REGULATION ON STUDENTS MOBILITY
IN THE DOUBLE MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM

between

the Università degli Studi di Palermo (Italy)

and

the Universidade da Coruña (Spain)

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

The current Regulation applies to the double master's degree program between the Università degli Studi di Palermo (hereinafter UNIPA) and the Universidade da Coruña (hereinafter UDC) and aims to establish the academic and administrative 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.

The exchange program shall be coordinated through the academic departments or faculties and the International Relations Offices at both universities.

This Regulation is accompanied by a list of the courses and other curricular activities (Annex 1) that students enrolled in the double master's degree program may opt during their stay at the host university to obtain the double degree.

The curriculum (Learning programs) listed in Annex 1 must be approved in advance by the academic bodies of both universities and may be modified each academic year after approval by the academic bodies of both universities.

In addition to the courses from Annex 1 relevant for obtaining the master's double degree, students may, in consultation with international programs managers at home institution, opt for any other module delivered at the host university during their stay.

The curriculum of the table (Annex 1) must be approved in advance by the academic bodies of both Universities, and can be modified in each academic year, after approval of the academic bodies of both Universities.

Annex 2 reports the Equivalencies between the master's degree courses in "Molecular and Health Biology" (UNIPA) and in "Molecular, Cellular and Genetic Biology" (UDC).

Annex 3 lists the academic and administrative officers responsible for the double master's degree program.

Student application and admission

The maximum number of students that can be enrolled in the double master's degree program is 2 for academic year for each university.

Each university will set up and publish yearly the application call for participating to the double master's degree program. Deadlines and conditions will be published and sponsored in advance.

Both sides ensure that the exchange of students is carried out on a reciprocal basis.

It is understood that both institutions endeavour to nominate only well-qualified individuals to participate in the program. Academic background will be provided to the host institution.

The student enrolled in the double master's degree program, both at UNIPA and UDC, will have:

- to be awarded a minimum of 60 ECTS, including the presentation and public defence of the TMF (Final Thesis of Master) at UDC, to obtain the title of master's degree in "Molecular, Cellular and Genetic Biology);

- to be awarded a minimum of 120 ECTS, including the presentation and public defence of the TMF (Final Thesis of Master) at UNIPA, to obtain the title of master's degree in "Molecular and Health Biology" (curriculum Molecular Biology).

For UDC students, the academic activities developed during the second year at UNIPA will be recognized in the PhD program of "Molecular and Cellular Biology" of UDC.

Applicants' selection of UNIPA and UDC candidates will be mainly based on motivation and academic records. Furthermore, the students must meet language proficiency requirements in English (B2).

The proven lack of interest of a candidate in participating in the double master's degree program will determine the place assignment to the next candidate in the admission list.

The final admission of the student requires the approval of the partner university and admission to the corresponding degree program.

The home university must submit the nominations of its candidates for the student exchange program by the end of the nomination period.

Stay

Each student admitted to the double master's degree program must submit a Learning Agreement for approval by both universities.

The partner university commits to assist in finding suitable accommodation through the administrative officers responsible for this program. The partner university also commits to provide students with information about the host country, visas, necessary health insurance, etc. prior to their arrival. The partner university must provide the same services to the students of the double master's degree program as it provides to its own students.

The academic calendar of the respective institution is taken into account when organizing the stays. The academic coordinators responsible for this double master's degree program must inform incoming students about the organization of the courses they must take during their stay at the partner university.

All students admitted to the double master's degree program:

must enroll at the host university and submit a transcript of records of courses already completed at their home university, as well as the Learning Agreement recording the courses/activities they will take during their stay at the partner Institution for the academic recognition;

will have to prove the mobility period with the corresponding certificates of arrival and departure issued by the host university;

must submit to their institution the transcript of records issued by the host university in order to receive credits for the courses/activities taken during their mobility for study. ECTS are recognized by the home university.

The certificate must be submitted in English.

Enrolment and tuition fees

Students participating in the double master's degree program will pay the enrolment fees and taxes at the home university and they will enrol at the host university with exemption from payment of registration fees.

After admission to the double master's degree program, the enrolment in the corresponding master's degree program at the partner university will be carried out by the administrative officers responsible for this program, who will inform the students of the required documents.

During the first academic year UNIPA students taking part in the double master's degree program will pay the enrolment fees corresponding to the first year of the master's degree course in "Molecular and Health Biology" (curriculum Molecular Biology); UDC students will do the same with the corresponding enrolment fees of the master's degree course in "Molecular, Cellular and Genetic Biology".

During the second academic year, UNIPA students taking part in the double master's degree program will pay the enrolment fees corresponding to the second year of the master's degree course in "Molecular and Health Biology" (curriculum Molecular Biology); UDC students taking part in the double master's degree program will apply for being admitted at the PhD program in "Molecular and Cellular Biology" and will pay the enrolment fees corresponding to the first year of this PhD program.

According to UDC internal rules, students from UNIPA coming to UDC are required to pay an insurance, compulsory for all students registered at UDC, as well as the Diploma issuing fee.

According to UNIPA internal rules, students from UDC coming to UNIPA are required to pay the Diploma issuing fee.

Student obligations, responsibilities and rights

All visa-related costs, accommodation, meals, medical insurance, local transports, travel expenses and all other costs associated with participation in the exchange are to be borne by the students themselves.

For the duration of the mobility, students are subject to the rules and regulations apply as for local students by the partner institution and to all legal and social obligations in the host country. They also have the same rights as students enrolled at the receiving university.

Students not adhering to the terms of this double master's degree program, including the length of stay at the partner university and the curriculum there, will lose their right to graduate from the partner university and will be excluded from the program, although they may still choose to pursue the master's degree at their home university.

Each student must acquire health insurance that guarantees access to health care in the host country. This insurance must cover medical and health care, death and disability caused by an accident, repatriation assistance for death by any cause, and reimbursement for medical expenses caused by an accident. Health insurance coverage is a prerequisite for enrolment at both universities. A private accident insurance is strongly recommended; however, while attending classes and events in connection with the university, students are covered by the university's insurance.

The partner institution, through the administrative responsible officer for this program, pledges to provide assistance in the search for suitable accommodations, although all stay expenses will be charged to the student. Likewise, the partner institution pledges to provide the student with information relating to the host country, visas, required medical insurance, etc., before his/her arrival. The partner institution must provide students in the double master's degree program with the same services that they generally provide their own students.

UNIPA and UDC will undertake all efforts for finding national and international resources to assure financial support to this program.

ON BEHALF OF	ON BEHALF OF
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PALERMO	UNIVERSIDADE DA CORUÑA
Prof. Massimo Midiri	Prof. Ricardo Cao Abad
Rector	Rector
Firmato digitalmente da: Massimo Midiri Organizzazione: UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI PALERMO/80023730825 Data: 23/01/2025 13:15:24	Firmado digitalmente por 32769018K RICARDO JOSE CAO (R: Q6550005J) Fecha: 2025.01.24 12:58:56 +01'00'
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ANNEX 1
Learning program for UNIPA and UDC students

Learning program for UNIPA students			
Year	Semester	Units	ECTS
1	1st (UNIPA)	Cellular Biology	6
		Biochemical mechanisms of cellular functions	6
		Biochemical methods	6
		English language proficiency corresponding to level B2	6
1	2nd (UNIPA)	Genetic and cytogenetic methods	6
		Molecular genetics	6
		Molecular microbiology	6
		Fundamentals of Biophysics	6
2	1st (UNIPA)	Functional genomics	9
		Molecular Physiology	6
		Master's Degree Project UNIPA	21
2	2nd (UDC - UNIPA)	Recombinant proteins and protein engineering	3
		Bioinformatics and Biomolecular models	3
		Optional subjects from 2nd UDC semester (the list of the optional subjects will be provided by the coordinator of the double master's degree program)	12
		Entrepreneurship and Self-Employment	3
		Master's Degree Project and TMF defense at UDC	12
		TMF defense at UNIPA	3
	TOTAL		120

Alternatively to

UDC	**UNIPA**
Recombinant proteins and protein engineering (3 ECTS) Bioinformatics and Biomolecular models (3 ECTS)	Metodologie Biomolecolari e Bioinformatiche (6 CFU)

the student can ask for the recognition of two subjects of 3 ECTS as in the list below:

UDC	**UNIPA**
Molecular microbiology (3 ECTS) Molecular Plant-Pathogen Interaction Mechanisms (3 ECTS)	Microbiologia Molecolare (6 CFU)
Chromosomes: structure, function and evolution (3 ECTS) Human genetics (3 ECTS)	Genetica Molecolare (6 CFU)

Learning program for UDC students		
Semester	Units	ECTS
1st (UDC)	Cellular techniques Molecular techniques Advanced cellular biology Cell signaling Genetic variation mechanisms Regulation of gene expression	6 6 3 3 3 3
2nd (UDC)	Optional subjects from 2nd semester UDC Entrepreneurship and Self-Employment Master's Degree Project and TMF defense at UDC (annual)	21 3 12
3rd (UNIPA)	Functional genomics Molecular Physiology Optional subjects from 1st UNIPA semester (the list of the optional subjects will be provided by the Coordinator of the double master's degree program)	9 6 6
4th (UNIPA)	Fundamental of Biophysics Master's Degree Project and TMF defense at UNIPA	6 33
TOTAL		120

a) The laboratory stage and tutorship for the TMF (Final Thesis of Master) defense at UDC will be under the supervision of a UDC Professor, and a co-Director from UNIPA can also participate if the subject is of interest to both institutions.
b) The laboratory stage and tutorship for the TMF defense at UNIPA will be under the supervision of a UNIPA Professor, and a co-Director from UDC can also participate if the subject is of interest to both institutions.
c) The master's degree course in "Molecular and Health Biology" (curriculum Molecular Biology) takes place at the Department of Biological, Chemical and Pharmaceutical Sciences and Technologies (STEBICEF), Viale delle Scienze Campus, from Monday to Friday, according to schedules established for every academic year.
d) The master's degree course in "Molecular, Cellular and Genetic Biology" takes place at the Faculty of Sciences, Campus da Zapateira, and at the INIBIC, As Jubias, A Coruña, from Monday to Friday, according to schedules established for every academic year.

The Learning programs described in the previous tables follow these criteria:

a) The grades obtained by recognition of the student enrolled at UNIPA of the ECTS taken at UDC will be the weighted average of grades obtained at the host institution.
b) The grades obtained by recognition of the student enrolled at UDC of the ECTS taken at UNIPA will be the weighted average of grades obtained at the host institution.
c) Students who do not reach the minimum necessary grade to obtain the ECTS will have to comply with the normative of the corresponding master's degree course in the respective host or home university. The possible conflicts about these norms shall be solved by the Academic Commission of the double master's degree program and accepted by both parties.
d) Students must have successfully finished all the courses of the corresponding master's degree course to which the TMF is related to be admitted to defend the TMF at the respective university.

ANNEX 2

Equivalencies between the master's degree courses in "Molecular and Health Biology" (UNIPA) and in "Molecular, Cellular and Genetic Biology" (UDC)

Università degli Studi di Palermo **Master's degree course in "Molecular and Health Biology"**	**ECTS**	**Universidade da Coruña** **Master's degree course in "Molecular, Cellular and Genetic Biology"**	**ECTS**
Metodologie Biochimiche	6	Cellular techniques	6
Biologia Cellulare	6	Advanced Cellular Biology Cell Signaling	3+3
Metodologie biomolecolari e bioinformatiche	6	Optional subject: Recombinant proteins and protein Engineering Optional subject: Bioinformatics and Biomolecular models	3+3
Genetica molecolare	6	Optional subject: Chromosomes: structure, function and evolution Optional subject: Human genetics	3+3
Metodologie citogenetiche ed epigenetiche	3+3	Optional subject: Genetic Variation Mechanisms Optional subject: Regulation of gene expression	3+3
Microbiologia molecolare	6	Optional subject: Molecular microbiology Optional subject: Molecular Plant-Pathogen Interaction Mechanisms	3+3

ANNEX 3

Academic and administrative officers responsible for the double master's degree program

The academic officers responsible for the double master's degree program are:

at UNIPA
Prof. ssa Rosa Alduina - Professor of Microbiology and coordinator of the Master's Degree course in "Molecular and Health Biology"
Valeria.alduina@unipa.it +39 091 238 97306

at UDC
Prof. ssa María Esther Rodríguez Belmonte- Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Coordinator of Master's Degree course in "Molecular, Cellular and Genetic Biology"
coordinacion.master.bmcx@udc.gal / +34 881 01 2003

The administrative officers responsible for the double master's program are:

at UNIPA

Roberta Macaione
Head of Cooperation and Networks - Mobility
International Relations Office
Piazza Marina, 61 - 90133 Palermo (Italy)

Silvia Amodeo
Referent for Cooperation Agreements
E-mail: silvia.amodeo02@unipa.it
tel. +39 091 23893640

at UDC

Andrés Martínez Lage
Professor in charge of international relations at Faculty of Science
mobilidade.ciencias@udc.es / +34 881 01 2005

Eva María Costoya
Head of Administration of the Faculty of Sciences
administracion.ciencias@udc.es / +34 881 01 2064

If either one of the signatory institutions changes any of the officers named herein, it must inform the partner institution, as well as the academic and administrative officers of the double master's degree program, and indicate the corresponding substitutes.