



# VCU



Università  
degli Studi di  
Messina

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN:

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY, USA

AND

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MESSINA, ITALY

Virginia Commonwealth University and Università degli Studi di Messina, wishing to enhance relations between the two institutions and to develop academic and cultural exchange to advance the discovery of new knowledge, creative expression and innovation, enhance teaching and learning, and strengthen the positive impact on their communities, agree to work together toward the internationalization of higher education at their respective institutions.

The areas of cooperation will include discussion of programs to be potentially offered by either institution which might be desirable and feasible for the development and strengthening of cooperative relationships between the two institutions.

Areas of cooperation to be discussed between the parties may consist of cultural and scientific activities such as:

- mobility of academics, researchers, technical-administrative staff and students;
- mobility of Ph.D. students for thesis co-tutorship whose terms and conditions will be defined in specific agreements;
- joint research projects in areas of common interest;
- exchange of information, scientific works and other scientific and didactic materials of mutual interest;
- joint initiatives such as seminars, lectures, symposia, etc.;
- access to IT and research equipment and other facilities of both Institutions.

Any specific program offering shall be subject to mutual consent as codified in separate written agreements, the availability of funds, and approval of any appropriate regulatory entities.

The parties agree that no program or activity will be commenced prior to execution of appropriate written agreements by responsible officials of each entity.

This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement of the parties with regard to the subject matter hereof, and replaces and supersedes all other agreements or understandings, whether written or oral.

This agreement shall be effective upon approval by both parties and shall remain in effect for an initial period of five (5) years. This agreement may be renewed for set terms of one to five years thereafter upon written agreement of the parties. Either party may terminate this agreement upon written notice to the other party. In such case, the relationships established prior to the termination of this agreement shall remain valid and effective, unless such relationships are terminated pursuant to any applicable agreements.

This agreement is drawn up in two original copies in English having the same legal validity.

For Virginia Commonwealth University

For Università degli Studi di Messina

Interim Executive Vice President and  
Provost  
Arturo Saavedra, M.D., Ph.D.

Rector  
Prof. Giovanna Spatari

Signed by:  
  
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Signature

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Signature

4/7/2026

Date

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Date