

**AGREEMENT OF INTERUNIVERSITY COOPERATION
FOR THE GRANTING OF SECOND CYCLE DOUBLE DEGREE**



Rep. 08/02/2019
Prot. 240563/2019

Between

Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna (hereafter referred to as “Unibo”), represented by its Rector Prof. Francesco Ubertini, Via Zamboni 33 – 40126 Bologna, Italy

and

University of Duisburg-Essen (hereafter referred to as “UDE”), represented by its Rector Prof. Dr. Ulrich Radtke, Universitätsstr. 2, 45141 Essen – Germany
here namely the Faculty of Engineering represented by its Dean, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Dieter Schramm,

Together named “the Parties”

Provided that

- both Universities are interested in establishing a long-term collaboration and a cultural exchange partnership;
- the Italian Ministerial Decree “DM 270/04” allows Italian universities to grant degrees, together with other foreign universities;
- the Department of Industrial Engineering of Unibo and the Faculty of Engineering of UDE have a common interest in creating an integrated study programme with Double Degree by implementing mobility schemes based on their existing study programs in the field of mechanical engineering, by which enrolled students of each University will be able to get a double degree qualification; based upon mutual recognition of credits that the students achieve prior and during their mobility abroad and in accordance with the applicable legal regulations.
- both Universities, with their resources and funds and in accordance with the law and regulations of their respective country, shall collaborate and host all students, and when needed faculty members and administrative staff who participate in the mobility programme as described in this Agreement;

It is agreed and stipulated as follows:

Art. 1 - Preamble

Preamble and Annexes are an integral part of this Agreement.

Art. 2 – Objective of the Agreement

The Parties agree to establish a study plan with Double Degree which provides for the exchange of applicant students for a period of two semesters, at the end of which both Universities will grant a second cycle degree: Laurea Magistrale in Ingegneria Meccanica by Unibo (two years, 120 ECTS) and Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering by UDE (two years, 120 ECTS).

Art. 3 - Students

3.1 Students Exchange

The exchange should be balanced and involve an equivalent number of students from both Universities, where possible.

Both Universities agree that the number of participating students will not be more than six (6) from each university per academic year. Parties shall be able to jointly agree on a higher number of participants upon a notice exchange between the Parties.

All exams successfully passed by students involved in the present agreement shall be recognized by partner University accordingly to the correspondence tables.

Students involved in the mobility programme shall also enjoy the benefits and shall be likewise subject to the regulations and norms, which are in force in the universities concerned by the programme.

3.2 Selection of students

Students admitted to the mobility programme will be selected by home University according to its own criteria and modalities. Students must meet the admission requirements reported in Annex 3.

Students might need to adjust their curriculum in order to fulfil the requirements of the double degree curriculum.

Each Party issues a specific call for applications describing the modalities through which students can apply as well as the requirements for the participation to the double degree programme also in compliance with requirements provided in Annex 3.

3.3 Enrolment and Mobility

Students from Unibo who want to attend the programme have to be regularly enrolled at the degree programme Laurea Magistrale in Ingegneria Meccanica (Meccanica dell'automazione e robotica profile or equivalent) at Bologna Campus.

In the second year students shall be transferred and admitted to UDE in order to attend the teaching activities offered within the Degree Program ISE - M.Sc. Mechanical Engineering program in accordance with the correspondence table annexed to the present agreement (Annex 1).

Any documents and certificates concerning students enrolled at Unibo will be directly transmitted to UDE by Unibo offices.

Students from Unibo must earn a minimum of 58 ECTS to a maximum of 62 ECTS at UDE.

Unibo students will prepare the master thesis and defend their final dissertation at UDE, according to the procedure described in 4.3.

Students from UDE who want to attend the mobility programme have to be regularly enrolled at the Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering (Mechatronics profile).

In the second year students shall be transferred to Unibo Bologna Campus in order to attend the teaching activities provided by the degree programme of Laurea Magistrale in Ingegneria Meccanica in accordance with the correspondence table annexed to the present agreement (Annex 1) and they must earn a minimum of 58 ECTS to a maximum of 62 ECTS at Unibo. UDE students will prepare the master thesis and defend their final dissertation at Unibo, according to the procedure described in 4.3.

The execution of any exam of the mobility phase at the home university is not possible.

3.4 Exemption from university admission fees

Students participating in the mobility programme shall only pay tuition fees at their home university and be exempted from paying university admission fees at the host University. During their mobility at UDE Unibo students have to pay a semester fee (social contribution) for transport and services.

All other charges, including health insurance, shall be borne by the students themselves.

3.5 Certifications

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



3.6 Insurance obligation

UniBo states that its regularly admitted students 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 or their properties).

UDE will inform its selected students that they have to activate an insurance coverage 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 damages which they may involuntarily cause to third party (people or their properties) for the whole mobility period. Copy of the insurance has to be brought to UniBo offices at the registration stage.

3.7 Services offered

Students participating in the mobility programme shall benefit from all services offered by the host University to its regular enrolled students.

3.8 Scholarship

Each University can grant scholarships to students who intend to participate into the mobility programme, on the basis of a proper selection procedure.

Art. 4 – Studies

4.1 Study plan

The study plan is attached to this Agreement (Annex 1).

Language of instruction within the program will be

- at UDE: German and English
- at UniBo: Italian and English

The study plan covers all the period from the beginnings of study to the last exams, to include the degree.

Exams and study period duration shall be organized in a balanced form. The study plan can be modified by mutual consent between the Parties, to no detriment of students already enrolled.

4.2 Use of ECTS and grading tables

The Parties agree to use the ECTS and the grading table defined by the Partner Universities, as reported in annex 4. The grading table can be modified by mutual consent between the Parties.

4.3 Final Thesis

For UniBo students, the final thesis will follow UDE regulations. The Committee in charge of the final examination can invite one teacher from UniBo but with no rights of an examiner, especially with no rights on final score assignment. UDE will submit to UniBo a graduation report signed by at least two teachers appointed by the Board of Examiners of UDE, which proves the regular implementation of the final exam discussed in public and a mark on thesis discussion with a score of 1 to 5 (as following the UDE final mark assignment procedure as reported in annex 4).

For UDE students, the final thesis discussion at UniBo involves the drafting of an original thesis, which must be discussed in public during a session of a specific Committee consisting of at least three teachers appointed by the Degree Programme Board. The Committee in charge of the final examination can invite one teacher from UDE but with no rights on final score assignment. The Committee evaluates the student taking into account both the study career and the performance of the final exam. UniBo will submit to UDE a graduation report, which proves the regular implementation





of the final exam and a combined mark on dissertation thesis and its discussion with a score of 0 to 30L (as following the Unibo final mark assignation procedure as reported in annex 4).

4.4 Award of the degree qualifications

Students participating in the programme obtain the degree qualification - Laurea Magistrale/Master of Science - at the university where they defend the final dissertation and they can require the award of the degree at the other university on the basis of the related correspondence table annexed to this agreement, by submitting the relevant academic documentation as soon as the article 3.3 has been fulfilled.

References offices for students participating in the double degree programme are listed in the Annex 2 to this Agreement.

Students who finally fail in one or more exams at the partner university will not receive the degree of the partner University. Such students can complete their studies at the home university, where all credits earned at the partner university will be recognized.

Art. 5 – Visit of faculty members and administrative staff

5.1 Visit modalities

UDE and UniBo encourage the visits of faculty members and administrative staff. The reception of faculty members and administrative staff shall be regulated in conformity with the law and juridical rules in force in the country concerned under the visit.

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.

5.2 Activities for teachers and administrative personnel

It is intended that faculty members and researchers 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 mobility 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.

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 Plus 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.

5.3 Insurance obligation

UniBo states that its 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).

UDE states that its employees and staff (teachers and administrative personnel) will be insured against accidents that they may suffer while traveling on University business.



Art. 6 – Prevention and security

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

Art. 7 – 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/brand of the parties.

Art. 8 - 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. 9 – Other activities

The Parties can extend the cooperation agreement for other purposes beyond the student mobility. Further cooperation projects, including intensive courses, distance teachings, joined researches, organization of seminars, symposia, and interviews on common interest topics and all other activities consolidating the cooperation, will be encouraged by both parties. These projects will be subject to specific addenda to this Agreement document, which will be stipulated by both parties.

Both parties agree to promote this programme in their catalogues and websites. All costs will be maintained by the individual institutions, unless otherwise specified in writing and agreed upon by both parties.

Art. 10 – Responsible for the Agreement

Each University shall appoint a coordinator for the Cooperation Agreement.

Art. 11 – Evaluation of the programme

The Parties will consult each other when appropriate, but at least once a year, in order to evaluate the programme development, to draw up a report about the ongoing initiatives and to elaborate other cooperation programmes. At the end of each cohort both partners monitor the participants' study performance and inform each other about the study performance of the participants.

Art. 12 – Controversies

In the event of any controversy arising from this agreement the Parties will endeavour to resolve the matter amicably and in good faith.

Art. 13 – Duration of the Agreement

This Agreement will operate from the last date of signing and will be effective for a period of five years from academic year 2020/2021 (the last cohort of students will enroll in academic year 2023/24). This Agreement may be extended by mutual written agreement between the Parties.

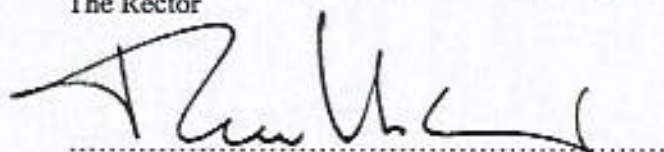
This Agreement may be terminated at the request of either party provided that a minimum of six months' prior written notice is given to the other party to enable satisfactory arrangements to be put in place for existing Students, and those to whom an offer of a place on the Programme has been formally made. Both parties shall be equally responsible for such arrangements. Any modification or termination of the Agreement shall be carried out in such a way as to ensure no damage for the participants in the programmes already underway. If any of the partner institutions wishes to withdraw, it must be guaranteed that all the students admitted to this institution will be able to complete their studies in the normal way.

Annexes can be modified by mutual consent between the Parties in writing, to no detriment to the students already enrolled.

Art. 14 – Copies and language

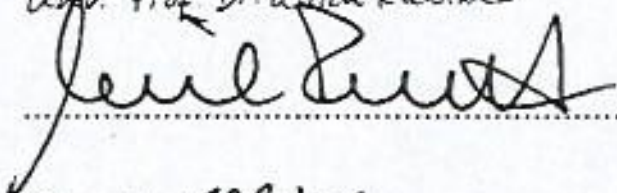
This Agreement is subscribed in two originals drawn up in English language.

Bologna, date 07.10.2019.....
Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna
The Rector





Essen, date 20.09.2019.....
University of Duisburg-Essen
The Rector
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Ulrich Radtke



Essen, date 18.9.2019.....
University of Duisburg-Essen
Dean, Faculty of Engineering

