

Double Degree Programme on Master's level in Material Science
between JUSTUS LIEBIG UNIVERSITY (JLU) GIESSEN, Germany,
and UNIVERSITY OF PADOVA (UNIPD), Italy

At JLU “*Master of Science in Material Science*” corresponds to a second cycle degree, Master level (120 ECTS credits), giving access to a third cycle degree equivalent to a PhD level in Europe.

At UNIPD “*Laurea Magistrale in Scienza dei Materiali*”, Classe LM-53, corresponds to a second cycle degree, Master level (120 ECTS credits), giving access to “Dottorato di ricerca”, a third cycle degree equivalent to a PhD level in Europe.

Structure of the Programme and student exchange plan

Studies leading to the Double Degree shall last four semesters totalling **120 ECTS** credits: the students will spend the first year of studies at Home Institution and the second year of studies at the Host Institution. Students must obtain **at least 60 ECTS credits at the host institution**. Students must prepare, present and defend a **final thesis**, preferentially under joint supervision by professors from both universities, according to what specified in item 8. The Host Institution will provide mentoring for each student for the duration of the study period.

1. Conditions to obtain the Double Degree

The double degree agreement is based on a mutual recognition of the activities that students undertake at their Home Institution (UNIPD or JLU) prior to the mobility abroad. Students will follow a studying programme consisting of **2 semesters at the home institution** and **2 semesters abroad at the host institution**, according to the following study plan:

Table 1.- Structure of the Study Plan in order to obtain a double degree

Home Institution	1 st year	2 nd year First semester	2 nd year second semester for Master Thesis	Total credits to obtain the DD
UNIPD	60	20	40	120
JLU	60	30	30	120

Students have to complete a one year study stay at the partner university. During this time, they have to pass all courses, seminars, lectures, classes or others (hereinafter referred to as modules) defined in the working plan mutually agreed upon by the academic coordinators at JLU and UNIPD. The working plan shall contain the typical workload per year at the partner university: i.e. **at JLU 60 CP** in total, **at UNIPD 60 credits** in total. Therefore, each university offers **a defined set of modules taught in English**. These modules should be fully accepted by both universities. An updated list has to be provided by both universities regularly.

2. Schedule for Students' Exchange

JLU students of the Masters' programme in Material Science start their studies at JLU (semester 1: October – March, semester 2: April - September). During the first two semesters, they have to successfully participate in 10 lecture-based modules (60 CP in total). Afterwards, from semester 3 on, they spend a one year study stay at the UNIPD Department of Chemical Sciences where they have to obtain the typical workload of 60 credits including their master thesis.

UNIPD students of the Masters' programme in Materials Science start their studies at UNIPD. During the first two semesters, they have to successfully participate in courses totalling 60 credits. Afterwards, from semester 3 on (semester 3: October – March, semester 4: April - July), they spend a one year study stay at the JLU where they have to obtain the typical workload of 60 CP including their master thesis.

3. Student Selection & Admission

The partner universities agree to select qualified students who meet the academic and language requirements of the respective host university.

Prior to the exchange period, participating students must have completed two semesters on Master level at their home university.

Each partner institution shall be willing to accept **every year up to 5 students** from the partner university unless agreed otherwise. Master students who are admitted to the JLU Master's programme in Material Science or the UNIPD Masters' programme at the Department of Chemical Sciences are eligible to apply for the double degree programme.

Admission procedures to the double degree programme are carried out by the home universities. The sending university shall provide the study related documents required by the host university in due time. The host university reserves the right for making the final decision to admit the nominated candidate from the sending university:-

Both universities should nominate students of their Master's programmes. At the **beginning of their second semester, applicants have to submit the following documents (in English)** to the academic coordinator of their home university:

- Bachelor' s Certificate
- Letter of motivation
- Study plan accepted by the academic coordinators of both universities
- An approved English competency test. Knowledge of written and spoken English is required. Applicants must provide a certificate giving evidence of their proficiency in English. The following are accepted as evidence: 80 (iBT – internet based) in the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language); 6 points in the IELTS Academic Test (International English Language Testing System); a Bachelor's degree course completed in English; another approved English competency test (e.g. DAAD vd2, UNICert II B2, any B2 equivalent)

Additionally, at selection stage, UNIPD students and JLU students must have successfully participated in all first semesters' modules having obtained **at least 20 ECTS**.

Students may also be admitted to the programme on the basis of **interviews** guided by the academic coordinator of their home university.

Based on the requirements and procedures mentioned above and based on academic merits, both universities should nominate students as candidates for the programme. Following partner universities' academic coordinators' approval (including confirmation of study plan and supervision) students are provisionally admitted to the double degree programme by their home university.

Selected students will be finally admitted to the host institution only after completing their first year of studies for at least **48 ECTS at the home institution before their mobility period**.

5. Enrolment regulations

The students participating in this programme will be enrolled as degree seeking students at the partner university. Procedures for student enrolment shall be implemented by each party, in accordance with the rules and regulations at each university. Upon nomination by the home university, the host university refrains from verifying the student's original admission certificates.

The students studying at the host university are expected to have the students' rights and to abide by all applicable rules and regulations of the host university.

6. Control of results

Partner institutions agree to operate along the principle of "mutual recognition" of exam results and each other's rules and regulations. Examinations are performed at the same University where the Course Units have been attended, and follow local regulations and methods of assessment.

The study and examination regulations are set out:

- for JLU in the special regulations ("*Spezielle Ordnung*") of the Master of Science in Material Science (https://www.uni-giessen.de/study/courses/master/advancedmat?set_language=en);
- for UNIPD in the teaching regulations of the Master degree in Material Sciences ("*Regolamento Didattico del Corso di Laurea Magistrale in SM*") and its annexes (<https://didattica.unipd.it/off/2018/LM/SC/SC1174>) and in the Regulations of University Schools ("*Regolamento delle Scuole di Ateneo*").

Examination grades at Host institution will be converted by the Home institution into valid grades according to the conversion procedures reported in the Agreement. The recognition of a study period at the partner university and credit transfer is based on the Transcript of Records issued in English by the corresponding university, copy of which will be sent to the Home Institution at the end of the mobility period the Host Institution.

At JLU the basis for recognition is the special regulations ("*Spezielle Ordnung*") of the study program "Material Science" At UNIPD the basis for recognition is the teaching regulations of the Master degree in MS ("*Regolamento Didattico del Corso di Laurea Magistrale in SM*") and its annexes.

7. Language of instruction and language requirements

The language of instruction is **English**. Students who take part in the programme are expected to possess sufficient English language ability, the standard set and examining criteria specified by the host university (such as TOEFL, IELTS or DAAD scores). The Master thesis has to be written and defended in English.

8. Master Thesis

The master thesis will be written in the **fourth semester** of the programme. With the purpose of strengthening the scientific cooperation between both institutions, the final thesis will address, whenever possible, problems in areas of common interest to the two institutions and it will be organized as follows:

- The thesis should be written under the supervision of both institutions;

- Taking into account the mobility scheme of the programme, the thesis defence will take place at the Host institution at the end of the last semester of studies. The defence will follow the local rules of evaluation and the results will be fully recognised by the Home institution;
- The thesis will be written in English on schedule at the students' host university;
- = The outcomes of the master thesis have to be defended in English in front of an examination committee.-The thesis Committee will include members from the Host institution and at least one member from the Home institution, who may participate through videoconference. The Committee is responsible for mark assignment for each institution.

9. Award of the double degree

Students who meet academic requirements (provided that no module is finally failed) in the framework of the double degree programme should be awarded two Master's Certificates: a **Master's certificate of JLU** („Master of Science“) and a **Master's certificate of UNIPD** („Diploma di Laurea Magistrale in Material Sciences“). Both certificates must refer to the bilateral double degree programme. Students also receive a Certificate of Examination including Master's classification. Both universities provide Diploma Supplements describing the double degree programme followed.

10. Student responsibilities

Students who take part in the exchange shall pay any tuition or other academic and related fees to their home university, and are exempted from such payments to the host university. Additional administrative fees (for example JLU's "Semesterbeitrag" and "*Tassa regionale per il diritto allo studio*" at UNIPD), expenses for transport, residence (board and lodging), as well as health insurance and other costs in accordance with the regulations of the host country, shall be carried by the respective students.

In particular students are responsible for:

- registration and renewal of enrolment at their host institution;
- if applicable, payment of tuition/enrolment (and other required fees) at their home institution;
- obtaining the required student visa and any other documents which cover temporary residency in the country of the host institution;
- purchasing the required health insurance while in the country of the host institution;
- ensuring that they have adequate income support in addition to any scholarship support to cover all costs associated with participating in the programme.

Students will be responsible for the following expenses or costs, if they are not covered by scholarship or other forms of financial support provided to the student:

- transportation to and from host institution;
- room and board expenses;
- textbooks, clothing and personal expenses;
- passport and visa costs;
- and all other debts and incidental expenses incurred during the course of the programme.