

UNIVERSITI Putra Malaysia (UPM) is teaming up with Newcastle University in Australia to jointly offer postgraduate studies where the degrees conferred will bear the crests and authorising signatures of the two institutions.

The arrangement for the Jointly Awarded Research Higher Degree Programmes (JARHDP) is based on a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signed recently by UPM vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Fauzi Ramlan and Newcastle University vice-chancellor and president Prof Caroline McMillen.

This was witnessed by UPM's School of Graduate Studies dean Prof Dr Bujang Kim Huat and Newcastle University pro vice-chancellor (Singapore) Prof Amir Mahmood.

The agreement which is valid for 10 years, states that a student applying to study at either university will not be accepted into the JARHDP unless both parties have agreed in writing to the individual candidate's proposal for the postgraduate study.

While the JARHDP is for four consecutive academic years, the candidate may be allowed to submit his thesis earlier in exceptional cases.

Candidates who are currently registered at either university shall be permitted to transfer to a JARHDP with the approval of both parties and all supervisors.

The MoA also states that the individual candidate's proposal must identify the resources to be provided by both parties.

The parties agree that the candidate will be required to be at the campus of the host institution for a minimum of one full-time academic year and a maximum of two (full-time) academic years, in order to be eligible to be examined for a JARHDP.

While the candidate will be exempted from paying tuition fees at Newcastle, candidates in UPM may be required to pay the latter's fees including incidentals and insurance.

The language used in both universities is English and the two parties also agreed that all JARHDP projects involving human and animal research must obtain prior approval from

Postgrad degree from UPM and Newcastle



Joint agreement: Prof Mohd Fauzi (second from left) and Prof McMillen exchange documents after the signing ceremony while Prof Bujang (left) and Prof Amir look on.

their relevant ethics committee.

UPM School of Graduate Studies assistant registrar Saiful Maskan said the JARHDP offered Malaysian students an opportunity to obtain their postgraduate degrees from reputable universities at a lower cost.

This programme is in addition to the dual degrees or jointly awarded research degrees that UPM offers with other universities including Sheffield University and Nottingham University in the United Kingdom, Ajou University in South Korea, Kyushu Institute of Technology in Japan and

Jordan University of Science and Technology in Jordan.

Meanwhile, UPM and ELS Educational Services, which specialises in the teaching of English, has signed a pact encouraging the enhancement of English proficiency among the varsity's students.

Prof Mohd Fauzi and ELS president and chief executive officer Mark Harris signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the sidelines of the NAFSA: Association of International Educators' annual conference and expo in St Louis, Missouri in the United

States recently.

The MoU also supports global student mobility via the recruitment of qualified international students to UPM and the encouragement of international pathways between UPM and the ELS network of over 650 partner universities around the world.

Since its establishment more than 50 years ago, ELS has assisted more than 1.1 million international students to achieve their personal and professional goals through English preparation and professional counselling. — UPM