

O3 Newly Developed and Updated Double Degree Agreements

O3/A2 & O3/A3 New and Adjusted Double Degree Agreements

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New and adjusted double degree agreements

New double degree agreements were successfully prepared between UAS and UAIC as well as between UEK and UAIC during the reporting period. In line with the project application the agreements stipulated all required aspects such as: Conditions for enrolment, selection procedures, mobility paths, exchange periods, exams, theses, awarded degrees, tuition fees (fee waiver), quality assurance mechanisms and amendment procedures. No obstacles occurred.

However, a new double degree agreement between UNIBO and UAIC could not be finalised despite major efforts on both sides. The legal / administrative regulations of the two partner institutions / partner countries were not sufficiently compatible to allow for a high-quality double degree agreement (e.g. with regard to the thesis defence). Against this background UNIBO and UAIC decided to prepare a regular Erasmus+ bilateral exchange agreement instead, to give students full access to mobility in the INTQUANT network.

As planned in the application the existing agreements between UAS, UEK and UNIBO were updated during the project lifetime. In line with the project application the revised and updated agreements stipulated all required aspects such as: Conditions for enrolment, selection procedures, mobility paths, exchange periods, exams, theses, awarded degrees, tuition fees (fee waiver), quality assurance mechanisms and amendment procedures. No obstacles occurred.

Note on terminology: As mentioned in the INTQUANT Interim Report the wording in the agreement between UAS and UEK was changed from Joint Degree Programme to “Double Degree Programme based on a Joint Curriculum” due to legal reasons. Nevertheless, the agreement is still fully in line with the INTQUANT objectives in terms of its content.

The template used as a basis for all newly developed and updated double degree agreements can be found in the annex.

ANNEX

Agreement of interuniversity cooperation for the granting of a double degree (2nd cycle)

between

[UNIVERSITY 1]

and

[UNIVERSITY 2]

Hereafter named "the Parties"

Provided that

- [LEGAL PREREQUISITES]
- In order to develop further international opportunities and in order to strengthen the international ties for their students, the Parties decided to enter into this interuniversity cooperation agreement for the granting of a double degree (2nd cycle).
- Within the framework of this agreement, "home institution" refers to the institution in which a student is formally enrolled as a degree candidate. "Host institution" refers to the institution that has agreed to receive students from the home institution for a period of study.

It is hereby agreed as follows:

1. Preliminary remarks

All partners use the ECTS grading scale and offer a Diploma Supplement and Transcript of Records to the enrolled students. The Diploma Supplement aims at improving international 'transparency' and at facilitating the academic and professional recognition of the Diploma.

2. Objectives

This agreement permits students of the master's degree programme [PROGRAMME1] and [PROGRAMME2] in each of the institutions upon the successful fulfilment of the conditions indicated in this agreement, the opportunity of receiving the academic degree of the home institution and the corresponding academic degrees of the partner institutions.

The partners organise their master's degree programmes annually, starting in the fall term (start: fall term XX/XX). Each partner institution will decide on the organisational form of the master's degree programme (part-time or full-time) individually.

To make this possible, the Parties aim to offer a harmonised curriculum (see Appendix A). At all Partner universities all courses will be held in English language.

The partners guarantee that the planned contents and learning outcomes will be achieved in each institution whereas the study programme may be organised differently in each partner institution. Equal learning outcomes, defined in the ECTS description of each course, in all partner institutions will be assured by written/oral examinations. Each institution arranges the examination modes according to its institutional and national regulations, but has to assure the achievement of the jointly defined learning outcomes.

The partners cooperate in exchanging teaching, research and organisational experiences, teaching staff and materials.

Each partner institution assures the provision of sufficient and adequate university places for incoming students for the period of one semester of study.

3. Candidates for double Degree Programme

Students fulfilling the following requirements will be entitled to register as double Degree candidates at the Partner Universities: documentary proof of academic degree, good command of English, proof of qualifications in Economics and Mathematics/Statistics, written application, test and/or admissions interview.

Students will be compliant with the visa and/or residence permit requirements.

Students shall be screened for eligibility for admission as double Degree students by the home institution. General admission requirements and enrolment constraints of the home institution shall be respected.

Students admitted to the double degree program will be selected by each University according to their own criteria and modalities. As a general guideline, students will be selected based on academic merit, past work and extracurricular experiences, as well as a demonstration of strong motivation to participate in the program.

The exchange should be balanced and involve an equivalent number of students from partner universities, where possible.

4. Exchange period

Each home institution engages to serve as host institution for the students of the other two partner institutions attending to the double degree program by offering an exchange period of one or two semesters in the 2nd year of study (obtaining from a minimum of 30 ECTS to a maximum of 60 ECTS). This could be either the 3rd and/or the 4th semester.

In the 3rd semester students can choose courses from the regular ARIMA and QF programmes to be able to obtain 30 ECTS during the whole semester.

In the 4th semester students participate in the courses of the partner universities and prepare and write their master thesis.

In any case, partner universities will develop possible curricula for candidate students individually.

All partner institutions work towards hosting and sending similar numbers of students. Possible significant imbalances will be treated by means of written notes between the parties.

During their exchange period, double Degree candidates shall be subject to the standard rules and regulations of the host institution. They shall register at the host institution only for the parts of the study programme which will be carried out under the responsibility of the host institution.

The home institution recognizes the examination results of the students during the exchange period at the host institution. By following the regulations and exam contents of the host institution, exams are taken at the host institution during the exchange period. In justified cases re-sits can be carried out at the host institution after the exchange period.

5. Tuition fees

Tuition fees have to be paid to the home institution for the whole period of study. During those parts of the study programme which will be carried out at the host institution there will be no additional study fees for the students except for the degree granting fee at the host university. In all other respects, the double Degree Programme students are subject to all legal and organisational regulations of the host institution during their stay.

6. Exams and Theses

Students will prepare and discuss the master thesis at their home or at their host university.

To prepare the Master thesis at the host university students must spend the fourth semester at the host university.

The master thesis making and discussion shall be organized according to the rules of the institution where thesis credits are obtained.

7. Conditions for Completing the double Degree Programme

The release of the degree of the host University shall only be awarded after the student has completed his/her studies (120 ECTS in total) at the home institution, and has additionally fulfilled the following requirements:

- a. award of at least 30 ECTS under the responsibility of the host institution (= part of the 120 ECTS); and
- b. completion of a master thesis; and
- c. successful completion of the oral or written master exams

Then, the students participating into the programme and obtaining the degree at the University where they defend the Master thesis, can require the release of the degree at the partner University/ies, on the basis of the correspondence table annexed to this agreement (curriculum Appendix A), by submitting the relevant academic documentation.

The Parties agree to release the following degrees:

- [DEGREE 1]

- [DEGREE 2]

-

The partners intend to ascertain that graduates of the master's degree programmes will be eligible for a PhD degree programme.

References offices for students participating in the programme are listed in the Appendix B to this Agreement.

Appendix A and B form an integral part of this Agreement.

Art. 8 – Exchange of faculty members and administrative staff

8.1. Exchange modalities

All universities shall regulate the reception and employment of faculty members and administrative staff participating into the mobility program under this Agreement, in conformity with the law and juridical rules in force in the country concerned under the exchange.

Personnel concerned under this Agreement will continue to comply with the contractual obligations with the home University and will continue to receive the due remuneration and to benefit from the rights they are entitled of for their juridical position, according to the legislative norms existing in the home country.

In any case, the home University shall consider the duration of the stay as ordinary service period for all purposes.

8.2 Activities for teachers and administrative personnel and financial clauses

Faculty members and researchers can hold courses and lectures, carry out tutorship activities, participate in seminars, be part of exam, final thesis and doctorate commissions at the partner University, and take part into research activities and meetings for student exchange program planning, evaluation and development, held at the partner University.

The administrative staff will have the possibility of participating in meetings for student exchange program planning, evaluation and development and will be able to carry out special visits in order to analyse the management systems operating at the partner University.

The Parties agree that all the financial agreements will have to be negotiated and will depend on the availability of funds. For the expenses concerning the mobility of teaching staff members and research fellows, each university will cover all the costs for their own professors and research fellows according to the availability of Erasmus plus Program funds or other funds for research.

During their period at the hosting University, the faculty members and the researchers participating in said exchange, to carry out the above-mentioned activities, shall be considered as staff “on a mission” abroad.

9. Insurance obligation

The Parties state that their respective regularly admitted students and their employees and staff (teachers and administrative personnel) are insured against any incident that they may suffer during their period of stay abroad for the activities concerned by this Agreement and that they are insured for legal liability against damage which they may involuntarily cause to third party (people or their properties)

10. Prevention and security

The Parties shall supply each mobility program participant with detailed information about the specific risks existing in the work environment in which they will operate and carry out their function and with necessary documentation about the prevention and emergency security measures and provisions in force in relation to their activity and about the individuals/subjects in charge of this, in conformity with the legislative norms and regulations in force in the country of the hosting University.

11. Programme coordination and quality assurance

Each institution will designate a programme coordinator (= head of study programme) to ensure that the double Degree Programme proceeds according to a reasonable schematic plan, and that the terms of this agreement are carried out. These programme coordinators will ensure that the students and the partner institutions will be provided with all the information needed to organise and facilitate this double Degree Programme.

Each institution may name a substitute or replacement of its programme coordinator.

Furthermore the students participating in this programme are supported by the International Office of the host institution in all administrative matters (accommodation, grants, language course, etc.) during the exchange period.

For quality assurance purposes as to the content and the learning outcomes of the double Degree Programme, the programme coordinators will exchange the following information with the partners (at the end of each semester):

- Description of the courses: ECTS – description – Syllabus
- Learning documentation: Literature sources (books/chapters, etc.), overhead slides in electronic form, scripts etc.
- Assessment: exam and assignment sheets

The programme coordinators together constitute the quality board which is responsible for the quality assurance of the double Degree Programme in all the partner institutions. The programme coordinator is allowed to delegate the quality assurance task to a third qualified person within the own institution.

12. Use of name / Logo

Each party may use the logos, names and other marks of the other parties only in connection with the involved programmes. Each party anticipates the other party's participation in press announcements, marketing and other reasonable promotional activities involving the double-degree program through the appropriate use of the logos, names and marks of the parties.

13. Duration, Amendment, Review and Termination of the Agreement

This Agreement will come into effect as of the date of signing and will be effective for a period of 5 years from academic year XXXX/XXXX. The last cohort of students shall be enrolled in academic year XXXX/XXXX. It shall be subject to revision, modification or renewal by mutual written agreement only by the parties.

Annexes can be modified by written notice between the Parties.



The agreement may be terminated at the request of either institution, provided such request is made in writing at least six months before the termination is to become effective. Any termination of the agreement must take into account the rights of students already participating or accepted for any exchange to complete the parts of the study programme which will be carried out under the responsibility of the host institution.

An evaluation of this agreement will be initiated by all the Parties at least after the first completion of the master’s degree programme to prove if the programme should be continued and, if so, how it might be improved.

In case of violation of this agreement, the partners commit to making arrangements for following the regulations of this agreement or modifying this agreement jointly. If one of the partners is not willing or able to follow the regulations of this agreement, he may be excluded from participating in this double Degree programme by the other partners jointly.

Art. 14 – Copies and language

This Agreement is undersigned in four originals in English.

In witness thereof this agreement has been signed by the proper officers of each institution.

Place , date _____
[NAME]

[FUNCTION]



Appendix A

Correspondence between the study programmes

Appendix B

Reference offices for students participating in the double degree programme