



## MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

between

**Department of Natural Sciences  
Bonn-Rhine-Sieg University of Applied Sciences**  
Grantham-Allee 20  
53757 Sankt Augustin  
Germany

and

**Consiglio Interclasse in Scienze Biologiche (CISB)  
University of Palermo**  
Via Archirafi 28  
90123 Palermo  
Italy

concerning

**MSc in Biomedical Sciences (BRS U) \* and Laurea Magistrale in Biologia della Salute (UP)\***

### *PREAMBLE*

#### **1. The parties to the Agreement and its object**

The Bonn-Rhine-Sieg University of Applied Sciences (BRS U) and the University of Palermo (UP) agree to collaborate in the provision of a Programme of Study leading to the award of both MSc from the Department of Natural Sciences at BRS U and Laurea magistrale from the CISB at UP.

BRS U agrees to give credit transfer for successful completion of the first year of the MSc at UP for entry to the final year of its Msc. programme. Conversely, UP agrees to give credit transfer towards their Laurea Magistrale to students successfully completing the first year of the BRS U MSc programme. Students of both Universities who initially enrol in either of the two programmes may thus gain both awards within a two year period of study.

#### **2. The purpose of this Memorandum**

This Memorandum of Cooperation sets out the agreement reached between the parties in respect of their programmes. In particular, it sets out details of the agreement which concern the maintenance of the academic standard and quality of the programmes and summarizes the matters for which the parties are responsible.

### *THE AGREEMENT*

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#### **\* Terminology**

In this agreement:

“BRS U” means Bonn-Rhine-Sieg University of Applied Sciences, Department of Natural Sciences, von-Liebig-Straße 20, D-53359, Rheinbach, Germany

“UP” means University of Palermo, Consiglio Interclasse in Scienze Biologiche, Via Archirafi 28, 90123 Palermo, Italy

“MSc” means the Master of Science Programme of the Department of Natural Sciences of BRS U

### **3. The separate responsibilities of the parties**

3.1 The parties recognise that under their separate regional and/or national laws, regulations and administrative controls each is separately responsible for:

- a) overseeing and maintaining the academic standards of the programme in respect of its own award;
- b) satisfying the separate regional and/or national authorities in respect of approval, administration, operation, monitoring, reporting upon and review of the programme and any changes required in consequence.

3.2 To promote the ease of operation of the programme, the parties have further agreed that each is separately responsible for:

- a) providing the resources necessary for the successful operation of the programme within the country in which the party normally operates;
- b) informing the partner institution of any significant changes in the programme or in available resources;
- c) advising on academic matters and general student welfare during the period of their study in that party's institution.

### **4. The joint responsibilities of the parties**

The parties recognise that they must jointly contribute to the academic direction, development and quality of the Programme of Study. The partners agree to assist each other in meeting the requirements of their separate authorities, and in maintaining the compatibility of content, teaching and assessment approaches of their programmes in order to ensure mutual recognition of credit to facilitate students' progress to the two awards.

## **ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ASSURANCE**

### **5. The approval, monitoring and review of the programme leading to the MSc**

The outcome of assessment for the educational units listed in Annex B taken at BRS U by students admitted with credit transfer from UP will be determined by the relevant Examination Board at BRS U. Upon written approval by the Examination Board of BRS U, students from UP may select different educational units than those listed in Annex B, however, the workload of all educational units per semester has to be equivalent to that listed in Annex B. The MSc programme from BRS U requires that all courses listed in Annex B or their equivalents were successfully completed before graduation. The MSc programme at BRS U requires in year two a 5-month master project. BRS U does not offer practical training in its own laboratories, and it is the responsibility of both BRS U and UP students to find an institute or company in which to undertake their master project. However, BRS U assists students from UP in finding an appropriate laboratory and project. In the MSc programme, BRS U and UP students are supervised during their master project project by a professor/ lecturer from BRS U. Details about the requirements for awarding an MSc in Biomedical Sciences degree from BRS U are given in the Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences Examination Regulations, which are available online at BRS U. The MSc in Biomedical Sciences degree from BRS U is based on the marks/grades assigned by the Natural Sciences Department Examination Board at BRS U. All decisions concerning the award of the Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences at BRS U will be made by the appropriate authorities at BRS U.

The outcome of assessment for the educational units listed in Annex B taken at UP by students admitted with credit transfer from BRS U will be determined by the relevant Examination Board of the CISB. For the Laurea Magistrale in Biologia della Salute from UP, the final project is graded by the CISB Examination Board at UP. All decisions concerning the award of the Laurea Magistrale in Biologia della Salute at UP will be made by the appropriate authorities at UP.

6. An Examination Board appointed by the Natural Sciences Department of BRS U will approve examination papers and coursework assignments for all BRS U modules, and will moderate student scripts, including those of students admitted with credit from UP and BRS U students undertaking their projects at UP. They will not interfere with any part of the programme at UP.

An Examination Board appointed by the CISB of UP will approve examination papers and coursework assignments for all UP educational units, and will moderate student scripts, including those of students

admitted with credit from BRS U and UP students undertaking their projects at BRS U. They will not interfere with any part of the programme at BRS U.

## MANAGEMENT OF THE PROGRAMME

### 7. Arrangements to support the partnership

Each partner institution will make at least one member of the teaching staff responsible for liaison between the partner institutions. Normally, at least one member of the academic staff of each institution will visit the other institution in each academic year. The actual designated contact persons are listed in Annex A.

### 8. Student Admissions

Admission of students with credit to year two at BRS U will be based on the successful completion of all courses in year one at UP. For admission, UP students may demonstrate their language proficiency by handing in a certificate of an English teacher of UP or of other Examination Boards (e.g. TOEFL, Trinity, Cambridge) that testifies their English proficiency.

Admission of students with credit to year two at UP will be based on the successful completion of all courses in year one at BRS U. For admission, BRS U students may demonstrate their language proficiency by handing in a certificate of an Italian teacher of BRS U or of other Examination that testifies their Italian proficiency.

Students meeting the above mentioned criteria will normally be granted admission with credit transfer to the host institution but the final decision lies with the host institution. There is a guaranteed number of two places each in the Department of Natural Sciences at BRS U and the CISB at UP per academic year. In any session, if there are more eligible students than guaranteed places, BRS U and UP reserve the right to determine those students to be admitted on the basis of academic performance.

### 9. Student Enrolment

BRS U students enrolled on the UP Laurea Magistrale programme will have the status of UP students until they have completed the whole programme leading to the Laurea. In addition, they will have the same rights and status as students enrolled at BRS U.

UP students enrolled on the BRS U MSc programme will have the status of BRS U students until they have completed the whole programme leading to the MSc. In addition, they will have the same rights and status as students enrolled at UP.

### 10. Student Disciplinary and Appeal Procedures

Students will be subject to the disciplinary and appeals procedures of the awarding institution with which they are enrolled, but will also be required to abide by the regulations of the other party during their period of study there.

### 11. Course Marketing

Each party will promote its own programme. For promotional purposes, the following wording may be used by either party in combination, if required, with the official name and logos of the parties:

“Bonn-Rhine-Sieg University of Applied Sciences, Department of Natural Sciences and the University of Palermo, CISB, have agreed to collaborate in the provision of a Programme of Study leading to the award of both the MSc from Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences and of the Laurea Magistrale of the University of Palermo. Subject to the terms of this Agreement, students will be granted credit transfer for study at the partner institutions in pursuit of these awards.”

Any variation on this wording or other use of the name or logo of the partner in promotional material must be agreed by the partner institution.

### 12. Tuition Fees

Students are subject to the tuition fee regulations both of BRS U and UP. Details of this agreement are given in Annex C. Neither institution has any liability or responsibility to provide any financial support for its students participating in this programme.

## RESOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES

13. Any matters which cannot be resolved by the Responsible Persons (see Annex A) or the Heads of the Department or School in the partner institutions will be referred to the Rector at UP and the President of the BRS U.

#### TERMINATION AND REVISION OF THIS MEMORANDUM

14. Any of the signatories to this Memorandum may terminate the collaboration without reason, giving at least one year's notice in writing. Immediately following the decision to terminate, recruitment to the joint programme will cease.

Any of the signatories to this Memorandum may propose revisions to it at any time. Revisions must be agreed in writing by both parties.

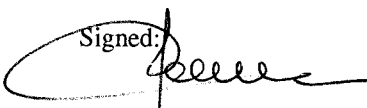
#### PROTECTION OF STUDENTS' INTERESTS

15. The parties agree, so far as is within their separate powers, to maintain the Programme of Study as approved. The parties will inform each other about any intake of students. Alterations to this Programme which become necessary at short notice must be notified to the partner institution, and to any students affected.

#### CAPACITY

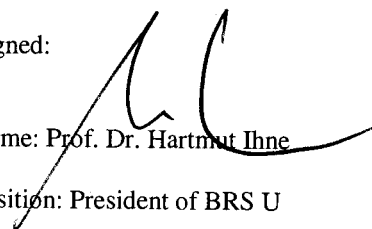
16. Each party declares for itself that it has full capacity to enter into this agreement and each signatory that he/she is an appropriately empowered officer of the institution with authority to act for the party he/she represents.

**Signed for and on behalf of UP:**

Signed:   
Name: Prof. Roberto Lagalla  
Position: Rector of UP



**Signed for and on behalf of UBRS:**

Signed:   
Name: Prof. Dr. Hartmut Ihne  
Position: President of BRS U

Place & Date: Palermo, 20 SET 2011

Place & Date: Sankt Augustin, 01/09/2011

## ANNEX A

### Responsible Persons

The actual designated contact persons, responsible for ensuring that the agreement is kept current and report annually to either institution on the cooperation are

for BRS U:

NAME	POSITION	CONTACT DETAILS
Prof. Dr. Dieter Reinscheid	Member of the Department	+49 2241 865 588 <i>dieter.reinscheid@h-brs.de</i>
Dr. Vera Schneider	Member of International Office	+49 2241 865 628 <i>vera.schneider@h-brs.de</i>

for UP

NAME	POSITION	CONTACT DETAILS
Prof. Dr. Claudio Luparello	Erasmus-LLP Coordinator for the CISB	+39 09123897405 <i>claudio.luparello@unipa.it</i>

## ANNEX B

### Special requirements for MSc students wishing to enter the double degree programme of BRS U or UP.

- B1. Students wishing to enter the UP Laurea Magistrale in Biologia della Salute programme must have successfully completed all courses of year one of the MSc in Biomedical Sciences programme at BRS U. In their final year at UP, the following courses must be completed, which equals a credit transfer of 60 ECTS:
- Biologia Molecolare Applicata (6 ECTS)
  - C.I. Genetica, Citogenetica Umana e Genetica Tossicologica (9 ECTS)
  - C.I. Fisiologia della Nutrizione e Prevenzione e Nutrizione Clinica (9 ECTS)
  - Tesi sperimentale e prova finale (36 ECTS)
- B.2. Students wishing to enter the BRS U MSc in Biomedical Sciences programme must have successfully completed all courses of year one of the Laurea Magistrale in Biologia della Salute programme at UP. In their final year at BRS U, the following courses must be completed, which equals a credit transfer of 60 ECTS:
- Monitoring of Clinical Trials (8 ECTS)
  - Medical Proteomics (8 ECTS)
  - Advanced an Clinical Immunology (8 ECTS)
  - Special Fields in Biology (6 ECTS)
- Master thesis, including colloquium (30 ECTS)
- B.3. Full particulars of the units/modules listed in B1 and B2 are given in the Module Handbook maintained by BRS U and UP.

## **ANNEX C**

### **Fees arrangements for exchange students in Session 2011/2012\*:**

- C1 Students entering the Bonn-Rhine-Sieg University of Applied Sciences programme from the University of Palermo**
  - C1.1 At the time of this agreement no tuition fees are chargeable at BRS U for study for one academic year at BRS U.
  - C1.2 Students admitted to BRS U are required to pay a contribution to the social welfare and the students association. The contribution entitles the student to travel for free on the local public transport systems in the Cologne-Bonn-Rhein-Sieg area. (In 2010/11 the contribution is 188,10 € per semester ).
  
- C2 Students entering the University of Palermo programme from the Bonn-Rhine-Sieg University of Applied Sciences**
  - C2.1 At the time of this agreement, no tuition fees are chargeable for study for one academic year at UP and at BRS U.
  - C2.2 Students admitted to UP are required to pay a contribution to the registration, social welfare and the students association. (In 2010/11 the contribution is 50,00 € per year).

\* This may be subject to change.

UP	CFU	BRS U	CFU
<b>Primo anno</b>			
Advanced Cytology, Histology and Embryology + System Physiopathology and Neurobiology	<b>9</b>	Pathophysiology + Neurobiology	<b>8</b>
	<b>9</b>		<b>8</b>
Applied Molecular Biology + Applied Cellular Biotechnology	<b>6</b>	Virology + Elective Course+ Practical Elective Course	<b>8</b>
	<b>9</b>		<b>6</b>
	<b>9</b>		<b>6</b>
Advanced Biochemistry	<b>6</b>	Clinical Chemistry	<b>8</b>
Human Genetics and Cytogenetics and Toxicological Genetics + Pharmacology	<b>9</b>	Human Genetics + Pharmacology/Toxicology	<b>8</b>
	<b>6</b>		<b>8</b>
<b>Secondo anno</b>			
Nutrition Physiology and Clinical Nutrition and Prevention	<b>9</b>	<b>Monitoring of Clinical Trials</b>	<b>6</b>
Elective Studies 1	<b>12</b>	<b>Advanced and Clinical Immunology + Medical Proteomics</b>	<b>8</b>
			<b>8</b>
Lab Stage	<b>7</b>	<b>Special Fields in Biology 1 and 2</b>	<b>8</b>
Project and Thesis	<b>38</b>	<b>Msc. Project</b>	<b>30</b>