

Griffith University and University of Southern Denmark Exchange Partnership Program for PhD students

Guidelines

The Partnership Program

Further to the Memorandum of Understanding and Collaborative Travel Grant Scheme signed in 2012, Griffith University and University of Southern Denmark wish to expand the research collaborations between the two institutions building upon existing research projects in the areas of:

- Science, Pharmacy, Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Biology
- Engineering and Technology, Welfare Technology, Robotics and IT
- Health (including the “Twins Register” studies at both SDU and Griffith), Public Health, Psychology (including Child Studies), Medicine, Biotechnology, Sports and Exercise Science
- Business, Marketing and Management, Sustainable Tourism, Law and Journalism
- Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, Design and research collaborations with the Hans Christian Andersen Centre
- such other areas as the parties shall agree.

Travel grant scheme

Each institution will contribute funding for up to three PhD exchange grants per year for three years. Grants will normally include travel and research support as agreed by the contributing partners. The purpose of the grant is to assist PhD students from each institution to undertake an onsite visit with the host institution for twelve months, as part of their collaborative research project. Lesser periods of a minimum of six to nine months may be considered, as well as splitting the visit over two years where appropriate. It is expected that this PhD partnership program will develop existing research projects and lead to collaborative publications in high quality research outlets.

The home institution will provide each student with a living allowance. Successful Griffith applicants will be awarded a stipend scholarship and a tuition scholarship where required (for Griffith international students). University of Southern Denmark students will be provided a salary as standard for PhD students in Denmark. Students will be responsible for meeting their own living and accommodation costs from this grant.

Each institution will manage its own funds onsite.

Eligibility

Researchers within existing research projects (including but not limited to SDU-Griffith Collaborative Research projects) may select appropriate candidates and apply for the funding. Each application must include at least one researcher from each institution, both of whom will have continuing academic positions in the year of award, who will co-supervise the PhD student. Applications are also open to Danish and Australian permanent residents; and international students where the conditions of residence enable them to be eligible to be enrolled and to travel to the host institution for a period of study.

Applications must be in one or more of the disciplinary areas listed above.

Terms and Conditions

The PhD salary (SDU) or scholarship (Griffith) is of 3 years duration. It is expected that candidates will undertake the onsite visit with the host institution during the 2nd year of their PhD. For Griffith University students, a scholarship extension of up to six months may be granted according to Griffith's policy.

Each institution will nominate a contact person at the host institution to assist with coordinating initial arrangements for arriving PhD students with other elements of the university.

The host institution will provide a desk space, computer and library access and will assist with information regarding accommodation options.

Each PhD student is responsible for making arrangements for a suitable insurance plan, which must include sufficient medical coverage. Travel insurance is also recommended. The cost of the insurance will be paid by the PhD student.

Each PhD student will remain enrolled in their home institution, with their PhD managed, organized and controlled by the home institution, including the thesis and exam process.

Assessment of Applications for Travel grant/PhD funding

Applications from each institution will be assessed and ranked by a selection panel of senior academic staff.

For Griffith University students:

Griffith researchers involved in current research projects are to identify co-supervisors and select potential PhD candidates by the due date specified each year. Griffith will assess all applications using its normal procedures for entry into a Higher Degree Research program and entry is subject to meeting all requirements for candidature.

Selection Process:

Applications for admission will be considered for funding under the PhD partnership Program where the following supporting documents are provided:

- A supporting statement from the Griffith supervisor addressing the partnership program selection criteria; and
- Confirmation from the host institution that the applicant can be accommodated for the period of the proposed onsite visit.

Applications will be considered for the award of a travel grant and scholarship by a Scholarship Selection Committee to be comprised of the Dean, Griffith Graduate Research School and two Deans (Research).

Selection Criteria

The selection panel will consider applications against the following selection criteria:

- The quality of the aims, significance, research plan and proposed outcomes of the research collaboration;
- How well the proposed project contributes to the advancement of knowledge in the nominated disciplinary areas; and
- Evidence of an existing research relationship between Griffith and SDU staff and the likelihood of realizing joint benefits to Griffith and SDU (for example the establishment and/or continuation of a long-term research collaboration, attracting funding from external funding sources, and/or generating collaborative publications in highly ranked outlets).

Each institution will seek endorsement from the other partner. **Once there has been joint consultation and agreement between the two Chairs, ie, the Senior DVC, Griffith and Prorector, SDU**, Griffith will notify SDU of the Griffith PhD candidates selected for the PhD Partnership Program.

The Senior DVC will be the final approving authority for the award of grants and scholarships to the Griffith PhD candidates.

Griffith will include in its offer of admission:

- A reference to the Griffith University and University of Southern Denmark PhD Partnership Program;
- The School or research institute of study;
- The title of the proposed research project;
- The names of the supervisors; and
- The details of the award of a travel grant, and where applicable scholarship(s).

For SDU students:

SDU researchers involved in current research projects are to identify co-supervisors and select potential PhD candidates for consideration and approval by the Head of the PhD School within each faculty at SDU.

Selection Process:

Applications for admission will be considered for funding under the PhD partnership Program where the following supporting documents are provided:

- A supporting statement from the SDU supervisor addressing the partnership program selection criteria; and
- Confirmation from the host institution that the applicant can be accommodated for the period of the proposed onsite visit.

Applications will be considered for the award of a travel grant by an assessment panel to be comprised of:

- Prorector (Chair)
- 2 members: the relevant Head of PhD School; and the faculty Dean
- other senior academic representatives

Selection Criteria

The assessment panel will consider applications against the following selection criteria:

- The quality of the aims, significance, research plan and proposed outcomes of the research collaboration;
- How well the proposed project contributes to the advancement of knowledge in the nominated disciplinary areas; and
- Evidence of an existing research relationship between Griffith and SDU staff and the Likelihood of realizing joint benefits to Griffith and SDU (for example the establishment and/or continuation of a long-term research collaboration, attracting funding from external funding sources, and/or generating collaborative publications in highly ranked outlets).

Each institution will seek endorsement from the other partner. **Once there has been joint consultation and agreement between the two Chairs, ie, the Prorector, SDU and Senior DVC, Griffith**, SDU will notify Griffith of the SDU PhD candidates selected for the PhD Partnership Program.

Funding Proposal

In addition to the normal PhD salary from SDU for SDU students; and scholarship for Griffith PhD students (living allowance and where required tuition fee scholarship), a subsidy for travel and accommodation of AUD\$15,000 per PhD student is also included in the grant.