



**STUDENT EXCHANGE AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MESSINA, ITALY**

**AND**

**THE VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY**



*Considering the fruitful and long-lasting cooperation between the Virginia Commonwealth University and the University of Messina in the field of Medicine;*

*Considering international mobility vital to enhance the competitiveness of the University system and to establish a knowledge-based society;*

The Virginia Commonwealth University – School of Medicine, represented here by its Associate Dean for Student Affairs, prof Christopher M. Woleben, M.D., located at 1201 East Marshall Street; MMEC Room 4-218; Richmond, VA 23298,

and

the University of Messina - School of Medicine hereafter referred to as “UniME - SM”, represented here by its Rector, prof. Pietro Navarra, located at Piazza Pugliatti, 1,

hereby the “Parties”

agree upon the following terms and conditions to establish a Medical Student Mobility Programme

### **Definitions:**

Home institution refers to the University awarding the degree to medical students.

Host institution refers to the University which has agreed to admit students for a training period abroad within the framework of the Medical Student Mobility Programme.

### **Article 1: Aims**

The aim of the agreement is twofold:

- foster and support the exchange of undergraduate Medical students selected to carry out an elective training at the Host Institution.
- encourage mobility of physicians and academic staff, collaborative research activities, exchange as well as any other didactic and/or research activity of mutual interest in the field of Medicine.

### **Article 2: General Principles**

Medical students selected by the Home Institutions may take part in a 4-week clinical elective experience during their senior year of medical school (the “Medical Student Mobility Programme” or “exchange program”). In the Medical Student Mobility Programme, participating students will be assigned to a faculty member in the Host Institution to work in a clinical setting similar to the Host Institution’s senior medical student electives.



Students participating in the exchange programme shall retain continuing student status at their Home Institution and have access to university facilities and services typically available to local students at the Host Institution.

Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the parties, student exchange will occur on a one-for-one basis, deemed satisfied by equal numbers of participating students from each institution over a period of three consecutive years. There is a maximum of six students per year from each institution.

### **Article: 3 Selection Process**

The selection process shall take into account student's overall academic records as well as his/her attitude to live in an international academic environment.

Home Institution will be in charge of selection procedure of students taking part to the Medical Student Mobility Programme.

The Home Institution shall assume full responsibility in the assessment and selection of qualified candidates according to the admission requirements of the Host institution.

### **Article 4: Organisation of Students Mobility**

Before starting the mobility the student must sign a Training Agreement indicating training activities to be carried out abroad.

The Training Agreement is to be signed by the student, the Mobility Coordinator of the Home Institution and the Mobility coordinator of the Host Institution.

Students are engaged to fulfil the agreed Training Agreement under the supervision of a medical faculty at the Host Institution. Students shall be involved in patient care solely under the direction of a supervising physician faculty.

At the end of the exchange the Host institution will provide participating students with an official academic transcript of records with students' records. The Home Institution will interpret these records at its sole discretion on the basis of its internal grade review procedures.

Both Parties shall keep a balance of the exchanged students over the duration of the agreement.

### **Article 5: Financial arrangements and accommodation**

Students on the exchange will pay the tuition fees at their Home Institution and have academic charges waived at the Host Institution.

The Host Institution will provide students on the exchange with board and lodging arrangements. Unless otherwise agreed, students will be informed that they will be responsible for all other living expenses.

### **Article 6: Health Insurance**

Students on exchange programme must have a suitable health insurance valid for the entire period abroad that shall include medical evacuation and repatriation.

Students must also be covered by an accident and liability insurance.



**Article 7: Responsibilities of the institutions**

The Parties designate the following coordinators to facilitate the implementation of the Medical Student Mobility Programme.

For UNIME, the Mobility Coordinator is Prof. Antonino Germanò - Department of Biomedical Sciences and of Morphological and Functional Images

For VCU, the Mobility Coordinator is Prof. Christopher Woleben .

Each Home Institution shall inform its participating students that they are required to abide by all applicable policies, rules and regulations of the Host Institution. The Host Institution shall provide participating students with informational materials on applicable policies regarding academic responsibility and conduct, as well as any applicable patient confidentiality requirements. Each institution reserves the right to dismiss any participating student at any time for academic or personal misconduct in violation of institutional policies.

**Article 9: Duration**

The agreement shall be in force from the date of its last signature for three (3) years and shall be renewable upon review on an annual basis thereafter.

The agreement may be modified by mutual agreement, in writing, and signed by the two Parties.

Either party may terminate this agreement at any time by giving six months' notice in writing to the other party.

Regardless of termination, the parties shall continue to fulfil their ongoing obligations.

In witness whereof, the parties sign two equally official original copies, in English

Date

Date

6/2/17

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Prof. Pietro Navarra  
Rector of the University of Messina

Prof. Christopher Woleben, M.D. Associate  
Dean for Student Affairs, VCU School of  
Medicine