opportunities for joint dual award or higher degree programs in specific fields of research, where degrees are awarded by both institutions. Each award will include certification stating that the award is made

as a consequence of a conjoint arrangement between the institutions.

- 4.2 The number of candidates to be admitted to a dual award or joint research program will be agreed between both institutions each year.
- 4.3 Each conjoint arrangement will be the subject of a separate written candidature agreement signed by both institutions and the participating student that sets out specific details of that arrangement according to the requirements of both institutions, including:
- (a) details of the participating student;
  - (b) the participating faculties or schools of each institution;
  - (c) thesis title and research topic description;
  - (d) the maximum duration of the degree;
  - (e) length of residency at both institutions;
  - (f) minimum admission requirements, including English language requirements;
  - (g) any assessment or skills requirements (such as coursework or examinations) in addition to production of a thesis;
  - (h) how the degree will be administered, including supervision and examination arrangements;
  - (i) any requirements for ethics approval;
  - (j) access to research equipment and infrastructure and IT, office and study facilities (if required);
  - (k) regulation of student intellectual property rights, including use and protection of the student's research and publication of the student's thesis;
  - (l) financial arrangements, including tuition fees, student stipends or scholarships, oral defence costs, travel and support costs (including overseas health cover requirements);
  - (m) how any conflicts or disparities between policies of the two institutions will be managed;
  - (n) that the student will be subject to the policies, rules and regulations of both institutions for the period of their enrolment;
  - (o) any other matters that the institutions consider appropriate.
- 4.4 Both institutions recognise that higher degree research students may be subject to the requirements of the Australian Government's Australian Postgraduate Awards Scheme. If so, these requirements will be incorporated into individual candidature agreements between the institutions.
- 4.5 Overseas students studying in Australia and their overseas home institution will be required to comply with relevant Australian laws (such as the *Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000*), including laws relating to immigration and visa requirements and enrolment of students.

- 4.6 Both institutions acknowledge the regulatory framework in which they operate. In the case of **KU**, the awarding of the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree is under the provisions of:
- The Telangana State Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) Act, 2018 under which Kaveri University was established, which grants statutory recognition and degree-awarding powers to private universities in the state.
  - The academic processes and standards for the Ph.D. program strictly adhere to the latest Restructured and Revised Syllabus of ICAR for M.Sc Agriculture and PhD programs and University Grants Commission (UGC) Regulations, 2022 on the Minimum Standards and Procedures for the Award of Ph.D. Degree.

Accordingly, Kaveri University follows a rigorous framework covering coursework, research supervision, evaluation, and plagiarism checks, in full alignment with national quality and academic standards., and in the case of **WSU**, this is the Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021, overseen by the Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency (collectively, '**Regulatory Requirements**'). The parties will cooperate to ensure compliance with the Regulatory Requirements in the conduct of dual award or joint research programs. If a party considers that the Regulatory Requirements are not being met at any stage, it will raise the matter with the other party and the parties will immediately take such reasonable steps as are necessary to ensure compliance is achieved.

## 5. General principles for joint programs

The general principles applying to dual award or joint higher research programs between the institutions include the following:

- (a) **Admission:** participating students must satisfy the admission requirements or criteria of both institutions.
- (b) **Enrolment:** students will be enrolled concurrently at both institutions according to the institutions' requirements. The student's home institution will be the institution at which the student is first enrolled.
- (c) **Duration:** the duration of candidature for PhD programs is usually 3 years. The maximum duration is 4 years and can only be extended in exceptional cases if approved by both institutions.
- (d) **Allocation:** the period of work that students are required to complete in both institutions will be set out in the individual candidature agreement. Students will bear load at only one institution at a time.
- (e) **Supervision:** each institution will assign a supervisor to jointly supervise and assess a student's work in accordance with the arrangements specified in the individual candidature agreement and make alternative supervisions arrangements as required.
- (f) **Conferral of awards:** a student who has fulfilled the requirements of the dual award program will be awarded a degree according to the details outlined in the Individual Candidature Agreement.

- (g) **Withdrawal:** a student may withdraw from the program at an institution any time before submission of thesis. It will be up to each institution as to whether they allow the student to retain individual candidature with that institution.
- (h) **Tuition fees and scholarships:** tuition fees will be set out in the individual candidature agreement for each student. If one institution will waive tuition fees, then the other institution will also apply tuition fee waiver for that student. The student may receive scholarships in accordance with the home institution's rules. The scholarship is not fixed or guaranteed as part of this arrangement. Any specific scholarship details will be outlined in the Individual Candidature Agreement.
- (i) **Student costs:** each student will be responsible for their own travel, accommodation and living costs, any student services or amenities fees payable to either institution, and appropriate health and other insurance cover.
- (j) **Ethics approval:** a student must not commence any research work in connection with a joint program unless and until ethics approval is given in accordance with the requirements of both institutions.
- (k) **Intellectual property rights:** a student will own intellectual property rights in the student's thesis. The institutions acknowledge that unless a candidate assigns or licences their intellectual property rights in writing, the student owns any intellectual property rights they generate under the program. Issues related to authorship and publication will follow the policies of a student's home institution.
- (l) **Examination protocols:** the examination protocols for specific programs will be as per the requirements of those programs and examination process will be outlined in the Individual Candidature Agreement.
- (m) **Application of policies:** students must comply with all policies and rules of both institutions, including those relating to enrolment, academic progression, leave of absence, assessment, and accepted standards of research integrity and other conduct. Students will be required to undertake any review processes specified by either institution.
- (n) **Grievances and misconduct:** grievances and appeals, and academic misconduct processes will be managed in accordance with the home institution's policies. Any non-academic misconduct will be managed in accordance with the policies of the institution where the misconduct is alleged to have occurred, but that institution must notify the other institution.

## 6. Specific Program Conditions

- 6.1 Additional arrangements relating to specific programs may be recorded in Annexures to this Memorandum. On execution by both parties, such Annexures will form part of this Memorandum. To the extent of any inconsistency between the terms of an Annexure and these terms, the terms of the Annexure will prevail.

- 6.2 At the times reasonably requested by a party and subject to applicable privacy laws, each party agrees to provide the other party with the following information relating to specific programs:
- (a) the number of applicants who applied for a specific award;
  - (b) the number of applicants shortlisted for a specific award; and
  - (c) the selection criteria and ranking outcomes for that award.
- 6.3 The information provided under clause 6.3 will be used to develop strategies to consider other high-ranking applicants for potential award opportunities, including the possibility of offering fee waivers.

## 7. Privacy

- 7.1 Each party must at all times comply with their respective obligations under relevant privacy laws in connection with the collection, storage, management or disclosure of personal information related to students.
- 7.2 It will be a condition of the written candidature agreement with individual students that the student consents to the institutions exchanging all relevant information and reports concerning the student's candidature.

## 8. Disclosure of foreign arrangements

- 8.1 The parties acknowledge that WSU may be required to disclose this Memorandum, and any arrangements or transactions contemplated by this Memorandum to the Commonwealth Government of Australia pursuant to the requirements of the *Australia's Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) Act 2020 (Cth)* ("**AFR Act**").
- 8.2 Kaveri University may be required to disclose this Memorandum of Understanding, along with any related arrangements or transactions contemplated herein, to the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), in accordance with their respective regulatory frameworks.

## 9. Media and publicity

- 9.1 Any public or announcements or statements (including to the media) about any of the matters dealt with in this Memorandum will first be agreed between the institutions before their release or publication.

## 10. Contacts

- 10.1 The contact details for **Western Sydney University** in respect of this Memorandum are:

Name	Ash Boulton
Title	Graduate Research International Partnerships Leader

Address Locked Bag 1797, Penrith NSW 2751, Australia

Email [a.boulton@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:a.boulton@westernsydney.edu.au)  
[grs.internationalpartnerships@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:grs.internationalpartnerships@westernsydney.edu.au)

10.2 The contact details for **School of Computer, Data and Mathematical Sciences** at Western Sydney University in respect of this Memorandum are:

Name Prof Athula Ginige

Title Professor of Information Technology

Address Locked Bag 1797, Penrith NSW 2751, Australia

Email [a.ginige@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:a.ginige@westernsydney.edu.au)

The contact details for **School of Science** at Western Sydney University in respect of this Memorandum are:

Name Professor Graciela Metternicht

Title Dean

Address Locked Bag 1797, Penrith NSW 2751, Australia

Email [G.Metternicht@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:G.Metternicht@westernsydney.edu.au)

The contact details for **Hawkesbury Institute For The Environment** at Western Sydney University in respect of this Memorandum are:

Name Professor Mark Tjoelker

Title Associate Director

Address Locked Bag 1797, Penrith NSW 2751, Australia

Email [m.tjoelker@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:m.tjoelker@westernsydney.edu.au)

10.3 The contact details for **KU** in respect of this Memorandum are:

Name Dr. V Praveen Rao

Title Vice-Chancellor

Address	Gowraram Village, Wargal Mandal, Siddipet, Telangana, India
Email	<a href="mailto:velchalap@gmail.com">velchalap@gmail.com</a>



## 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

Prof. Deborah Sweeney

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Name of authorised delegate

Provost

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Position of authorised delegate

**SIGNED** for and on behalf of **KAVERI** )  
**UNIVERSITY** )  
by its authorised delegate: )  
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Signature of authorised delegate

Dr V Praveen Rao

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Name of authorised delegate

Vice-Chancellor

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Position of authorised delegate