

**ACADEMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT  
OF A DOUBLE DEGREE PROGRAM**

**BETWEEN**

The University of ....., represented by  
.....

**AND**

The University of ....., represented by  
.....

- Whereas the parties agree on the fundamental importance of promoting inter-university cooperation for the development of dual/joint programmes;
- Whereas the parties have already been collaborating on a scientific and educational level for some time, with positive results;
- Whereas the present agreement is formulated in order to facilitate cooperation in teaching between the partners and to foster specialised learning;

**The parties hereto agree**

To sign this agreement, which will remain valid for a period of 6 (six) years. Each party may terminate this agreement with prior written notice to the other party, to be sent by December 30th of the year preceding the academic year in which the agreement is to be terminated.

**Art. 1 - Objectives**

This agreement is aimed at providing the procedure for the organization of a high quality **three** year graduate programme (**180** ECTS credits), based on existing curricula, between the University of ..... and the University of .....

The following degrees will be awarded:

- ..... in ..... - University of .....
- ..... in ..... - University of .....

..... and ..... agree that students who complete the courses, including work experience if required, obtain sufficient credits, defend a dissertation, pass the final examination and meet all the requirements of the two institutions, will

be awarded the respective .....’s degrees by both institutions, according to the students’ programmes at the home and host institutions.

### **Art. 2 - Organization of the Double/Multiple Programme**

The parties agree as follow:

- credits obtained in partner institutions will be recognized by the home institutions;
- agreed courses, credits and contact hours can be specified in Annex I;
- the courses mentioned herein will be taught in .....
- candidates to join this programme must be enrolled in the ..... in ..... at the University of Siena and in the ..... in ..... at the .....
- during the Programme, the students shall study at their home institution in the ..... year(s) and spend the ..... year(s) studying at the host institution;
- each year both institutions will recruit a reasonable number of students to join this programme;
- student tuition fees for exchange students will be waived on a reciprocal basis. Students will be required to pay tuition to their home institution during the exchange period. Students will be responsible for paying their own travel costs and living expenses. Each institution will make every effort to ensure that suitable living accommodation is available for each visiting student;
- exchange students shall have the same rights and privileges as home students regarding the facilities and amenities of the host institutions;
- exchange students must abide by the policies, procedures and laws of the host university and country. They will be disciplined or expelled for violations in the same manner as home students.

The parties also agree to create and update a website, containing all relevant information about the activities undertaken and planned, as well as teaching or research materials relevant to the joint activities or to any other matters deemed useful.

### **Art. 3 - Language requirements**

In order to be admitted to the ..... programme in ..... at the University of ..... students will be required ..... (B1, B2) of the ..... language.

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Exchange students will be provided with elementary or advanced language courses of the language of the host institution country, so to help them integrate and foster cultural understanding in the local students’ community.

#### **Art. 4 - Admission of students**

Each year the involved institutions will publish a call for the recruitment of students to be admitted to the Programme.

The evaluation of students' applications is the responsibility of a Joint committee composed of at least 1 member from each institution. The Joint committee may proceed to the selection of candidates through conference calls or Skype meetings. Before the meeting of the Joint committee candidates will be interviewed by their home institution.

#### **Art. 5 - Dissertation, defence and awarding of degree**

The dissertation will be prepared under the supervision of both coordinators or colleagues nominated by them.

The dissertation will be written in ..... (language).

The defence of the dissertation will be in ..... (language)

The written summary will be in ..... (language)

The oral summary (if applicable) will be in ..... (language)

The Parties will agree annually whether the dissertation defence will take place at the home University with the presence of the host University supervisor or will take place at both Institutions.

If the student does not defend the dissertation within the legal terms of the academic year of the Host Institution, he/she will have to be enrolled in the following academic year and pay the relevant tuition fees.

Following the registration of the dissertation defence, each University will award its degree according its specific provisions.

#### **Art. 6 – Exchange of Faculty members**

Each party undertakes to host in each academic Faculty Members from the Partner University. Special protocols will describe how exchanges will take place; they shall detail the commitments undertaken by both parties.

#### **Art. 7 - Collaboration on Erasmus Plus Programme**

The parties agree to collaborate in order to satisfy the requirements of the Erasmus Plus programme call for proposals, so to be able to financially support the development of the Programme for both students and staff exchanges.

**Art. 8 - Internships**

The Host University will endeavour to provide incoming students with internship opportunities.

**Art. 9 - Insurance and Health care**

Health insurance must be provided by the exchange participants, while accident and third party insurance will be provided on a reciprocal basis by the Universities, unless stated otherwise in a special protocol.

**Art. 10 - Financing**

Any financial terms of cooperation will be set out in specific protocols which can only be enforced following approval by the academic bodies of both institutions.

**Art. 11 - Agreement coordinators**

The parties designate the following coordinators to facilitate implementation of the agreement:

University of Siena: .....

University of .....: .....

**Art. 12 - Equal opportunities**

In order to implement this agreement, the parties undertake to guarantee equal opportunities without discrimination of race, gender, religion, social class and ethnicity.

**Art. 13 - Language**

The agreement is drawn up and signed in **English**.

**Commentato [fm1]:** Copies in other languages may be signed, if deemed necessary

**Art. 14 - Disputes**

Disputes arising from the execution of this Agreement shall be accommodated by an amicable settlement between the Parties. In the case that a settlement fails, the Parties shall submit the dispute to a board of arbitrators consisting of one member designated

by each party and one further member chosen by mutual agreement in accordance with the provisions of both countries.

THE RECTOR  
University of Siena  
Prof. Francesco Frati

THE RECTOR  
University of .....

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Place, date

Place, date