

## MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

AUBURN UNIVERSITY

AND

CHINA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

TO ESTABLISH

**FIVE-YEAR MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS**

*THIS AGREEMENT IS ENTERED INTO BETWEEN:*

**CHINA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY**, Beijing, People's Republic of China hereinafter called "CAU,"

AND

**AUBURN UNIVERSITY**, Auburn Alabama, U.S.A. hereinafter called "AUBURN."

Hereafter jointly called "the Parties."

### INTRODUCTION

The Parties--after their long, fruitful and amicable relationships and partnerships--wish to provide new impetus for further collaboration, with the aim of creating a **CAU-AUBURN FIVE-YEAR MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM** for Chinese students. Participants will complete the CAU Bachelor's degree with a year of study at Auburn. A second year of study will lead to a Master's Degree from Auburn University. The overall goal is to prepare the students for successful careers in the global economy by developing their scientific, language, and practical skills, as well as their leadership abilities and cultural awareness.

*THE PARTIES HEREBY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:*

**ARTICLE 1. PROGRAM STRUCTURE**

Jointly designed by CAU and AUBURN, this five-year graduate degree program model provides sound educational experiences for CAU students in selected fields of study.

**1.01 The five-year program is comprised of three components:**

- a) A three-year undergraduate program at CAU;
- b) A year of study at AUBURN that includes an undergraduate research experience or practicum
- c) A fifth year of study at AUBURN that leads to a Master's degree.

**1.02 Hereinafter this program shall be known as 3+2 STUDY PROGRAM.**

**1.03 The number of students selected for the program will be agreed upon by CAU and Auburn faculty and will depend, in part, on the availability of AUBURN advisors for each student.**

**ARTICLE 2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 3+2 STUDY PROGRAM**

The implementation of this program will take three stages as indicated below:

**2.01. Stage one (Years I-III, in China):** CAU PARTICIPANTS will successfully complete the first three years of undergraduate study at CAU.

**2.02 Stage Two (August-May, Year IV, at AUBURN):**

- a) PARTICIPANTS fulfill the fourth year of CAU Bachelor's degree requirements through coursework taken at Auburn University as per agreement with specific departments.
- b) AUBURN facilitates access to intensive English and cultural study as needed.
- c) An AUBURN advisor will mentor the student through coursework selection as well as the research experience or practicum.
- d) Coursework completed during Year IV will be credited towards the completion of the Bachelor's degree from CAU as well as the Master's degree from AUBURN as per specific agreements with participating academic departments.

- e) A Bachelor's degree will be conferred by CAU upon submission of the official transcript from AUBURN.

**2.03 Stage Three (August–May, Year V, at AUBURN):**

- a) Two semesters of academic study at AUBURN (August–May).
- b) Completion of M.S. degree requirements (thesis or non-thesis as per program agreement)
- c) In August of Year V, CAU PARTICIPANTS who have successfully completed the above stages will be awarded a MS degree from AUBURN.

**2.04 3+1 Programs:**

- a) This agreement also encompasses 3+1 programs where CAU PARTICIPANTS attend Auburn during their last year of undergraduate study and receive a Bachelor's degree from CAU.
- b) Unless otherwise specified, 3+1 programs follow the same plan of study in Year IV as 3+2 programs.
- c) PARTICIPANTS may elect the 3+1 option at the end of Year IV.
- d) The AUBURN department may direct the PARTICIPANT to follow the 3+1 option at the end of Year IV.

**ARTICLE 3. FIELDS OF STUDY**

- 3.01** A specific agreement detailing courses, prerequisites, and other requirements must be established for each academic department's degree program.
- 3.02** The number of fields of study may be increased by mutual agreement established for cooperating departments.
- 3.03** For the first academic program year, AUBURN will accept up to five CAU PARTICIPANTS in selected fields of study.
- 3.04** Under the terms of this agreement, specific field of study agreements are established between academic departments and approved through respective AUBURN and CAU institutional processes.

#### **ARTICLE 4. NUMBER OF CAU PARTICIPANTS**

- 4.01** For the first program year at AUBURN (beginning in August), AUBURN will accept up to five PARTICIPANTS per field of study.
- 4.02** The exact number of CAU PARTICIPANTS to be accepted during each successive year of the program will be based upon the availability of academically qualified and financially able students. The number of students accepted will be limited by the capacity of the program to enroll students as determined by the Dean of the Graduate School.

#### **ARTICLE 5. SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS**

- 5.01** By the end of February of each year, CAU will provide AUBURN with a list of prospective CAU PARTICIPANTS.
- 5.02** A SELECTION REVIEW COMMITTEE comprised of representatives from CAU and AUBURN will conduct interview sessions to select potential PARTICIPANTS from among the nominated students.
- a) A complete file of the prospective PARTICIPANTS will be transmitted to the relevant AUBURN department in a timely fashion following the SELECTION REVIEW COMMITTEE process and the forwarding of the applicants to the departments.
  - b) Those selected by the SELECTION REVIEW COMMITTEE will be responsible for submitting an application to the Graduate School with official application materials to assure the timely completion of the admission selection decision process
  - c) PARTICIPANT applications are processed through the AUBURN Graduate School.
  - d) Admission decisions are made by the dean of AUBURN's Graduate School upon recommendation of the receiving department. A positive recommendation from the program in which the student has been admitted is required for a student to progress to the second year of the program.
- 5.03 Basic student requirements:**
- a) Each prospective student must be enrolled in the third year of undergraduate study at CAU and be in excellent academic standing. Ideally, the CAU PARTICIPANTS should be among the top 30% of their class or GPA of 3.0/4.

- b) The prospective PARTICIPANT must submit a minimum TOEFL score of 79 (and 16 on the four component sections (reading, listening, speaking and writing)) for the Internet based test OR minimum 213 on the new computerized test OR minimum 550 on the written paper-based test. An IELTS minimum band score of 6.5 or better also is acceptable.
- c) The student must possess excellent communications skills in written and spoken English, demonstrate strong leadership capabilities, and be committed to sound ethical principles.

#### **5.04 Funding of students:**

- a) PARTICIPANTS are required to attest the source of their funding for study to obtain a U.S.A. visa and as part of the AUBURN admission process. <http://www.auburn.edu/academic/international/iss/cost.php>
- b) PARTICIPANTS pay out of state tuition though parental resources, corporate sponsorship, governmental sponsorship, or other source of funding.
- c) PARTICIPANTS should expect to pay two years of tuition and living expenses at Auburn.

**5.05** Year V graduate students may be eligible for (but are not guaranteed) graduate assistantships as per departmental needs, the needs of extramurally-funded principal investigators, or the availability other sources of support.

### **ARTICLE 6. RESPONSIBILITIES OF AUBURN**

- 6.01.** AUBURN will provide CAU with a list of contact persons in each field of study listed in ARTICLE 3 above for further communication on the curriculum.
- 6.02** PARTICIPANTS enroll as graduate students at AUBURN completing courses and other requirements leading to the B.S. degree from CAU, normally at the end of Year IV.
- 6.03** AUBURN will provide the necessary documents (I-20 forms, invitation letters, etc.) to allow each CAU PARTICIPANT to apply for an F-1 student visa.
- 6.04** AUBURN will arrange mentors to supervise a senior research experience or practicum for PARTICIPANTS during Year IV.

- 6.05 Following departmental review at the end of Year IV, PARTICIPANTS advance to full-time Master's degree students for the regular semesters of the academic year.
- 6.06 The overall (two-year) cost of education (tuition 2014-2016) and living support (including other costs such as health care, and transportation) is estimated at US\$85,000 for each PARTICIPANT.  
[http://www.grad.auburn.edu/forms/intl\\_instruct.html](http://www.grad.auburn.edu/forms/intl_instruct.html)
- 6.07 AUBURN will assist PARTICIPANTS in arranging accommodation in University Residence Halls, apartments, or other suitable arrangements and will provide appropriate assistance and counseling in matters of health, language, cultural understanding as needed.
- 6.08 AUBURN will send CAU an official grade transcript for each PARTICIPANT in the end of the first academic year at AUBURN.
- 6.09 AUBURN is responsible for reviewing, approving, and monitoring any CAU materials describing the relationship between CAU and AUBURN to ensure conformity with the disclaimer statement required by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, as supplied in Article 7.06.

#### **ARTICLE 7. RESPONSIBILITIES OF CAU**

- 7.01 CAU will send AUBURN the curricula and a list of contact persons for each field of study selected for this program.
- 7.02 CAU will facilitate the articulation of course prerequisites for AUBURN courses as per the requirements of each field of study degree program.
- 7.03 **Selection of students:**
- a) CAU will provide a pool of up to five prospective PARTICIPANTS, who will be interviewed by the CAU-AUBURN COMMITTEE for each field.
  - b) Interviews will typically occur in November.
  - c) The number of CAU PARTICIPANTS to be selected will depend upon the availability of qualified and financially capable applicants.
  - d) The number of CAU-PARTICIPANTS may be expanded as the number of fields of study increase.
- 7.04 CAU will provide a venue for the selection committee to interview students.
- 7.05 CAU will make its personnel and facilities available to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) in connection with its periodic review of Auburn's accreditation status.

- 7.06** CAU will use the following mandatory SACSCOC disclaimer statement in its materials describing or advertising this program:

"Auburn University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award Bachelor's, Master's, Educational Specialist and Doctor's degrees. China Agricultural University is not accredited by SACS Commission on Colleges and the accreditation of Auburn University does not extend to or include China Agricultural University or its students. Further, although Auburn University may agree to accept certain course work from China Agricultural University to be applied toward an award from Auburn University, that course work may not be accepted by other colleges or universities in transfer, even if it appears on a transcript from Auburn University. The decision to accept course work in transfer from any institution is made by the institution considering the acceptance of credits or course work."

#### **ARTICLE 8. PROTOTYPE SCHEDULE FOR THE PROGRAM**

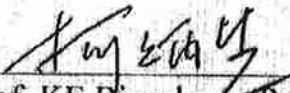
- 8.01** Selection of the first pool of students by CAU will begin in February of each year upon approval of the Auburn University governing body.
- 8.02** Selection of the first pool of CAU PARTICIPANTS, from the above pool of students, by a CAU-AUBURN COMMITTEE. This can take place as an on-line/web-based interview in March of each year.
- 8.03** In March, final admission decisions are made by the receiving AUBURN academic departments.
- 8.04** The first group of CAU PARTICIPANTS will arrive in AUBURN in August, and continue on to the subsequent stages of the program.

#### **ARTICLE 9. REVIEW, RENEWAL TERMINATION, ADMENDMENT**

- 9.01** This agreement becomes effective upon the signature of both Presidents.
- 9.02** This program shall start in the fall semester of the year 2014, and will be reviewed by both PARTIES on an annual basis.
- 9.03** This agreement may be amended by the exchange of letters between the two institutions. Such amendments, once approved by both institutions, will become part of this Memorandum of Agreement.
- 9.04** This agreement may be terminated by either PARTY giving notice to the other PARTY, in writing, at least six months prior to the intended termination date. In such an event, all the PARTICIPANTS already selected for the program will be allowed to complete the degree program.

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties' signatures:*

**FOR CHINA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY**

  
Prof. KE Bingsheng, President

01/11/2013

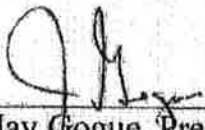
Date:

  
Prof. FU Zetian, Vice President

04/11/2013

Date:

**FOR AUBURN UNIVERSITY**

  
Jay Gogue, President

11/20/2013

Date:

  
Timothy Boosinger, Provost


November 4, 2013

Date:

  
George Flowers, Dean of the Graduate School

November 19, 2013

Date:

  
William Batchelor, Dean of the College of Agriculture

November 4, 2013

Date: