

**AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION FOR THE GRANTING  
OF DUAL DEGREES**

**Between**

**ALMA MATER STUDIORUM - UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA** (hereafter referred to as "University of Bologna" or "UNIBO"), represented by its Rector, Prof. Francesco Ubertini, Via Zamboni 33 Bologna 40126 Italy

Rep. 5570/2021  
Prot. 160532/2021

**and**

**UNIVERSITE DE LIEGE** (hereafter referred to as "University of Liège" or "ULiege"), represented by its Rector, Prof. Pierre WOLPER, Place du 20-Août, 7 - 4000 Liège, Belgium.

Collectively, the University of Liège and the University of Bologna shall be referred to as the "Parties."

It is agreed and stipulated as follows:

**Article 1 - Preamble**

WHEREAS, on 17 September 2015 the Parties signed an agreement of cooperation for the granting of dual degrees in the field of Civil, Environmental and Geological Engineering valid until the cohort of students enrolled in academic year 2020/21;

WHEREAS, the Italian Ministerial Decree DM 270/04 allows Italian Universities to jointly grant degrees (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle) with foreign Universities;

WHEREAS ULiege is organized in conformity with the decree of 7th November 2013 which defines the Landscape of Higher Education and the Academic Organization of Studies (Décret définissant le Paysage de l'enseignement supérieur et l'organisation académique des études);

WHEREAS, ULiege and UNIBO each have their respective degree requirements for engineering and architecture;

WHEREAS, UNIBO offers engineering degree programmes in the English language;

WHEREAS, the Department of Civil, Chemical, Environmental and Materials Engineering (DICAM) of the University of Bologna and the Department of Architecture, Geological, Environmental and Construction Engineering (ARGENCO) of the University of Liège have a common interest in continuing to cooperate and provide students at ULiege and UNIBO with an opportunity to earn a dual degree, with one degree (Master degree) awarded by ULiege while the other (LM, Laurea Magistrale) awarded by UNIBO;

WHEREAS, the Parties with their resources and funds, and in accordance with the law and regulations of their respective countries, shall collaborate to facilitate exchanges of students and staff who participate in the programme as described in this Agreement;

The Parties have agreed to the terms of this Agreement as set forth below.

## Article 2 – Objective of the Agreement

The University of Bologna and University of Liège agree to establish an integrated two-year (four-semester) programme during which students will study for a period of two semesters at their home institution followed by a period of two semesters at the host institution (referred to as “Dual Degree Programmes”).

The students successfully completing the study programme will receive the following degrees: the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle Degree “Laurea Magistrale” (LM, two years, 120 ECTS), granted by the University of Bologna, and a Master (MA, two years, 120 ECTS) granted by the University of Liège. The two degrees are awarded separately after the student completes the individual requirements for each degree as described in Articles 4.1, 4.2 and 6.3.

The Dual Degree Programmes to be activated with the present agreement are listed in Annex A. Annex A may be updated to activate or deactivate specific Dual Degree Programmes by a written agreement of the Parties.

The Agreement is restricted to students enrolled in LM Civil Engineering curriculum Structural Engineering or Infrastructure Design in River Basins or Sustainable Mobility in Urban Areas or LM Ingegneria per l’Ambiente e il Territorio, curriculum Earth Resources Engineering / Master: ingénieur civil des mines et géologue or the Master: ingénieur civil des constructions, programmes respectively offered by the following Departments: a) Department of Civil, Chemical, Environmental and Materials Engineering (DICAM) at UNIBO b) Department Of Architecture, Geological, Environmental and Construction Engineering (ARGENCO) of the University of Liège.

## Article 3 – Definitions

Terminology clarification: some common concepts used in the framework of international cooperation in a higher education context have a specific translation in the Decree of the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2013 of the French Community of Belgium Defining Higher Education Landscape and academic organisation of Studies. Given that, the following wordings will be used interchangeably in this agreement: « semester » is referred to as « quadrimestre » in the Decree ; « year » (of a programme) is translated into « bloc », “ECTS” by “credits”. Additionally, coorganization of a joint programme leading to the award of a double, multiple or joint degree is referred to the generic term of “codiplomation” no matter how many degree(s) delivered upon successful completion of the programme.

For the purpose of this agreement only, the following definitions apply:

LM Civil Engineering curriculum Structural Engineering or Infrastructure Design in River Basins or Sustainable Mobility in Urban Areas and LM Ingegneria per l’Ambiente e il Territorio, curriculum Earth Resources Engineering are two-year (120 ECTS credits) 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle degree offered at the University of Bologna.

Master : ingénieur civil des constructions and Master : ingénieur civil des mines et géologue are two-year (120 ECTS credits) 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle degrees offered at the University of Liège.

Home institution or home university is the University where the student is enrolled and pay tuition fees from the first year of the degree programme on, for the whole duration of the programme.

Partner university or Host institution or host university is the university where student is registered for the year abroad to obtain the Dual Degree.

Outbound student is the student going from their Home institution to the Host institution.



Inbound student is the student coming to the Host institution from their Home institution.

## **Article 4 - Students**

### **4.1 Enrolment and mobility**

Participation in the Dual Degree Programmes should involve an equal number of students from both Universities, whenever possible. A maximum of 5 students per year per institution is agreed.

Parties shall be able to jointly agree a higher number of participants upon a notice exchange.

Students who qualify for entry to the Dual degree programme must have fulfilled the admission requirements for the Dual degree programme. They have:

- To be enrolled in the Master : ingénieur civil des mines et géologue or the Master : ingénieur civil des constructions at ULiege, or in the LM Ingegneria per l'Ambiente e il Territorio - curriculum Earth Resources Engineering at UNIBO or in the LM Civil Engineering curriculum Structural Engineering or Infrastructure Design in River Basins or Sustainable Mobility in Urban Areas at UNIBO;
- Proof of a successful completion of their first year of second cycle degree programme: 57 ECTS for LM Ingegneria per l'Ambiente e il Territorio - curriculum Earth Resources Engineering and 60 ECTS for LM Civil Engineering curriculum Structural Engineering or Infrastructure Design in River Basins or Sustainable Mobility in Urban Areas at UNIBO or Master: ingénieur civil des constructions and Master: ingénieur civil des mines et géologue at ULiege;
- Proof of English language ability (equivalent to CEFR B2 level).

Students participating in the Dual Degree Programmes will be selected by the Home university according to the admission requirements stated above.

Students will then be registered at the host university according to its procedures, either in the Master : ingénieur civil des constructions or the Master : ingénieur civil des mines et géologue /LM Civil Engineering curriculum Structural Engineering or Infrastructure Design in River Basins or Sustainable Mobility in Urban Areas or LM Ingegneria per l'Ambiente e il Territorio- curriculum Earth Resources Engineering according to the pertinent dual degree programme.

The students selected by the home university, meeting all requirements mentioned above, will be automatically accepted by the host university.

The mobility structure, the correspondences between the teaching activities and the number of credits are described in Annex B.

The Parties agree to use the ECTS grading system on the basis of a grading table yearly defined by the Partner Universities.

### **4.2 Specifics**

#### ULiege Students visiting UNIBO

- In the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the Dual Degree programme, ULiege student will register at UNIBO, with the same benefits and regulations and norms which are in force in the host university, will attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the pertinent dual degree programme, and transfer 60 ECTS from ULiege to UNIBO.
- While at UNIBO, ULiege student will complete 60 ECTS. After completing the required courses, the student must fulfil UNIBO's requirement to defend the Master Thesis (Tesi di Laurea Magistrale), as described in Annex B.

- After completing the requirements of the Dual Degree programme (including the Master Thesis - Tesi di Laurea Magistrale), the student obtains the degree qualification at UNIBO, and can also require the award of the degree at the Home university (ULIEGE) by submitting the relevant academic documentation.

#### UNIBO students visiting ULiege

- In the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the Dual Degree programme, UNIBO student will register at ULiege, with the same benefits and regulations and norms which are in force in the host university, will attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the pertinent dual degree programme, and transfer 57 or 60 ECTS according to the dual degree programme they chose from UNIBO to ULiege.
- While at ULiege, UNIBO student will complete 63 or 60 ECTS according to the chosen dual degree programme. After completing the required courses, the student must fulfil ULiege's requirement to defend the Master Thesis (Travail de fin d'études), as described in Annex B.
- After completing the requirements of the Dual Degree programme (including the Master Thesis - Travail de fin d'études), the student obtains the degree qualification at ULIEGE, and can also require the award of the degree at the Home university (UNIBO) by submitting the relevant academic documentation.

### **4.3 Tuition and fees**

During the period that students are registered at the Host institution, tuition and fees will be paid by students at the Home university. Each university determines and approves its own tuition and fees for each academic year. There will be no exchange of student tuition funds between ULiege and UNIBO. However, students may be required to pay administrative fees (i.e. "role et assurance" at ULiege and the cost for the award of the diploma at UNIBO).

### **4.4 Certifications**

Host Universities shall release and grant each mobility programme student a Transcript of Records indicating his/her attended teachings and his/her academic performances and number of credits obtained at the partner University.

### **4.5 Insurance**

Both UNIBO and ULiege confirm that their regularly enrolled students, and their teaching and administrative staff, are insured against any accident that they may suffer during their period of stay abroad for the activities concerned by this Agreement and that they are insured for legal liability against damage which they may involuntarily cause to third party (people and their properties). Health insurance is not provided neither by Unibo nor ULiege.

### **4.6 Services offered**

Students participating in the programme shall benefit from all services offered by the Partner university to its other enrolled students.

Partner institutions must have a structure in place to help accommodate inbound students. By structure it is intended that the Partner institution has the appropriate administrative setup for student information, registration, advisement and counsel available in the English language. Availability of housing, meal-plan and other ancillary services such as access to sports and welfare activities is desirable but not required.



#### **4.7 Fellowships or scholarships**

Each University may, at its sole discretion and according to its own internal procedures, grant fellowships or scholarships to the students who participate in the programme.

#### **4.8 Information to Students**

The Parties will appropriately inform participating students that they will be responsible for complying with all rules and regulations of the Partner institution and for paying all other costs associated with their study at the Partner institution, including, but not limited to housing, meals, transportation, immigration and visa documentation, books, and personal expenses.

#### **4.9 Housing**

Students will be responsible for making their own living arrangements and, in particular, for securing their own housing. Both universities agree to provide the students with the level of assistance in obtaining housing that they give to their other enrolled students.

#### **4.10 Visa**

Provided that it is the student's responsibility to obtain the proper immigration documents, the Partner University will assist the exchange students in securing the immigration documents necessary to study at its institution.

### **Article 5 – Responsibility for the Agreement**

For each dual degree programme the Parties identify a person in charge of the scientific and teaching aspects (academic advisors) for the implementation of this agreement and references offices for students involved in the activities of the present agreement (Annex C).

### **Article 6 – Coursework**

#### **6.1. Correspondence tables**

The correspondence tables between the involved study programmes for each dual degree programme are attached to this Agreement as Annex B.

Each correspondence table covers all the period from the beginning of study to the last exams, to include the degree.

All exams successfully passed at the host University by students shall be automatically recognized by the home University according to the correspondence table.

Subject to the approval of the academic advisor, the students will define their study plan in compliance with the relevant correspondence table.

If the courses offered and identified in Annex B are modified, then the Parties shall advise one another of such modifications within the month of May by means of an official exchange of notes, to no detriment of students already enrolled in the programme.

As for the Master : ingénieur civil des mines et géologue at ULiege, courses shall be offered in English or on a “bilingual way (French-English)”, meaning that if the course is not taught in English, the pedagogical support will be available in English. Each year, and at the time of the publication of the course bulletin, the academic advisor at ULiege

will advise the academic advisor at UNIBO of the current list and description of the courses which shall be offered on a “bilingual way (French-English)”.

## **6.2. Defence of the Final Dissertation**

Students participating in the Dual Degree Programmes will defend their Master Thesis (written paper - Travail de fin d'études/Tesi di Laurea Magistrale) at the Host University (where they have spent the second year).

The Boards in charge of the final examination are defined in accordance with prevailing local regulations.

## **6.3. Release of the Degree**

Students successfully completing the requirements of the Dual Degree Programme at each institution will obtain two degrees according to pertinent attended dual degree programme: the Laurea Magistrale in Civil Engineering or the Laurea Magistrale in Ingegneria per l'Ambiente e il Territorio at the University of Bologna and the Master : ingénieur civil des mines et géologue or the Master : ingénieur civil des constructions at the University of Liège.

Students participating in the study programme obtain the degree qualification at the Host University (where they have spent the second year and where they have defended their final dissertation), and they can require the award of the degree at the other partner University by submitting the relevant academic documentation as soon as the articles 4.1 and 4.2 has been fulfilled.

### **Article 7 – Evaluation of the Agreement**

The Parties will consult each other when appropriate, but at least once a year, in order to evaluate the progress of the agreement, to draw up a report about the ongoing initiatives.

### **Article 8 Further collaborations**

The Parties, after assessing the compatibility of the study programmes, might extend the collaboration to other teaching paths. In that case, specific addenda to the present agreement will be stipulated.

### **Art. 9 – Exchange of faculty members and administrative staff**

#### **9.1 Exchange modalities**

Both Universities shall regulate the reception and employment of faculty members and administrative staff participating into the mobility programme under this Agreement, in conformity with the law and juridical rules in force in the country concerned under the exchange.

Personnel concerned under this Agreement will continue to comply with the contractual obligations with the home University and will continue to receive the due remuneration and to benefit from the rights they are entitled of for their juridical position, according to the legislative norms existing in the home country.

In any case, the home University shall consider the duration of the stay as ordinary service period for all purposes.

#### **9.2 Activities for teachers and administrative personnel**

Faculty members and researchers can hold courses and lectures, carry out tutorship activities, participate in seminars, be part of exam, final thesis and doctorate commissions at the partner University, and take part into research activities and meetings for student exchange programme planning, evaluation and development, held at the partner University.



The administrative staff will have the possibility of participating in meetings for student exchange programme planning, evaluation and development and will be able to carry out special visits in order to analyse the management systems operating at the partner University.

The Parties agree that all the financial agreements will have to be negotiated and will depend on the availability of funds. For the expenses concerning the mobility of teaching staff members and research fellows, each university will cover all the costs for their own professors and research fellows according to the availability of Erasmus+ Programme funds or other funds for research.

During their period at the hosting University, the faculty members and the researchers participating in said exchange, to carry out the above-mentioned activities, shall be considered as staff "on a mission" abroad.

### **9.3 Insurance obligation**

The Parties state that their employees and staff (teachers and administrative personnel) will be insured against accidents that they may suffer during their stay abroad, for the activities under this Agreement, and for the civil liability for damage which they may involuntarily cause to third parties (people or their properties).

### **Art. 10 – Prevention and security**

Both parties shall provide each mobility programme participant with detailed information about the specific risks existing in the work environment in which he/she will operate and carry out his/her function and with necessary documentation about the prevention and emergency security measures and provisions in force in relation to their activity and about the persons in charge of this, in compliance with the legislative norms and regulations in force in the country of the hosting University.

### **Art. 11 – Use of name / Logo**

Each party may use the logos, names and other marks of the other parties only in connection with the programme. Each party anticipates the other party's participation in press announcements, marketing and other reasonable promotional activities involving the double-degree programme through the appropriate use of the logos, names and marks of the parties.

### **Art. 12 - Intellectual Property**

Each of the parties acknowledges and agrees that any and all of the Intellectual Property Rights or other proprietary rights in respect of any literature, materials, research or teaching methods, procedures, processes and/or the learning experience in relation to or in connection with the Programme and any parts thereof, are and shall remain the sole property of its owner and, save as expressly set out herein, nothing in this Agreement is intended to transfer ownership or create any licensed rights under any such Intellectual Property Rights or other proprietary rights.

The learning materials and any other literature, materials, research methods, procedures, processes or programmes in which a party has Intellectual Property Rights relating to or in connection with the Programme and which are disclosed to the other party pursuant to this Agreement may be used by the other party solely for the purposes of performing its obligations under, and during the period of, this Agreement and for no other purpose.

### **Art. 13 - Data Protection**

Regarding personal data transmission the Parties shall meet the requirements of the EU General Data Protection Regulation and act upon accordingly.

## Article 14 - Duration of the Agreement

The Agreement will be effective from the date of signature of the document by both parties and will be valid for a period of six (6) years, from 2021/22 with the possibility of renewal upon the written agreement of both parties. In particular, it will be effective for students who will attend the second year of the dual degree programme during academic year 2022/2023 until 2026/2027.

The Agreement may be amended by mutual written agreement between the Parties in compliance with reference rules and regulations and with guidelines of Governing Bodies of the Parties.

The agreement may be terminated by written notice by either party and the termination will be effective from the cohorts of students enrolling in the following academic year. If either party exercises that option, students already participating in the exchange will be allowed to complete their studies at the Partner institution under the terms of agreement in effect at the time of their acceptance into the programme.

The Annex B can be individually modified by mutual consent between the Parties by means of an exchange of notes between the partner Universities, to no detriment to the students already enrolled.

## Article 15 - Other

Each university will be subject to the laws and regulations of its country and the policies of its institution. There are no third-party beneficiaries to this Agreement. Without limitation, no student is an intended third-party beneficiary to this Agreement. Nothing in this Agreement establishes a partnership or joint venture between the Universities. Each University will be solely responsible for payment of all salaries, wages, taxes, insurance, and benefits in respect to its employees.

Any disagreement between the Parties related to interpretation or implementation of the agreement will be resolved amicably.

This Agreement is undersigned in two originals, drawn up in English.

Date ...02/04/2021

Rector Prof. Francesco Ubertini  
Alma Mater Studiorum Università  
di Bologna



Date ..... 15 JUN 2021

Rector Prof. Pierre Wolper  
Université de Liège

