

**AGREEMENT ON A DOUBLE DEGREE PROGRAM
BETWEEN
THE UNIVERSITY OF MESSINA
AND
THE UNIVERSITY OF MONS**

Within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding signed on the 28th of October 2017 the **University of Messina** represented by the Rector Prof. Pietro Navarra (henceforth named UNIME) and the **University of Mons** represented by the Rector Prof. Calogero Conti (henceforth named UMONS), agree:

- a) to award a Double Degree Programme (henceforth named DDP);
- b) to strengthen the collaboration and the exchange of scholars and professors of both Departments.

Definitions

Home Institution refers to the University in which the student is enrolled.

Host Institution refers to the University in which the student spends a period of mobility of one academic year.

Laurea Magistrale refers to Italian 2nd level degree programme intended to provide education at an advanced level for the further development of highly qualified activities in specific areas. Entry requirement consists of an Italian 1st level Bachelor degree (3 years) or a comparable foreign degree; admission is based on specific course requirements determined by single universities. The studies last 2 years (120 ECTS).

Master refers to the Belgium 2nd level degree programme intended to provide education at an advanced level for the further development of highly qualified activities in specific areas. The second stage in the bachelor-master's degree of Belgium University system focuses on academic research and leads to a master's degree. Master's programmes consist of 120 credits.

ECTS credits are based on the workload students need in order to achieve expected learning outcomes. Credits are allocated to entire qualifications or study programmes. The number of credits ascribed to each component is based on its weight in terms of the workload students need in order to achieve the learning outcomes.

ARTICLE 1

Aim of the agreement

The Double Degree Programme (DDP) allows students from both Universities to earn:

- a "Laurea Magistrale" in Chemistry (Department of "Scienze chimiche, biologiche, farmaceutiche ed ambientali") awarded by UniME;
- a Master's Degree in Chemistry (Faculty of Chemistry) awarded by UMONS.

The number of double degree students to be exchanged is fixed up to maximum of n.2 for year for each University. The goal of this program, is to exchange on average the same number of students in both directions.

ARTICLE 2

Management of the programme

A Bilateral Committee will be established and will be composed by at least one academic representative from each University, appointed by each partner University, and will act in consultation with the Departments of both partner universities. Decisions will be jointly taken by the representatives of UMONS and UNIME in the Bilateral Committee, Meetings of the Committee may also be attended by other academics or administrative personnel of the participating Universities.

The Bilateral Committee has the following tasks:

- a) to identify the exact number of double degree students to be exchanged each year;
- b) to create the conditions necessary for the implementation of the agreement;
- c) to guarantee the observance of the general regulations of the study program at the Home and at the Host University;
- d) to approve slight charges in the amount of credits to be awarded by the student at the Home and at the Host University;
- e) to assure the participating students' tutorage (the Bilateral Committee may be assisted by a person appointed by the Host University as tutor for the participating students);
- f) to control the procedures of the study programme;
- g) to approve the final students' studies plans (Learning Agreement);
- h) to manage exceptions and problematic cases.

The Bilateral Committee will meet once a year as a rule; the meetings can take place also through conference call or video conference or e-mails, etc.. It is regularly constituted when at least one representative from each University is present. The decisions are taken unanimously.

ARTICLE 3

Selection of participating students

Each University is responsible for the selection, of its participating students under the conditions stated above and those established by the Bilateral Committee. The selection of the participants in the DDP will be based on students academic records, CV, motivation, language proficiency and other requirements set by the sending University and agreed by the Bilateral Committee.

Selected students will be reviewed by the partner institution upon completing a formal application to the degree programme within the deadlines imposed by the partner institution. Admission to the double degree program is conditional until the minimum requirements of this agreement have been met. Each partner has the right to reject candidates proposed by the other, but is obliged to motivate this rejection.

ARTICLE 4

Admission requirements and study program

UMONS will admit students from UNIME who:

- a) are enrolled in the “Laurea Magistrale in Chimica” classe LM-54;
- b) have proven their sufficient motivation and English or French language skills through a selection interview

UNIME will admit students from UMONS who:

- a) are enrolled in the Master in Chemistry
- b) have proven their sufficient motivation and English or Italian language skills through a selection interview

Specific study requirements

In order to meet the requirements for a Double Degree, students are required to remain for one semester at the Host Institution and must obtain the credits required for the final thesis preparation according to the study plan defined jointly and attached to this agreement (**Attachment 1**).

Students have up to 6 months to graduate once they have acquired the total amount of credits required to obtain the degree (except for particular and documented reasons which will be individually evaluated).

ARTICLE 5

Tuition and financial support

Students have to pay their fees at the Home University, no additional fees will be paid at the Host University, except for a minor compulsory fee for the access to facilities.

Each University will take the necessary measures in order to obtain the best possible financial support for the exchange students.

ARTICLE 6

Dissertation

The DDP leads to the award of two Diplomas, one by each University, on the basis of the successful completion of the study plan and of the successful defence of the Master's dissertation. Each diploma should preferably give evidence to the student's participation in the joint programme.

The final thesis shall be co-supervised by an academic tutor of both institutions and written and defended either at UNIME or at UMONS. The thesis committee preferably includes a member from the partner institution, who can join the committee also through conference call, video conference, email, etc.

UNIME and UMONS shall define the most adequate ways for the dissertation of the thesis in one single seat from time to time.

The thesis defense at UMONS (or UNIME) allows the award of the title at UNIME (or UNIMONS)

The Host Institution shall provide the Home institution with all the necessary documentation for the award of its own degree title in due time.

ARTICLE 7

Rights and duties of the participating students

Each participating student should observe the following principles while at the Host University:

-Both Universities will assure that the students have equal access to all facilities offered to regular students of the Host University, such as the use of computers, access to the library, obtaining of a student ID card, ex.

-Each student will be responsible for his/her own living expenses (accommodation, meals, etc.). Each student must provide his/her own transportation to the Home University to the Host University.

-Violation of Host University rules and/or local law committed in the host country and the non-observance of the study requirements stated in article 4. clause 3 may result in the immediate withdrawal of the Program.

ARTICLE 8

Terms and duration of the agreement

This agreement entails no financial obligation on either of the partner Universities.

This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of five (5) years from the date of the signature and it will be reviewed before renewal. Either University may cancel this agreement with a notice of 180 days.

However, students who are already enrolled in the program are allowed to complete their studies.

The present Agreement is drawn up in English in four copies.

Date:

University of Messina
Rector
Prof. Pietro Navarra.

Head of Department of
Department of “Scienze chimiche,
biologiche, farmaceutiche Ambientali”

Prof. Giovanni Grassi

Date:

University of Mons
Rector
Prof. Calogero Conti

Head of Faculty of Science

Prof.