

Universitas 21 Deans and Directors of Graduate Studies (DDOGS) Postgraduate Research Student Mobility

At the November 2005 meeting of the DDOGS, delegates recognized the importance of facilitating student mobility and endorsed the development of a *U21 Visiting Postgraduate Research Student Protocol* by member institutions. This proposal was confirmed by the U21 Presidents meeting in Auckland in May 2006.

The following provides background and details the commitments to postgraduate student mobility that institutions are encouraged to consider and adopt.

Background

In November 2003 the Universitas 21 Presidents agreed on a plan for a range of initiatives for the U21 network that would ensure greater progress in key priority areas. One of these initiatives was specifically the promotion and facilitation of short term visits and placements of research higher degree students between U21 institutions. In 2005, all the U21 Vice Chancellors signed an agreement to show commitment to increasing the participation rate of their students in 'mobility programs' within the U21 network. ie students undertaking some study at an U21 partner institution as part of their home degree. The agreement included a target for each institution to increase the number of research higher degree/doctoral students participating in a mobility program to at least 30 per year by the end of 2010.

Many research higher degree students already undertake international visits, ranging from a few days to several months, as an essential part of their degree program. While occasionally some funds are provided by the host university, more usually students receive financial support for these visits in the form of travelling scholarships from their home university. At present, visiting research students have contact primarily with an individual academic or department at the host university. There is, however, considerable value to be gained by students who are able to visit a member of an international network of leading research-intensive universities whose purpose is to facilitate collaboration and cooperation. There is also the potential, through institutional cooperation, to further enrich U21 research student visit. The U21 DDOGS agreed at their July 2004 and November 2005 meetings that the development of institutional protocols to support research student visits between U21 institutions would add value to these exchanges, raise the awareness among the general University community of the presence of Universitas 21 Visiting Research Students and clarify student and institutional expectations about available support.

Institutional Protocol

The U21 DDOGS encourage member institutions to commit to a *U21 Visiting Postgraduate Research Student Protocol* which includes the following elements:

- A formal commitment to encourage mobility of PG research students
- Active promotion of the opportunities and advantages of U21 mobility to research students
- Provision of 'hot links' between their university and U21 web sites to facilitate access to information about partner institution research profile, student support programs, services and their *U21 Visiting Postgraduate Research Student Protocol*

- Consideration of the establishment of U21 scholarships to support outgoing U21 Research Student visits (including travel and health insurance costs)
- Communication to other U21 members your university's research strengths
- Development of a 'central register' to monitor U21 research student mobility
- Establishment of simple, effective administrative procedures for visiting students
- Negotiation with student's home institution regarding any research costs related to the project to be undertaken
- Acceptance by visiting students of host University research policies and protocols including intellectual property and research ethics.

Recommendation

U21 member institutions are asked to adopt (or adapt) and implement the attached draft *U21 Visiting Postgraduate Research Student Protocol* and return a signed copy to the U21 Secretariat.

For further information please contact:

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Universitas 21 Visiting Postgraduate Research Student Protocol

The following proposal, originating from the Deans and Directors of Graduate Schools, was discussed at the London Managers' Meeting in March 2006 and a few changes suggested. It is recommended that member institutions sign up to a Visiting Postgraduate Research Student Protocol relating to (post)graduate students visiting from other member universities. A model, developed by the DDOGS, follows.

The University of xxxxxx recognizes the Shanghai Declaration on Universitas 21 Student Mobility and that student mobility programs are an important activity through which international engagement can be fostered.

The University of xxx makes a formal commitment to encourage and facilitate postgraduate research student mobility and will actively promote opportunities for, and the advantages of, U21 mobility to research students.

To this end we will:

- Communicate our university's research strengths to U21 members, by providing 'hot links' between university and U21 web sites to facilitate access to information about:
 - institution research profile;
 - research student support programs and services; and
 - our U21 Visiting Postgraduate Research Student Protocol.
- Establish and promote U21 travel scholarships (including travel and health insurance costs) to support outgoing U21 Visiting Postgraduate Research Student visits.
- Develop administrative routines to monitor the profile of U21 research student mobility (e.g., numbers and duration by discipline, home, and host institution).

As a host university for visiting students we will:

- Establish simple, effective administrative procedures for visiting students, including appropriate identification as "Universitas 21 Visiting Postgraduate Research Students."
- Appoint a University liaison person for visiting U21 postgraduate research students
- Provide incoming U21 Visiting Postgraduate Research Students with:
 - local supervision and reasonable access to resources;
 - visiting student status for the period of visit, including access to

library, laboratory, supervision, coursework and other resources comparable to locally-enrolled students;

- advice and reasonable practical assistance re accommodation;
- appropriate induction opportunities to learn about the activities and culture of our institution, to present their work to an appropriate audience whilst visiting, and to act as ambassadors for their home institution.

The University of xxx expects that:

- Students wishing to visit the University should, in the first instance, make direct contact with the potential host department.
- Visiting students will remain enrolled at their home institution and thesis supervision remains the principal responsibility of the home institution
- Direct research project costs will be negotiated directly with the student's home institution and agreement reached before the student commences their visit.
- U21 Visiting Postgraduate Research Students will accept our university research policies and protocols including intellectual property and research ethics. Where a student's work is already subject to IP and/or confidentiality arrangements, it will be necessary for these to be the subject of formal negotiation between our university and student's home institution.

Endorsed:

Title:

Date: