



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI PALERMO



UNIVERSIDADE DA CORUÑA

**DOUBLE DEGREE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY OF PALERMO AND THE  
UNIVERSITY OF A CORUÑA  
MASTER IN MOLECULAR AND HEALTH BIOLOGY/ MASTER IN CELLULAR, MOLECULAR  
BIOLOGY AND GENETICS**

The University of Palermo (hereinafter UP), with address in Piazza Marina, 61 - 90133 Palermo (Italy), represented by the Rector Professor Fabrizio Micari,

and

The University of the Coruña (hereinafter UDC), with address in A Maestranza s/n 15001, A Coruña (Spain), represented by the Rector Prof. Julio Ernesto Abalde Alonso , agree on the following terms regarding a double degree programme:

**1. Objective**

The aim of this agreement is to establish a double degree programme regarding the UP Master in Molecular and Health Biology and the UDC Master in Cellular, Molecular Biology and Genetics. Every student enrolled in one of these Master programmes could be awarded with both Master degrees, providing they fulfil the conditions and requirements established in this agreement.

**2. Academic Recognition**

The credits and grades awarded by one party to students enrolled in one of the Master programmes involved in this agreement will be fully recognized by the other party, according to the terms and conditions established in the Annex to this agreement.

**3. Student Mobility**

Student mobility between the parties is required to perform the double degree programme. Teaching staff mobility could be eventually required as well.

Whenever available, student mobility will be carried out under the Erasmus programme.

When a student could not be financed by the Erasmus programme, 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 programmes. 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.

**4. Study Programmes**

Students enrolled in the double degree (either at UDC or UP) have to follow the study programme set out in the Annex to this agreement.

**5. Requirements to Enrol in the Double Degree**

Students enrolled in one of the Master degrees that give form to this double degree can participate in the programme 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**.

According to UDC internal rules, students from UP 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 UP internal rules, students from UDC coming to UP are required to pay an insurance, compulsory for all students registered at UP, as well as the Diploma issuing fee. The requirements and conditions to access to the double degree and the conditions of the participants are those established in the attached regulation.

## **6. Academic Commission**

In order to ensure the good development of the programme, an Academic Commission will be formed including the coordinators of both masters and up to four participant professors, two of each university.

Among other functions, this Academic Commission will be responsible to examine the efficiency of the learning programme 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 skype conference - all possible problems and to deal with the necessary changes to improve the quality of programme.

## **7. Double Degree awarding**

The procedure to obtain and recognise the Master is defined by each university. The home institution will carry out the recognition of the studies, in accordance with the conditions established in the attached regulation.

Students enrolled in the Double Degree Programme will receive the titles of:

- Master in Molecular and Health Biology (curriculum in molecular biology) by the University of Palermo.
- Master in Cellular, Molecular Biology and Genetics by the University of A Coruña

## **8. Administrative organization**

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

## **9. Financial commitments**

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

## **10. 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.

## **11. Entry in force and period of the agreement**

The present agreement will come into effect after being signed by both parties.

The agreement is valid for a period of 4 years and may be renewed after the evaluation of the developed activities and with the express written consent of the two parties.

In witness whereof, the present agreement is signed in duplicate at the indicated place and date.

**Fabrizio Micari**

The Rector of the University of Palermo

Date

07/11/2016

**Julio Ernesto Abalde Alonso**

The Rector of the University of the Coruña

Date

01/12/2016





**REGULATION ON STUDENTS MOBILITY IN THE DOUBLE DEGREE PROGRAMME REGARDING THE UNIVERSITY OF PALERMO MASTER IN MOLECULAR AND HEALTH BIOLOGY (CURRICULUM IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY) AND THE UNIVERSITY OF A CORUÑA MASTER IN CELLULAR, MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND GENETICS**

**SECTION 1**

The current regulation applies to the Double Degree Programme regarding the University of Palermo (hereinafter UP) Master in Molecular and Health Biology (curriculum in molecular biology) and the University of A Coruña (hereinafter UDC) Master in Cellular, Molecular Biology and Genetics.

**SECTION 2**

- a) The Double Master Programme will be implemented at the academic year 2016/17.
- b) The students' mobility programme will only be developed provided both titles are officially implemented.
- c) The minimum number of students for the official implementation of the UP Master degree in Molecular and Health Biology is 15.
- d) The minimum number of students for the official implementation of the UDC Master of Cellular, Molecular Biology and Genetics is 20.

**SECTION 3**

- a) The respective institutions will set up and publish yearly the application deadlines for the Master Degree in Molecular and Health Biology and the Master Degree in Cellular, Molecular Biology and Genetics, respectively. Deadlines and conditions will be published and sponsored in advance.
- b) The respective institutions will set up and publish the application deadlines for special Erasmus mobilities in the framework of the Double Degree Programme.

**SECTION 4**

- a) The total number of students of the Double Degree Programme which can take part in the Erasmus exchange programme will be established every year by the respective institutions.
- b) Eligibility criteria of the students for UP will be, among others, the motivations of candidates, academic records (grade of bachelor degree, Spanish language proficiency ect.) and the level of English language proficiency.
- c) Eligibility criteria of the students for UDC will be the same as for the admission to the Master Degree in Cellular, Molecular Biology and Genetics
- d) The proved lack of interest of a candidate in participating in the Double Degree Programme will determine the place assignment to the next candidate in the admission list.
- e) All candidates, as far as possible, will do the exchange in the framework of the Erasmus programme. For this end, both universities will sign the corresponding Erasmus agreement. The number of mobilities will be established and arranged between University partners yearly.
- f) If one or more candidates cannot apply for the Erasmus Exchange programme, as they have done this mobility previously or for any other reason, the agreement will be considered to all intents and purposes as a bilateral mobility agreement for those students, with the same procedures requested to

apply for the Erasmus programme. In particular, students will be protected by a learning agreement recording the academic recognition established in this regulation; they will have to prove the mobility period with the corresponding certificates of arrival and departure issued by the host university; also, host universities will issue an academic transcript of records with the grades awarded to the students during the academic exchange.

- g) Students taking part in the programme can do the exchange in one or two different stages corresponding to the first or second year.

## SECTION 5

Students taking part in this Double Degree Programme will pay the respective university fees in the home university and will enrol at the host university with **exemption** from payment of enrolment fees.

- During the first academic year UP students taking part in the Exchange mobility programme will pay the enrolment fees corresponding to the first year of the Master in Molecular and Health Biology (curriculum in molecular biology); and UDC students will do the same with the corresponding enrolment fees of the Master in Cellular, Molecular Biology and Genetics.

- During the second academic year, UP students taking part in the exchange mobility programme will pay the enrolment fees corresponding to the second year of the curriculum in molecular biology at the Master degree in Molecular and Health Biology; UDC students taking part in the exchange programme will apply for being admitted at the Ph-Degree programme of "Molecular and Cellular Biology" and will pay the enrolment fees corresponding to the first year of this programme.

For all purposes, students will be considered as students enrolled at the two universities.

## SECTION 6

- a) The learning programme for students enrolled at UP in this Double Degree Programme is recorded in the following table:

Semester	Units	ECTS
1 <sup>st</sup> (UP)	Biochemical methods (05176)	6
	Biochemical mechanism of cellular functions (15559)	6
	Introduction to Biophysics (92621)	6
	Cellular Biology (01597)	6
	Molecular Physiology (08305)	6
	Molecular genetics, methods and cytogenetics (16480)	12
	Genetics of microorganisms (03560)	6
2 <sup>nd</sup> (UDC)	Recombinant proteins and protein engineering	3
	Bioinformatics and biomolecular modelling	3
	Optional learning from 2nd semester UDC (appendix I)	12
	Laboratory Stage and TMF defence at UDC	14
3 <sup>rd</sup> (UP)	Functional genomics (08308)	9
	Other knowledges for the introduction in the work environment	1
4 <sup>th</sup> (UP)	Laboratory stage and TMF defence at UP	30
TOTAL		120

- b) The learning programme for students enrolled at UDC in this Double Degree Programme is recorded in the following table:

Semester	Units	ECTS
1 <sup>st</sup> (UDC)	Cellular techniques	6
	Molecular techniques	6
	Advanced Cellular Biology	3
	Cell Signalling	3
	Genetic variation mechanisms	3



	Regulation of gene expression Laboratory Stage (I)	3 6
2 <sup>nd</sup> (UDC)	Optional learning from 2nd semester UDC Laboratory Stage (II) and TMF defence at UDC	24 6
3 <sup>rd</sup> (UP)	Functional genomics ( )	9
4 <sup>th</sup> d(UP)	Optional learning from first year 2nd semester UP ( ) Laboratory stage and TMF defence at UP	6 45
TOTAL		120

- c) The laboratory stage and tutorship for the TMF (End of Master Thesis) defence at UDC will be under supervision of a UDC Professor, and a co-Director from UP can also participate if the subject is of interest to both institutions.
- d) The laboratory stage and tutorship for the TMF defence at UP will be under supervision of a UP Professor, and a co-Director from UDC can also participate if the subject is of interest to both institutions.
- e) The Master in Molecular and Health Biology (curriculum in molecular biology) takes place at the Department of Biological, Chemical and Pharmaceutical Sciences and Technologies (STEBICEF), Faculty of Sciences, Viale delle Scienze Campus, from Monday to Friday.
- f) The Master in Cellular, Molecular Biology and Genetics 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. (ponía a jueves, pero en el castellano pone viernes y pone este rollo de según programación anual, que no aparece en UP).

## SECTION 7

The learning programmes described in the previous section follows these criteria:

- a) UP gives recognition of the total 60 ECTS obtained by the student enrolled at UDC in the Master in Cellular, Molecular Biology and Genetics for the 54 ECTS corresponding to the first year of the curriculum in molecular biology of the Master degree in Molecular and Health Biology and 6 ECTS corresponding to optional courses during the second year.
- b) UDC gives recognition of the total 32 ECTS obtained by the student enrolled at UP in the Master degree in Molecular and Health Biology (curriculum in molecular biology) during the first semester of the first year for the 20 ECTS corresponding to the first semester of the Master in Cellular, Molecular Biology and Genetics and 12 ECTS corresponding to optional courses during the second semester.
- c) The grades obtained by recognition of the student enrolled at UP of the ECTS taken at UDC will be the weighted average of grades obtained at the host institution.
- d) The grades obtained by recognition of the student enrolled at UDC of the ECTS taken at UP will be the weighted average of grades obtained at the host institution.
- e) Students not reaching the minimum necessary grade to obtain the ECTS will have to comply with the normative of the corresponding Masters in the respective host or home university. The possible conflicts about these normative shall be solved by the Academic Commission of the Double Master Degree and accepted by both parties.
- f) Students must have finished successfully all the courses of the corresponding Master to which the TMF is related to be admitted to defend the TMF at the respective university.

## SECTION 8

The student enrolled in the double Master degree, both at UDC or UP, will have to be awarded a minimum of 60 ECTS, including the presentation and public defence of the TMF at UDC, to obtain the title of Master of Cellular, Molecular Biology and Genetics; and he/she will have to be awarded a minimum of 120 ECTS, including the presentation and public defence of the TMF at UP, to obtain the title of Master degree in Molecular and Health Biology (curriculum in molecular biology).

## SECTION 9

- a) UP reserves the right to establish other national and/or international agreements related to the Master in Molecular and Health Biology (curriculum in molecular biology).
- b) UDC reserves the right to establish other national and/or international agreements related to the Master of Cellular, Molecular Biology and Genetics.

## SECTION 10

- a) Through the present proposal of Double Master Degree, the students of both UP and UDC will be awarded, in two years, with two Master degrees, issued by UP and UDC, respectively.
- b) For UDC students, the academic activities developed during the second year at UP will be able to be recognised in the Ph. Degree programme of Molecular and Cellular Biology of UDC.

### Optional learning - 2<sup>nd</sup> semester UDC (Appendix I)

Neurobiology (3 ECTS)  
Immunology (3 ECTS)  
Stem cells and cellular therapy (3 ECTS)  
Molecular Microbiology (3 ECTS)  
Human Genetics (3 ECTS)  
Chromosomes: structure, function and evolution (3 ECTS)  
Protein dynamics and structure (3 ECTS)  
Genomics (3 ECTS)  
Proteomics (3 ECTS)  
Genetic Toxicology (3 ECTS)  
Plant Biotechnology (3 ECTS)  
Mechanisms of plant-pathogen Interaction (3 ECTS)

### Optional learning - UP (Appendix II)

The optional courses at UP could change every year and they will be implemented according to the number of applicants.

Anyway, the responsible Coordinator of the UDC Master will be informed in a timely manner about the possible optional courses at UP, which will be suitable for the learning programme of the Double Master Degree.

  
**Fabrizio Micari**  
The Rector of the University of Palermo

Date 07/11/2016

  
**Julio Ernesto Abalde Alonso**  
The Rector of the University of the Coruña

Date 01/12/2016