



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI PALERMO



INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON DOUBLE MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM BETWEEN UNIVERSITY OF PALERMO AND TIANJIN CHENGJIAN UNIVERSITY

One party is University of Palermo, hereinafter also referred to as the "UNIPA", with registered office at Piazza Marina n. 61, 90133 Palermo, Italy, VAT number 00605880822, represented by prof. Fabrizio Micari, Rector of the University of Palermo;

The other party is Tianjin Chengjian University, hereinafter also referred to as the "TCU", with registered office at No.26 Jinjing Road, Xiqing District, Tianjin 300384, China. VAT number 12120000401359292M, represented by prof. Li Zhongxian, President of the University of TCU.

STATE

1. That both institutions share cultural, technical, educational, and scientific fields of common interest.
2. That collaboration and exchange of experience and knowledge, as well as provision of services between both institutions, are in their greatest interest for social and cultural progress.
3. That they are interested in promoting their international collaboration in the field of higher education and research.

They hereby sign an agreement that regulates the conditions under which students may access and opt for a double Master's degree conferred by both universities, subject to compliance with the clauses established in this agreement, and in accordance with the current regulations at each institution, as follow:

First – Purpose of the agreement

This double Master's degree agreement aims to establish the academic and administrative conditions under which students enrolled at the Master's degree program in "Engineering and innovative technologies for the environment, curriculum in Environmental Science and Engineering (LM 35) of the Department of Engineering at UNIPA, and at the Master's degree program in "Environmental Science and Engineering of the School of Environmental and Municipal Engineering" at TCU, may access and opt for a double Master's degree conferred by both universities, subject to compliance with the clauses established in this agreement, and in accordance with the current regulations at each institution.

Both Institutions consider that the courses in the two degree programs are similar and equivalent.

All procedural rules will be determined through the informal agreement between international programmes managers (within an administrative agreement).

This Agreement is accompanied by a list of the courses and other curricular activities (Annex 1) that students enrolled in the double degree program may opt for during their stay at the host university in order to obtain the double degree.

In addition to the courses from Annex 1 relevant for obtaining the double degree, students may, in consultation with international programmes managers at home institution, opt for any other module delivered at the host university during their stay.

The curriculum presented in the table (Annex 1) must be approved in advance by the academic bodies of both Universities, and can be modified in each academic year, after the approval of the academic bodies of both Universities.

Finally, Annex 2 provides academic and administrative officials with responsibilities for the agreement on double Master's degree program.

Second – Student application and admission

The maximum number of students who could be enrolled in each double degree program is 10 per each academic year for TCU University, and 5 for UNIPA University.

Each university will announce yearly the application call for participating to the double degree program. In principle, the agreed number of nominated students shall be kept as flexible as possible. If the Institution would like to nominate more students for one year the issue must be brought up well in advance of the deadline for application.

Evaluation of the applications and applicant's selection will be mainly based on their motivation, academic career and level of English language proficiency.

Before beginning to take the courses at the host university, students admitted to the double degree program must possess the minimum level English language proficiency. Namely, TCU students enrolled in the double degree program must pass College English Test Band Four or Band Six or other equivalent assessment on English language proficiency; and the UNIPA students correspondingly must process the B2 level of English language proficiency. In the case of students possessing a level of proficiency almost to the minimum required, based on previous approval of the coordinators of the double degree program, this minimum level could be attained by taking and passing language courses at the host university's Linguistic Centre. Also in this case, the minimum level must be reached before students begin the courses at the host university.

The student's final admission requires approval of the partner institution and admission into its corresponding degree program.

Third - Stay

Each student admitted to the double degree program must submit his/her plan of studies for the approval of both universities.

The students participating in the double degree program must attend one semester at the partner institution.

The partner university, through the administrative official responsible for this agreement, pledges to provide assistance in search for suitable accommodations. Likewise, the partner institution pledges to provide students with the information relating to the host country, visas, required medical insurance, etc., before their arrival. The partner institution must provide students in the double degree program with the same services that it generally provides for its own students.

Each institution's academic calendar will be considered when the stay is organized. The academic official responsible for this agreement must inform the incoming students about the organization of the courses that they must take during their stay at the partner institution.

All students admitted to the double degree program must register and present the transcript of records of the courses already taken at their home university, as well as the learning agreement with the courses they will take during their stay at the host institution.

After completing the stay, the students must submit to their home institution the official student transcript of records issued by the partner institution in order to receive credit for the courses taken. The certificate must be presented in English.

The Cooperation Mode of each institution is as follows:

For TCU students: 0.5+1+1.5, namely, 1 semester at TCU, 1 year at UNIPA and 1.5 year at TCU.

For UNIPA students: 1+0.5+0.5, namely, 1 year at UNIPA, 1 semester at TCU and 1 semester at UNIPA.

The criteria to grant the master's degree by each institution is as follows:

TCU: UNIPA students must finish the courses and other curricular activities listed in Annex 1.

UNIPA: TCU students must finish the courses and other curricular activities listed in Annex 1.

Fourth – Enrolment and tuition fees

The student participating in the double degree program will pay the enrolment fees and taxes at their home university and they will be exempted from paying registration or degree fees for courses taken at the host institution during the period of the stay.

Once the student has been accepted into the double master's program, he/she must be enrolled in the corresponding master's program at the partner institution. The enrolment will be carried out by the administrative official responsible for this agreement, who will inform the student of the necessary documents.

Fifth – Student obligations and rights

During the exchange period, the students will be subject to the rules and regulations of the partner institution and to all the legal and social obligations within the host country. Likewise, they will enjoy the same rights as students enrolled at the partner institution.

If a student does not comply with the terms of this agreement, including the length of the stay at the partner institution and its curriculum, he/she will forfeit any right to receive the degree from the partner institution and will be excluded from the double degree program, although he/she may still be eligible to opt for the Master's degree at the home institution.

Sixth – Expenses

Transport costs, medical insurance, accommodations, upkeep, and any other expenses arising during the exchange period of the double degree program will be charged to the student. The student must acquire health insurance that guarantees access to health care in the host country. This insurance must cover medical and health care, death and disability caused by an accident, repatriation assistance for death by any cause, and reimbursement for medical expenses caused by an accident.

The partner institution, through the administrative officials responsible for this agreement, pledges to provide assistance in search for suitable accommodations, although all stay expenses will be charged to the student. Likewise, the partner institution pledges to provide the student with information relating to the host country, visas, required medical insurance, etc., before their arrival. The partner institution must provide students in the double degree program with the same services that they generally provide their own students.

UNIPA and TCU will undertake all efforts for finding national and international resources to assure financial support to this program.

Seventh – Evaluation of the results

The academic officials of both institutions charged with the coordination of this double degree program will meet also by video conference, at least once in a year, to evaluate the effectiveness of the study program and the results achieved by students, as well as the resources supplied by both

universities. They could suggest the necessary modifications to improve the quality of the program and propose them to the competent Boards of both institutions.

Eighth - Duration of the agreement

This agreement will take effect from the time of its signing by the representatives of both institutions, and will be valid for a period of five (5) years. Following this period, the agreement may be renewed by written consent. Either one of the signatory institutions may terminate this agreement in writing, which must be sent to the partner institution 6 months in advance. If one institution wishes to terminate this agreement, both pledge to meet their commitments to the students admitted into the double degree program before either one withdraws from it.

Moreover, the signature of this agreement does not mean any financial fulfilment to the parties.

Ninth – Academic and research exchanges

With the aim of supporting the double degree program, UNIPA and TCU will promote and coordinate by mutual consent the exchange of visiting professors and researchers as well as the organization of workshop, seminars, conferences and publications on topics of common interest. The exchange and development of the activities above mentioned will conform to the norms and procedures in force in the two institutions.

Tenth - Use of Logo

The Partners mutually commit not to use the name and/or logo or any other identifying marks for purposes other than those covered by the agreement, except for specific agreements between the parties that provide, prior explicit approval, forms of communication and divulging of the initiatives covered by the agreement.

Eleventh - Personal data treatment

Universities will arrange for the treatment, the dissemination and communication of personal data in pursuit of their institutional goals and as provided by law.

Twelfth- Text of the agreement

The agreement will be drawn up in English. Any amendments or changes to the text of the agreement must be requested in writing by the institution proposing them.

If any disagreement regarding the interpretation and application of the agreement arises in China, the laws and regulations of China will be applied. If any disagreement arises in Italy, the laws and regulations of Italy will be applied.

As proof of agreement with the foregoing, the present agreement is signed in duplicate.

ON BEHALF OF UNIVERSITY OF
PALERMO

Prof. Fabrizio Micari

Rector of the University of Palermo


15/01/2020


ON BEHALF OF TIANJIN CHENGJIAN
UNIVERSITY

Prof. Li Zhongxian

President of Tianjin Chengjian University


