

AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION

between

the Università degli Studi di Palermo (Italy)

and

the Universidade da Coruña (Spain)

RENEWAL OF THE DOUBLE MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM

MOLECULAR AND HEALTH BIOLOGY (curriculum Molecular Biology) / MOLECULAR, CELLULAR AND GENETIC BIOLOGY

On one part, the Università degli Studi di Palermo, hereinafter also referred to as the "UNIPA", with registered office at Piazza Marina n. 61, 90133 Palermo, Italy, VAT number 00605880822, and on its behalf and represented by prof. Massimo Midiri, Rector of the Università degli Studi di Palermo;

on the other part, the Universidade da Coruña, hereinafter also referred to as the "UDC", with registered office at la calle Maestranza 9, 15001 A Coruña, (A Coruña), VAT number Q-6550005-J, and on its behalf and represented by prof. Ricardo Cao Abad, Rector of the Universidade da Coruña;

STATED that both institutions

- share cultural, technical, educational, and scientific fields of common interest;
- consider the collaboration and the exchange of students, experience and knowledge, as well as the provision of services between both institutions, in their greatest interest for social and cultural progress;
- are interested in promoting their international collaboration in the field of higher education and research;
- had signed a previous agreement in 2014, renewed in 2020;

hereby sign the following agreement for cooperation with the aim of renewing the conditions under which students enrolled at the master's degree course in "MOLECULAR AND HEALTH BIOLOGY" (curriculum Molecular Biology) at UNIPA, and students enrolled at the master's degree course in "MOLECULAR, CELLULAR AND GENETIC BIOLOGY" at UDC, may access a double master's degree conferred by both universities. Every student enrolled in one of these master's degree courses could be awarded with both master's degrees, in accordance with the conditions and requirements established in this agreement and the regulations at each institution.

The cooperation covers all aspects jointly defined by the two institutions and includes the exchange of students, teaching projects, and information on joint research.

Academic Recognition

The credits and grades awarded by one party to students enrolled in one of the master's degree courses involved in this agreement will be fully recognized by the other party, according to the terms and conditions established in this agreement, in the Regulation on student mobility and in the Annexes.

Student mobility

Student mobility between the parties is required to perform the double master's degree program. Teaching staff mobility could be eventually required as well.

Travel and accommodation costs will be at the own student's expense. In any case, the parties will assist the incoming students during their application procedure, and will offer them the same services and access to the university facilities granted to any other student enrolled in the university regular programs.

Before travelling to the host university, the student's home institution has to guarantee that the student has proper travel, and life and accident insurances.

Study programs

Students enrolled in the double master's degree (either at UDC or UNIPA) have to follow the study program set out in the Regulation on student mobility and in the Annexes.

Requirements to enrol in the double master's degree program

Students enrolled in one of the master's degree courses that give form to this double master's degree can participate in the program this agreement refers to.

Students will register at the home university by paying the corresponding fees and taxes, and will also register in the incoming university with exemption from payment of tuition fees.

The requirements and conditions to access to the double master's degree program and the conditions of the participants are those established in the attached Regulation on student mobility and in the Annexes.

Academic Commission

In order to ensure the good development of the program an Academic Commission will be formed including the coordinators of both master's degree courses and up to four participant professors, two of each university.

Among other functions, this Academic Commission will be responsible to examine and evaluate the efficiency of the learning program and the academic results achieved by the students, as well as the resources supplied by both institutions; the Commission will also be in charge of suggesting the necessary modifications to improve the quality of the programme. The members of this Commission will meet at least once a year to discuss - via e-mail or videoconference - all possible problems and to deal with the necessary changes to improve the quality of program, and propose them to the relevant offices and departments/faculties of both institutions.

Double master's degree awarding

The procedure to obtain and recognise the double master's degree is defined by each university. The home institution will carry out the recognition of the studies, in accordance with the conditions established in the Regulation on student mobility and in the Annexes.

Students enrolled in the double master's degree program will receive the titles of:

- Master's degree in Molecular and Health Biology (curriculum in Molecular Biology) by the Università degli Studi di Palermo
- Master's degree in Molecular, Cellular and Genetic Biology by the Universidade da Coruña

Academic and research exchanges

To support the double degree programme, UNIPA and UDC will jointly promote and coordinate the exchange of visiting professors and researchers as well as the organization of workshops, seminars, conferences and publications on topics of common interest. The exchange and development of the above activities will be carried out in accordance with the standards and procedures of both institutions.

Administrative organization

The administrative management will be ensured by the administrative services of each university.

Financial commitments

The signature of this agreement does not mean any financial fulfilment to the parties.

No financial obligations arise for the contractual partners from this agreement. However, both partners will attempt to raise third-party funds to finance the activities arising from this agreement.

Conflict resolution

The parts engage to resolve any controversy that could arise in the interpretation of the present agreement by common consent. In case that the controversy could not be solved, the conflict will be submitted to arbitration by a technical commission; each part will designate a member of the arbitrage commission and the third member will be agreed by both parties.

Use of logo

The partners mutually undertake not to use the name and/or logo of the double master's degree program or other distinctive signs for purposes other than those provided for in the agreement, except in the case of specific agreements between the parties which, with prior express authorization, provide for forms of communication and dissemination for the initiatives provided for in the agreement.

Entry in force and period of the agreement

The present agreement will come into effect on the date of the last signature for a period of 6 years and can be renewed after expiration of this period and following the evaluation of the developed activities, with the express written consent of the two parties.

Either partner may terminate this agreement by giving the other partner six months' written notice to, provided that such termination shall not take effect until all exchange students participating in an exchange at the time of termination have complied with the time limits provided for in this agreement.

Both Universities reserve the right to establish other national and/or international agreements related to the master's degree courses involved in this agreement.

This agreement has been drawn up in two original copies in English.

ON BEHALF OF UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PALERMO	ON BEHALF OF UNIVERSIDADE DA CORUÑA
Prof. Massimo Midiri Rector	Prof. Ricardo Cao Abad Rector
Date	Date