AGREEMENT ON CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT PROGRAM LEADING TO TWO MASTER DEGREES
between
THE UNIVERSITY OF MESSINA
DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING
and
THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTING

Purpose
This Agreement records the understanding between the University of Messina (UniME) – Department of Engineering (DI) and The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) - Department of Computing (COMP) collectively, the Parties, for the development and the delivery of a collaborative program allowing for credit transfers between DI and COMP and the award of the Master of Science in Software Technology (MScST) degree by PolyU and the Master of Science in Engineering and Computer Science degree by UniME.

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 abroad.

The Parties agree on the terms and conditions stated below:

1. The Parties
1.1 The Department of Engineering of the University of Messina hereafter referred to as DI.
1.2 The Department of Computing of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU), hereafter referred to as COMP.

2. Objectives
2.1 The primary objective of this Agreement is to develop programs that benefit both COMP and DI. Under this Concurrent Enrollment Program (Enrollment Program), DI students enrolled in the Master of Science in Engineering and Computer Science at DI and COMP students enrolled in the MScST at COMP have the opportunity to be concurrently enrolled at DI and COMP to earn both a MScST from PolyU COMP and a Master of Science in Engineering and Computer Science at UniME DI. Each diploma should preferably give evidence to the student’s participation in the joint program. In order to meet the requirements for 2 master degrees, students must obtain the credits required by the specific course at the Host Institution and the remaining semesters and credits at their Home Institution, according to the study plan defined jointly and attached to this Agreement (Attachment A).
2.2 The Parties seek to formalize an arrangement to allow students from COMP and DI to have Concurrent Enrollment in the MSc program of COMP and the MSc program of DI.

2.3 Selected students participating at the Concurrent Enrollment Program have the status of “two master degrees enrolment”.

2.4 Development of this program is anticipated to facilitate further collaborations between COMP and DI.

2.5 The Concurrent Enrollment Program will be established for the disciplines described in Attachment A. By mutual agreement of the Parties additional disciplines may be added in the future without the creation of a new agreement.

3. **Overview of the Concurrent Enrollment Program**

3.1 Master’s Programs in DI and COMP

The DI has two different tracks (Computer Engineering and Computer Science). This arrangement is for Computer Science track students. In general, each year of master degree in DI provided by UniME is organized about a total student load around 60 ECTS including the dissertation load of second year. Award in DI requires a final dissertation for a total amount of 20 ECTS. In COMP, there are 4 different master degrees and this arrangement is for MScST. The master degree requires students to complete 30 credits. It can be either ten 3-credit subjects, seven 3-credit subjects together with a dissertation, or eight 3-credit subjects together with a 6-credit project subject.

Under this Enrollment Program, for the award of the Master’s degree by DI, COMP students completing undergraduate degrees (BSc(Hons) in Computing or BSc(Hons) in Information Technology or equivalent) will be enrolled at the 2nd year of the Master degree in DI. Up to 24 ECTS credit hours of course work from the MScST at COMP can be credit-transferred for subjects having grade B or above towards the Master degree at DI. COMP students must abide by didactic prescriptions as reported in Attachment A.

Under this Enrollment Program, for the award of the Master’s degree by COMP, DI students enrolled at the Master degree in Engineering and Computer Science will be enrolled at MScST at COMP. Up to 4 subjects taken in DI can be credit-transferred to COMP when the subjects taken in DI having score 25 or above. DI students must abide by didactic prescriptions as reported in Attachment A.

The Concurrent Enrollment Program leads to the award of two master degrees, one by each university, on the basis of the successful completion of the study plan. All students enrolled in this program would need to complete the thesis requirement in DI and dissertation or project requirement in COMP. The thesis work in DI is recommended to be co-supervised by an academic tutor of both institutions and written and defended either at DI or at COMP. The examination committee of the thesis preferably includes a member from the partner institution, who can join the committee also through conference call, video conference, email, etc.
4. **Management of the Concurrent Enrollment Program**

A bilateral committee (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 DI and COMP. Decisions will be jointly taken by the representatives of DI and COMP 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 participating students in the enrolment of the two master degrees each year;
b) to create the conditions necessary for the implementation of the Agreement, needed modifications, and handling problems;
c) to provide their counterparts with up-to-date information on their own institution and its programs, including any special requirements they may have for exchange students;
d) to guarantee the observance of the general regulations of the study program at the home and at the host university;
e) to review and approve any additional fee required by UniME or PolyU;
f) to assure the participating students’ torage (the Bilateral Committee may be assisted by a person appointed by the host university as tutor for the participating students);
g) to recommend and manage the admission procedures of the study program;
h) to approve the final students’ studies plans (Learning Agreement). For the awarding of the MSc in Engineering and Computer Science at UniME and MScST at PolyU, commission will make sure that the Learning Agreement must abide by the study pattern in the Attachment A;
i) to manage exceptional 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.

5. **Admission Standards**

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. The Bilateral Committee will review student applications.

Students must have a bachelor’s degree in a corresponding discipline recognized as high quality by DI and COMP, and graduate with a minimum GPA of 3.0 or QPA of 75% or equivalent for COMP and graduate with a minimum of 100/110 or equivalent for DI.

Demonstration of English proficiency is required for all applicants whose native language is not English. Students can demonstrate proficiency in a number of ways at the graduate level. Most students fulfill the English requirement by taking the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the International English Testing System (IELTS), or the Pearson Test of English. For admission to PolyU, students are expected to fulfil the following minimum requirements: for IELTS an overall band score of
6.0, for TOEFL a score of 80 for the internet-based or 550 for the paper-based test. For admission to UniME, the following minimum requirements have been established: for IELTS an overall band score of 6.5, for Pearson a score of 59 is sufficient, for the (internet-based) TOEFL a score of 85 is sufficient.

Students who have received a baccalaureate or higher degree in English from Hong Kong are exempt from English proficiency requirement.

Students will apply to both the COMP MScST Program and the DI Master of Science in Engineering and Computer Science Program. While enrolled, during the first semester at the home university (UniME or PolyU), administrators at COMP and DI will screen individuals interested in this Concurrent Enrollment Program. Those individuals who demonstrate appropriate academic potential will be recommended for the Concurrent Enrollment Program at both COMP and DI.

While studying at both universities, students will be required to comply with all the regulations and requirements of each institution and be subject to any authorized changes to those regulations such as fee adjustments, etc. Notwithstanding this provision, both DI and COMP will recognize their continuing commitment to students within the Concurrent Enrollment Program from their time of admission to the partner institution.

6. **Responsibilities of the Parties**

6.1 PolyU and UniME agree to the following responsibilities and obligations:

6.1.1 To ensure program approval from the relevant decision-making bodies at PolyU and at UniME.

6.1.2 To promote the programs and recruit students.

6.1.3 To collaborate by the means of the Bilateral Committee in selecting potential students for the Concurrent Enrollment Program.

6.1.4 To forward the completed transfer application forms to the admissions office of the partner university by the posted application deadlines.

6.1.5 To provide students with English language training, tutorial, and courses taught in English to ensure student quality.

6.1.6 To accept returning students who cannot, for academic or other reasons continue their study at the partner university.

6.1.7 To assess successfully completed subjects at the partner university by students who return to their home university having completed the Concurrent Enrollment Program for the awarding of the two master degrees.

6.1.8 To arrange the possible credit transfer for successfully completed subjects at the partner university by students who return to their home university. These academic records will count for degree completion at COMP or at DI.

6.1.9 To provide students with information about accommodation on campus and in the area. Note the information that is provided is not an endorsement of the housing.

6.1.10 To provide students with assistance for visa requirements.
7. **Finances**

7.1 Unless otherwise specified and agreed in written form by the Parties, each party will meet the financial costs associated with delivering the academic components of the programs in their respective universities.

7.2 Students in the Concurrent Enrollment Program will be charged PolyU tuition and fees while they are at COMP and UniME tuition and fees while at DI.

7.3 Each university will take the necessary measures in order to obtain the best possible financial support for the students and provide them with scholarship opportunities. Upon availability of economic resources, the Bilateral Committee will establish terms and conditions for awarding of scholarship to outstanding students of COMP and DI.

7.4 Both Parties reserve the right to change their tuition and fees for any component of the program. Students already progressing through the program may experience a change of fees in line with changes affecting all other students at their respective universities.

7.5 Students in the Concurrent Enrollment Program are liable to be charged for tuition and fees, room and meal costs, travel, health and accident insurance, books and supplies and incidental expenses.

7.6 Students in the Concurrent Enrollment Program while abroad must be covered by a valid and suitable health insurance coverage (for non-EU Visiting personnel), a valid accident and liability insurance.

8. **Term Variation, Numbers, and Termination**

8.1 This arrangement will be effective from 2017/18 academic year for a period of 6 years.

8.2 This arrangement may be amended or modified by mutual written agreement.

8.3 Either party will be entitled at any time, at its discretion to terminate the Agreement and Concurrent Enrollment Program by giving written notice six (6) months beforehand to the other. Such termination will not adversely affect any students currently enrolled at any stage of the joint program. Each party will ensure that adequate arrangements are made to complete all commitments before the Concurrent Enrollment Program is terminated.

9. **General Provisions**

9.1 **Force Majeure.** An institution shall not be responsible for failure to perform any of the obligations imposed by this Agreement, provided such failure shall be occasioned by fire, flood, explosion, lightning, windstorm, earthquake, subsidence of soil, failure or destruction, in whole, or in part, of machinery or equipment or failure of supply of material, discontinuity in the supply of power, governmental interference, civil commotion, riot, war, strikes, labor disturbance, transportation difficulties, labor shortage, or any other cause beyond the reasonable control of such institution.

9.2 **Agency.** The Parties agree that, during the term of this Agreement, the institutions are engaged with each other as independent contractors and not as a joint venture, partnership, trust, association, corporation, or formal business organization of any kind. Except as expressly provided herein, neither institution shall have the right to bind or obligate the other institution in any manner without the other institution’s prior written consent.
9.3 **Language.** If this Agreement is translated into a language other than the English language, the document in the English language shall be the official, binding version.

**10. Intellectual Property (if applicable)**

10.1 Each party will remain individual ownership of all existing intellectual property rights in any contribution made by that party to the development of a program, or which it discloses to the other party in the course of performing its responsibilities under this Agreement.

10.2 Unless otherwise agreed, the Parties shall jointly own all intellectual property jointly developed in relation to any program, with each party having any unrestricted license to use this jointly owned intellectual property during or after the term of this Agreement.

**11. Dispute Resolution**

The Parties by means of the Bilateral Committee will endeavor to resolve any issue arising as to the interpretation of any provision of this Agreement, or in respect to any of the responsibilities of either party.

If the dispute or difference is not settled by agreement within 30 working days of the dispute arising, then, unless agreed otherwise, it shall be referred to a qualified mediator agreed by the Parties.

**12. Exclusion of Third Party Rights**

Nothing in this Agreement, express or implied, is intended to or shall confer upon any person other than the contracting parties hereto any right, benefit or remedy of any nature whatsoever under or by reason of this Agreement.

Date

Prof. Pietro Navarra

Rector of the University of Messina

Date

Prof. Cao Jiannong

Head, Department of Computing

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Attachment A.

STUDY PATTERN FOR UNIME STUDENTS

FIRST YEAR: MASTER DEGREE in ECS at DI (54 ECTS)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Embedded Systems (6 ECTS)</td>
<td>DI</td>
<td>It counts as COMP5228 Embedded Software Engineering in COMP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acoustics and Sound Processing (6 ECTS)</td>
<td>DI</td>
<td>It counts as an elective in COMP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer System Security (6 ECTS)</td>
<td>DI</td>
<td>It counts as COMP5353 Internet Security: Principles and Practice in COMP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Quality Management (6 ECTS) or Managing Innovation and Entrepreneurship (6 ECTS)</td>
<td>DI</td>
<td>It counts as COMP5536 Knowledge Management and Applications in COMP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer System Dimensioning (12 ECTS)</td>
<td>DI</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Algorithms and Computational Models (12 ECTS)</td>
<td>DI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective courses (6 ECTS)</td>
<td>DI</td>
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SECOND YEAR: MASTER DEGREE in ECS at DI (10 ECTS) & MASTER DEGREE in SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY AT COMP (56 ECTS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parallel Programming (6 ECTS)</td>
<td>DI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Traineeship at UniME (4 ECTS)</td>
<td>DI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP5311 Internet Infrastructure and Protocols at COMP in Hong Kong</td>
<td>DI</td>
<td>It counts as Distributed Systems A (6 ECTS) at DI in Messina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP 5322 Internet Computing and Applications at COMP in Hong Kong</td>
<td>DI</td>
<td>It counts as Wireless Technologies (6 ECTS) at DI in Messina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP5325 Distributed Computing at COMP in Hong Kong</td>
<td>DI</td>
<td>It counts as Distributed Systems B (6 ECTS) at DI in Messina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP5527 Mobile Computing and Data Management at COMP in Hong Kong</td>
<td>DI</td>
<td>It counts as Advanced Techniques of Data Analysis (6 ECTS) at DI in Messina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP5933 Project at COMP in Hong Kong</td>
<td>DI</td>
<td>It counts as Industrial Automation and Robotics (12 ECTS) at DI in Messina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master Thesis (20 ECTS) registered in DI under joint supervision of DI and COMP</td>
<td>DI</td>
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STUDY PATTERN FOR COMP STUDENTS

4TH YEAR BACHELOR DEGREE AT HONG KONG - (54 ECTS)

A block transfer of 8 subjects of the bachelor degree in BSc(Hons) in Computing or BSc(Hon) in Information Technology in COMP or equivalent to DI in University of Messina

- Embedded Systems (6 ECTS)
- Acoustics and sound processing (6 ECTS)
- Computer system security (6 ECTS)
- Total Quality Management (6 ECTS)
- Industrial Automation and Robotics A (6 ECTS)
- Industrial Automation and Robotics B (6 ECTS)
- Any elective course (6 ECTS)
- Computer System Dimensioning (12 ECTS)

FIRST SEMESTER: MASTER DEGREE in SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY AT COMP (24 ECTS)

- COMP5311 Internet Infrastructure and Protocols at COMP in Hong Kong - It counts as Distributed Systems A (6 ECTS) at DI in Messina
- COMP5422 Multimedia Computing, Systems and Applications at COMP in Hong Kong - It counts as Advanced Algorithms and Computational Models A (6 ECTS) at DI in Messina
- COMP5527 Mobile Computing and Data Management at COMP in Hong Kong - It counts as Advanced Techniques of Data Analysis (6 ECTS) at DI in Messina
- COMP5121 Data Mining and Data Warehousing at COMP in Hong Kong - It counts as Parallel Computing (6 ECTS) at DI in Messina
- Master dissertation registered in COMP (during January – September)

SECOND SEMESTER (From January – September): MASTER DEGREE in ECS at DI (42 ECTS)

- Credit transfer of 3 subjects to be taken in DI
- Advanced Algorithms and Computational Models B (6 ECTS) at DI in Messina - It counts as an elective at COMP
- Distributed Systems B (6 ECTS) at DI in Messina - It counts as COMP5325 Distributed Computing at COMP
- Wireless Technologies (6 ECTS) at DI in Messina - It counts as COMP5322 Internet Computing and Applications at COMP
- Traineeship at UniME (4 ECTS) at DI in Messina
- Master Thesis (20 ECTS) registered in DI under joint supervision of DI and COMP