

## 4 **MANAGING PARTNERSHIPS IN RESEARCH DEGREE PROGRAMMES**

Where a research degree is pursued in the context of collaboration, partnership or sponsorship:

- The provider has access to expert advice on legal and commercial matters relating to national and international partners in other jurisdictions.
- Provider processes in place for entering into such partnerships include standard and explicit due diligence activities as indicated in Section 10.2 of the *Core Statutory QA Guidelines*.
- There are clear written agreements underpinning the arrangement.
- Written agreements are established in advance of any research student commencing their studies and allow for monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the arrangements and procedures in place.
- The provider ensures the legality and recognition of a collaborative award and has access to the expert opinion and information this necessitates.
- There is information in place for students where providers are making a joint or other collaborative research award. Such information is in place prior to the commencement of the research degree and communicated in advance to the students as appropriate.
- The standards, training requirements and norms for research degree programmes are applicable and include formal assurances on students' welfare and wellbeing in all settings in which they will be based.
- External supervisors, and the research environments in which they work, are in accord with high ethical, continuous professional and safety standards including norms on training requirements. Arrangements are in place for continuous improvement.
- Where research students pursue their projects on the campus or premises of partner organisations, effective provisions are in place for training, resources, supports and access to norms of the broader intellectual research community e.g. experience as tutors or demonstrators.
- The provider ensures arrangements are in place with partners for regular, effective communication, conducive to successful completion of the research project in line with good research practice.
- Effective provisions are in place that apply in circumstances where funded research students are also employees of a partner organisation. Such procedures are clear and facilitate agreement on boundaries, for example on student/employee status in respect of disciplinary and grievance procedures, performance evaluation, ethics approvals and conflict of interest matters.