

## **Frequently Asked Questions for the Dual PhD Degree Programmes**

### **(1) If I am a current PhD student at a partner university, can I apply for admission to the Dual PhD Degree Programmes?**

In general, all qualified full-time PhD students at our Overseas and Mainland partner universities can apply for admission to this programme. Please also check with your home universities regarding their regulations. Partner universities will send the application list to PolyU in February every year. If you are recommended by your home university and admitted by PolyU, you will become a Dual PhD student. Please check here for information on the application procedure:

[https://www.polyu.edu.hk/gs/docdrive/Joint\\_PhD/Dual\\_PhD\\_Programmes\\_Application\\_Workflow\\_Current\\_PartnerU\\_students.pdf](https://www.polyu.edu.hk/gs/docdrive/Joint_PhD/Dual_PhD_Programmes_Application_Workflow_Current_PartnerU_students.pdf)

### **(2) If I am a prospective PolyU PhD student, can I apply for admission to the Dual PhD Degree Programmes?**

Prospective PolyU PhD students can submit an application to Overseas partner universities for admission to this programme. If you are admitted by both universities, you will become a Dual PhD student. Please check here for information on the application procedure:

[https://www.polyu.edu.hk/gs/docdrive/Joint\\_PhD/Dual\\_PhD\\_Programmes\\_Application\\_Workflow\\_Prospective\\_PolyU\\_students.pdf](https://www.polyu.edu.hk/gs/docdrive/Joint_PhD/Dual_PhD_Programmes_Application_Workflow_Prospective_PolyU_students.pdf)

### **(3) If I am a current PolyU PhD student, can I apply for the Dual PhD Degree Programmes?**

Yes, but it is only applicable to Year 1 PolyU PhD students. You can submit your application to Overseas partner universities for admission to this programme. If you are recommended by PolyU and admitted by the partner universities, you will become a Dual PhD student. Please check here for information on the application procedure:

[https://www.polyu.edu.hk/gs/docdrive/Joint\\_PhD/Dual\\_PhD\\_Programmes\\_Application\\_Workflow\\_Year\\_1\\_PolyU%20students.pdf](https://www.polyu.edu.hk/gs/docdrive/Joint_PhD/Dual_PhD_Programmes_Application_Workflow_Year_1_PolyU%20students.pdf)

### **(4) How do I arrange my studies in order to receive two award parchments?**

You are recommended to plan your studies in advance by following the regulations at your home universities and discuss your study plan with supervisors from both PolyU and the partner universities. Most Dual PhD students will be enrolled in the 4-year PhD programme at PolyU. You are required to study at PolyU for 2 consecutive years and at the partner university for the remaining period in order to fulfil the residence and coursework requirements and prepare for thesis submission. You can apply for credit transfer for courses taken at the postgraduate level

from the partner universities. Please refer to the section on [Credit Transfer](#) in the Research Postgraduate Student Handbook for more information.

**(5) The university where I obtained my bachelor's degree did not adopt the Honours degree system. Which documents are required to prove that my performance was equivalent to a first-class honor degree?**

You can provide official certificates/transcripts and official ranking in the graduation class of your bachelor's degree when you submit an online application via [RPg Admission System](#).

Specific requirements for supporting documents for each department can be found in this [link](#).

Please submit your documents and information as completely as possible. The host department at PolyU will make a judgement accordingly and contact you if more information is required.

**(6) When I receive an offer from PolyU, should I send the hard copy of my degree certificate to PolyU by post?**

Please refer to Accept the Admission Offer for information:

<https://www.polyu.edu.hk/study/pg/research-postgraduate-application-result-and-offer-acceptance>

**(7) Where can I find more information about the Dual PhD Degree Programmes and how can I prepare for the application?**

Please refer to the following webpages for relevant information and the application announcement published by your home university.

Programme information: <https://www.polyu.edu.hk/gs/prospective-students/collaborative-phd-programmes/dual-phd-degree-programmes/>

Application procedures: <https://www.polyu.edu.hk/gs/prospective-students/how-to-apply/>

**(8) If I don't have a satisfactory English result when I submit my online application, can I proceed with my application first and submit my English result later?**

Yes, you can submit your online application first and fulfil the condition(s) that have been applied to your offer. These may include satisfying academic conditions and providing English language test scores and/or degree results. To fulfil the condition(s) of your offer, you must upload the official documentary proof of your final degree results and/or English language test score report and update the final degree results and/or English test scores via RPgAdmission before the deadline specified in the online Notice of Offer. The sooner you can fulfil your condition(s), the better. However, if you apply to a department in FCE, they may not issue a conditional offer for applicants who need to meet the English language requirement. Please

check this website for the updates: <https://www.polyu.edu.hk/study/pg/research-postgraduate/supporting-documents-application-rpg>

**(9) What is the different between a Dual PhD student and a regular PhD student?**

Dual PhD student will be treated as a regular PhD student at PolyU. You can also enjoy the library resources, research facilities, the opportunities provided by the university. There will be a remark on the PolyU award parchment indicating that the Dual PhD Degree Programme is jointly offered by PolyU and the partner university.

**(10) Will the degree accreditation (学历认证) be affected as half of the time will be spent away from Hong Kong?**

We have not received any feedback from graduates indicating any issue/problem with degree accreditation. We recommend that you submit your degree accreditation application along with all your supporting documents, including study visa, study plan, and a testimonial or transcript indicating that you are admitted to the Collaborative PhD Degree Programme.

**(11) The graduation times differ between PolyU and the partner university. What should I do?**

Each university has its own timeline and schedule to approve and ratify the award, so the graduation times of the two Universities can differ, and this is not a problem. Please follow your approved study plan to arrange your studies and prepare for thesis submission. Please note that you can only apply for award ratification only after you have successfully completed your oral exams at both universities or the single oral exam held at either PolyU or the partner university. You will receive two award parchments, one from PolyU and one from the partner university, upon fulfillment of the requirements of both universities.

**(12) Do I need to graduate from the partner university first and then graduate from PolyU?**

Some partner universities request that the oral exam be conducted first, while others request that the award of the PhD degree be granted first.

For graduation requirements, you can find the details in [Appendix I](#) of the Research Postgraduate Student Handbook.

**(13) How can I apply for transfer credits for courses taken at partner universities?**

Dual PhD students must take courses offered by both PolyU and partner university. You can also apply for credit transfer for courses taken at the partner university. You should submit Form GSB/33 downloadable from the [GS website](#), via your Chief Supervisor to the D/SGO to initiate the

credit transfer at the beginning of your studies at PolyU. More information can be found in the Research Postgraduate Student Handbook:

<https://www.polyu.edu.hk/gs/rpghandbook/section8-3-1/>

**(14) What are the study requirements and milestones for Dual PhD students?**

Dual PhD students must comply with the credit requirements set by both universities for their respective PhD degrees. At PolyU, the credit requirements are outlined in the Research Postgraduate Student Handbook: <https://www.polyu.edu.hk/gs/rpghandbook/section8-1-4/>. Students are required to have their registration confirmed at PolyU before the stipulated deadline. Once the graduation requirements are fulfilled, students can prepare and submit their thesis according to the requirements of both PolyU and the partner university. Approvals from chief supervisors at both PolyU and the partner university must be obtained for thesis submission. Thesis review will be conducted separately according to the requirements of PolyU and the partner university. Both supervisors must attend the oral exam(s). Specific requirements for thesis submission and oral examinations can be found in [Appendix I](#) of the Research Postgraduate Student Handbook.

(October 2024)