Procedures for the Interdisciplinary Combined PhD Option

The creation of an Interdisciplinary Combined PhD Option requires completing the Interdisciplinary Combined PhD Degree Agreement form. This procedure document serves to clarify and provide direction for doing so, as well as to highlight important considerations.

The following table provides comments and additional considerations for each of the subsections of the Interdisciplinary Combined PhD Degree Agreement form:

Subsection	Comments & considerations
Student name:	(No additional comments)
Entrance requirements:	• The student is accepted first into the Home Program and then applies for admission to the Partnering Program. • The student must meet the entrance requirements of both programs and must be admitted by both programs. • If there is a variation from the normal requirements (e.g., if one Program is allowing a variation from their usual requirements), describe the variation.
Duration of degree:	• Interdisciplinary Combined Program duration is 4 years • If the student is expected to exceed the normal 4 year duration with an additional year, describe later in the funding section how the student will be supported financially for the additional year.
Supervisory committee structure:	• The structure of the supervisory committee for the Interdisciplinary Combined Program may vary from the structure of each of the participating program. • Such variation must be clearly described and must be in alignment with SGPS Regulations.
Course and milestone requirements:	• List the courses and milestones required for the combined program. • Describe how the course requirements of the two programs will be combined or varied. • If any courses or milestones will be required beyond the usual requirements of either program, they must be listed, along with any recommended or required timing of when such additional courses or milestones should be completed.

Subsection	Comments & considerations
Comprehensive examination(s) / Candidacy Examination milestones:	• Ideally, the student should not be required to complete the comprehensive exam requirements of both programs separately. • Rather, efforts should be made to combine or blend the requirements in a manner that supports the learning expectations of each program while avoiding separate comprehensive examinations.
Additional program requirements:	• Describe how any of the additional requirements from either program may be combined or waived for the Interdisciplinary Combined PhD Program. • In combining or waiving any additional requirements, information should be provided to explain how the learning expectations of the two programs will still be met. • Mandatory lab or safety training cannot be waived.
Thesis requirements:	• All thesis submission and examination related forms must be completed and submitted to SGPS by the Home Program. • Composition and approval of the thesis examination board, the public lecture, and examination date will be administered by the Home Program, in consultation with the Partnering Program.
Thesis examination committee format:	• Some variation from SGPS Regulations is expected in order to ensure that the examination board appropriate represents the research conducted in the Interdisciplinary Combined PhD Program. • However, it is strongly encouraged that the examination board not include more than one additional member (i.e., the usual PhD examination board includes 4 examiners; the Interdisciplinary Combined PhD examination board should not exceed 5 members).
Supervisor(s):	• Supervisors, one from each program, are required for the combined program. • The supervisor from the Home Program will have responsibility for ensuring that annual progress reports are submitted via the Home Program and for ensuring that thesis submission and examination forms are submitted to SGPS.
Funding and Teaching Assistantship:	• Detail the funding commitments from each Program (eg, GTAships, scholarships, Graduate Fellowships), breaking the details down by year if the funding sources are expected to change on a yearly basis. • Although the Partnering Program should reasonably contribute to the student's funding package, the Home

Subsection	Comments & considerations
	Program has ultimate responsibility for the student's funding. • If one program has a higher funding level, the student should receive the higher level, shared appropriately by Home and Partner Programs.

APPENDIX A

Interdisciplinary Combined PhD Degree Agreement Form

	Home Program	**Partnering Program**	**Interdisciplinary Combined Program**
Student Name: _____			
Entrance requirements:			
Duration of degree:			
Supervisory committee structure:			
Course and milestone requirements:			
Comprehensive examination(s) / Candidacy Examination milestones and format:			
Additional program requirements:			
Thesis requirements:			
Thesis examination committee and format:			
Supervisor(s):			
Funding and Teaching Assistantship:			

APPROVALS:

Student			
	Student: Name	Student: Signature	Date
Home Program			
	Supervisor: Name	Supervisor: Signature	Date
Home Program			
	Graduate Chair: Name	Graduate Chair: Signature	Date
Partnering Program			
	Supervisor: Name	Supervisor: Signature	Date
Partnering Program			
	Graduate Chair: Name	Graduate Chair: Signature	Date
Home Program			
	Associate Dean-Graduate: Name	Associate Dean-Graduate: Signature	Date
Partnering Program *(if different from Home)*			
	Associate Dean-Graduate: Name	Associate Dean-Graduate: Signature	Date
SGPS			
	Vice-Provost: Name	Vice-Provost: Signature	Date