

Double Degree Agreement

Between

JUSTUS LIEBIG UNIVERSITY GIESSEN, Germany,

Faculty of Biology and Chemistry

and

UNIVERSITY OF PADOVA, Italy,

Department of Chemical Sciences

This Agreement is made between

- Justus Liebig University Giessen, faculty of Biology and Chemistry, Ludwigstraße 23, 35390 Gießen, Germany (hereafter referred to as JLU) and
- the University of Padova, department of Chemical Sciences, Via Marzolo, 1, 35131 Padova (hereafter referred to as UNIPD).

Background and purpose

The Parties (JLU and UNIPD) wish to establish a double degree programme on Master's level in Chemistry. The programme seeks to broaden the scope of the academic curriculum and to provide a unique learning experience for the students in both universities in an international environment, as well as to promote cooperation between the institutions.

The purpose of this agreement is to set out the general terms and conditions as agreed by the parties under which students from JLU studying at UNIPD and students from UNIPD studying at JLU may be awarded, upon successful fulfilment of all requirements for graduation at each university, a double degree from both universities.

The details of the conditions and provisions will be set out separately in the Appendix.

Article 1 - General Provisions

The following Master's degree programmes are the basis for implementation of the double degree programme:

- at JLU: “Master of Science in Chemistry” (according to “Spezielle Ordnung für den Masterstudiengang Chemie“ in the respective valid version; Hessisches Hochschulgesetz).
This degree 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 (Master's Degree) in Chimica”, Classe LM-54 D.M. 16/03/2007.
According to the Bologna Process rules and recommendations and the Italian legislation, this degree corresponds to a second cycle degree D.M. 270/2004, Master level (120 ECTS credits), giving access to “Dottorato di ricerca”, a third cycle degree equivalent to a PhD level in Europe.

At JLU, general regulations pertaining to study programmes are specified in the General Regulations for modular and multi-stage study programmes (*“Allgemeine Bestimmungen für modularisierte und gestufte Studiengänge der Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen”*).

At UNIPD, general regulations pertaining to study programmes are specified in the University Teaching Regulations (*“Regolamento Didattico di Ateneo”*).

Admittance to the above mentioned programme in each university is specified in the respective study regulations of JLU and UNIPD.

Article 2 - 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 first semester of the second year of studies at the Host Institution. The last semester of studies, devoted to the Master Thesis, may be spent either at the home or at the host institution, according to the student's choice.

The study plan for students of both institutions is defined in the Annex I. If substantial changes will occur in the study Programme of the partner universities, the Annex I may be amended before the beginning of each academic year.

Students must obtain at least 30 ECTS credits at the host institution, according to the study plan defined in the Annex I.

Students must prepare, present and defend a final thesis, according to what specified in the following article 7.

The Host Institution will provide mentoring for each student for the duration of the study period.

Article 3 - Student Selection & Admission

1. The partner universities agree to select qualified students who meet the academic and language requirements of the respective host university.
2. Prior to the exchange period, participating students must have completed two semesters on Master level at their home university. Details are specified in the Appendix.
3. Each partner institution shall be willing to accept every year up to 5 students from the partner university unless agreed otherwise.
4. The sending university is responsible for selecting the candidates to participate in the double degree programme. The host university reserves the right for making the final decision to admit the nominated candidate from the sending university.
5. The sending university shall provide the study related documents required by the host university in due time.

Article 4 - Enrolment regulations

1. The students participating in this programme will be enrolled as degree seeking students at the partner university. Upon nomination by the home university, the host university refrains from verifying the student's original admission certificates.
2. Procedures for student enrolment shall be implemented by each party, in accordance with the rules and regulations at each university.
3. 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.

Art. 5- 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 Universi-

ty 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 Chemistry;
- for UNIPD in the teaching regulations of the Master degree in Chemistry ("*Regolamento Didattico del Corso di Laurea Magistrale in Chimica*") and its annexes 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 Annex.

At the end of the mobility period the Host Institution shall send to the Home Institution a copy of each student's Transcript of Records issued in English. Each institution grants the students credits transfer to the other institution according to the applicable rules, laws and regulations.

Art. 6 - 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).

Details concerning the language requirements shall be set out in the Appendix.

Art. 7 - 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;
- ✓ The thesis defence will take place at the end of the last semester of studies either at the home or at the host institution, depending on the mobility option chosen by each student.

The defence will follow the local rules of evaluation and the results will be fully recog-

nised by the partner institution;

- ✓ The thesis committee will include members from the local institution and at least one member from the partner institution, who may participate through videoconference. The committee is responsible for the final thesis grades for each institution.
- ✓ The thesis will be written in English.

Art. 8 - Award of the double degree:

Subject to the satisfactory completion of the study programme, the parties will award a JLU and UNIPD Double Degree according to what specified in art. 1, and a Diploma Supplement. Each institution will issue its national Diploma and a Diploma Supplement describing the double degree programme followed.

Article 9 - Rights and responsibilities of the parties

1. To ensure and facilitate the implementation of the measures of this agreement, each institution shall appoint an academic coordinator as contact person.
2. The host university shall assist the students of the sending university to the best of its ability in assisting to obtain the respective permits (visa, etc.) that are necessary to enable the implementation of this agreement.
3. The partner universities of this contract shall permit the students who are sent to the host university on the basis of this agreement to use its academic and social facilities during their stay. In particular, the participating students shall be granted priority in the reservation of student housing, where applicable and available.

Article 10 – Student responsibilities

1. The parties agree that all students will be responsible for:
 - registration and renewal of enrolment at the 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.
2. The parties acknowledge that all 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.

Article 11 – Recognition and credit transfer

1. Recognition of the periods of studies at the partner universities and credit transfer is guaranteed.
2. At JLU the basis for recognition is the special regulations (“Spezielle Ordnung”) of the study program “Chemistry”
3. At UNIPD the basis for recognition is the teaching regulations of the Master degree in Chemistry (*"Regolamento Didattico del Corso di Laurea Magistrale in Chimica"*) and its annexes.
4. Recognition of disciplines taught by the parties within the programme and credit transfer is implemented on the basis of the Appendix to the present agreement, which contains a comparison of modules at JLU and UNIPD and a workload and grade equivalency table. The listed modules shall be mutually recognized.
5. The recognition of a study period at the partner university and credit transfer is based on the Transcript of Records issued by the corresponding university.

Article 12 - Financial conditions



1. No financial obligation shall arise from the present Agreement.
2. 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.
3. Both parties shall undertake to apply to national and international support programmes for funding of student exchanges.

Article 13 - Dispute Resolution

This agreement is an expression of goodwill on both sides. Problems that might arise due to interpretation, fulfilment or further development of the agreement, shall be solved by mutual agreement.

Article 14 - Changes and validity

1. This agreement may be altered by mutual agreement in writing.
2. This agreement shall come into effect as of the day of its ratification by the representatives of all universities and is valid for three years effective as of the start of the winter term 2018/19. The agreement shall be renewed automatically on a yearly basis if notice of termination is not given six months before expiration.
3. Student exchange programs that have already begun at the time of termination shall be carried out and supervised until the originally planned termination.
4. In order to realize and implement the agreement, two original versions of the contract shall be signed by the partners in English. One copy shall remain with each partner university.



For Justus Liebig University Giessen:

Prof. Dr. Joybrato Mukherjee, President

For the University of Padova

The Rector

Prof. Rosario Rizzuto
