

**AGREEMENT ON A DOUBLE DEGREE PROGRAM  
BETWEEN  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MESSINA, DEPARTMENT/CENTRE OF ...  
AND  
THE UNIVERSITY OF ...,  
DEPARTMENT OF ...**

Within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding, (*in case it exists*) the ..... (henceforth named .....) represented by the Rector Prof ..... and the University of Messina (henceforth named UNIME) ) represented by the Rector prof. Pietro Navarra, agree:

- a) to award a Double Degree Program (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 triennale”** refers to Italian 1<sup>st</sup> level degree programmes intended to provide students with an adequate command of general scientific methods and contents as well as with specific professional skills. The general access requirement is the Italian school leaving qualification awarded after completion of 13 years of schooling and passing the relevant State examination. Comparable foreign qualifications may also be accepted. Admission to some degree courses may be based on specific course requirements. The studies last 3 years (180 ECTS). The Laurea gives access to the Corsi di Laurea Magistrale as well as to other 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle study programmes

*or*

**Laurea Magistrale** refers to Italian 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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).

*Or*

**Vocational Master** refers to 2nd cycle programme implemented in Italy and intended to provide students with further specialization or higher continuing education after completion of the first cycle. Entry requirement consists of an Italian Bachelor degree or a comparable foreign degree (1<sup>st</sup> level degree). Studies last 1 year (60 ECTS credits).

*Insert Partner University degree programme as defined by the National University System*

**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 Program (DDP) allows students from both Universities to earn:

- A Bachelor's or Master's Degree in .....(Department of .....)  
awarded by UniME
- A Bachelor's or Master's Degree in .....(Department of .....)  
awarded by.....

The number of double degree students to be exchanged is fixed up to maximum of .....per 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 program**

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 Partner University 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 program;
- 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 program 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**

##### **1. Admission to Partner University for UNIME students**

Partner University will admit, as regular student or graduate students, students from UNIME who:

##### **BA- level:**

- a) are enrolled in the BA course "Laurea Triennale in \_\_\_\_\_ classe\_\_\_\_" and fulfilled the credit requirements *of the first year or first two years or 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> semester (this has to be decided according to the requirements of each universities)* of the BA program;
- b) obtained a grade point average (GPA) of at least \_\_\_\_\_

c) have proven their sufficient motivation and \_\_\_\_\_language skills through selection interview (level of the Common European Framework);

**MA-level:**

- a) are enrolled in the MA course “Laurea Magistrale/specialistica in \_\_\_\_\_classe\_\_\_\_\_”;
- b) have proven their sufficient motivation and\_\_\_\_\_ language skills through a selection interview (level of the Common European Framework).

**2. Admission to UniME for Partner University students:**

UNIME will admit. as regular student or graduate students, students from Partner University who:

**BA level:**

- a) are enrolled in the BA course "Bachelor of Arts/Science in\_\_\_\_\_ " and fulfilled the credit requirements *of the first year or first two years or 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> semester(this has to be decided according to the requirements of each universities)* of the BA program;
- b) obtained a grade point average (GPA) of \_\_\_\_\_ :
- c) have proven their sufficient motivation and Italian language skills through a selection interview (level B2 of the Common European Framework).

**MA- level:**

- a) are enrolled in the Master of Arts/Science
- b) have proven their sufficient motivation and Italian language skills through a selection interview (level of the Common European Framework).

**3. Specific study requirements**

In order to meet the requirements for a Double Degree, students (BA and HA) are required to remain for at least one academic year (two semesters) at the Host Institution and must Obtain the credits required by the specific course at the partner institution and the remaining semesters and credits at their Home Institution, according to the study plan defined jointly and attached to this agreement (Attachment 1).

Students, in order to maintain their status of Double Degree students, have to fulfil the 50% of the yearly workload at least each year.

Students have up to 12 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 year.

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 Bachelor/Master's dissertation. Each diploma should preferably give evidence to the student's participation in the joint program.

The final thesis shall be co-supervised by an academic tutor of both institutions and written and defended either at UNIME or at the PU. 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 the ..... shall define the most adequate ways for the dissertation of the thesis in one single seat from time to time.

The thesis defense at the ..... allows the award of the title at UNIME (la discussione della tesi presso l'Ateneo partner equivale al processo di conseguimento del titolo presso l'Università di Messina).

The Host Institution shall provide the .....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 \_\_\_\_\_

Prof.

Date:

University of \_\_\_\_\_  
Rector  
\_\_\_\_\_

Head of Department of \_\_\_\_\_

Prof.