

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**  
**BETWEEN**  
**AUBURN UNIVERSITY**  
**AND**  
**NORTHWEST A&F UNIVERSITY**  
**TO ESTABLISH**  
**FIVE-YEAR MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS**

*THIS AGREEMENT IS ENTERED INTO BETWEEN:*

**NORTHWEST A& F UNIVERSITY**, Yangling, People's Republic of China hereinafter called "NWAUFU,"

**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 **NWAUFU-AUBURN FIVE-YEAR MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM** for Chinese students. Participants will complete the NWAUFU Bachelor's degree with a year of senior 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 NWAFU and AUBURN, this five-year graduate degree program model provides sound educational experiences for NWAFU students in selected fields of study.

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

- a) A three-year undergraduate program at NWAFU;
- 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 the 3+2 STUDY PROGRAM.**

**1.03 Definitions:**

- a) Unless otherwise stated, **CANDIDATES** shall mean an initial pool of up to five NWAFU students who have been selected by NWAFU faculty as potential participants this program.
- b) **NWAFU PARTICIPANTS** shall mean the subset of **CANDIDATES** selected to study at AUBURN.

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

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

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

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

- a) PARTICIPANTS fulfill the fourth year of NWAFU 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 NWAFU 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 NWAFU upon submission of official transcript from AUBURN.

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

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

**2.05 3+1 Programs:**

- a) This agreement also encompasses 3+1 programs where NWAFU PARTICIPANTS attend Auburn during their last year of undergraduate study and receive a Bachelor's degree from NWAFU.
- 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 NWAFU 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 NWAFU institutional processes.

#### **ARTICLE 4. NUMBER OF NWAFU 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 NWAFU PARTICIPANTS to be accepted during each successive year of the program will be based upon the availability of academically qualified and financially able students.

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

- 5.01** By the end of November of each year, NWAFU will provide AUBURN with a list of CANDIDATES to be selected as NWAFU PARTICIPANTS.
- 5.02** A SELECTION REVIEW COMMITTEE, comprised of representatives from NWAFU and AUBURN will conduct interview sessions to select potential PARTICIPANTS from among the nominated CANDIDATES.
- a) A complete file of the selected CANDIDATES will be transmitted to the relevant AUBURN department in a timely fashion following the SELECTION REVIEW COMMITTEE process.
  - b) CANDIDATES selected by the SELECTION REVIEW COMMITTEE will be responsible for providing any missing materials for their files to assure the timely completion of the admission selection decision process.
  - d) PARTICIPANT applications are processed through the AUBURN Graduate School.
  - e) Final admission decisions are made by the dean of AUBURN's Graduate School upon recommendation of the receiving department.
- 5.03 Basic student requirements:**
- a) Each CANDIDATE must be enrolled in the third year of undergraduate study at NWAFU and be in excellent academic standing. Ideally, the CANDIDATES should be among the top 10% of their class.
  - b) The CANDIDATE must submit a minimum TOEFL score of 79 for the internet based test OR minimum 213 on the new computerized test OR minimum 550 on the written paper-based test. A minimum band score of 6.5 or better on the IELTS is also acceptable. Other assessment tools may be used, as determined by AUBURN.
  - c) The CANDIDATE must possess excellent communications skills in English, demonstrate strong leadership capabilities, and be committed to sound ethical principles.

**5.04 Funding of students:**

a) PARTICIPANTS are required to attest to the source and amount of their funding for study to obtain a U.S.A. student visa and as part of the AUBURN admission process.

<http://www.auburn.edu/admissions/prospective/international.html>

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 NWAFU 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 transient graduate students at AUBURN completing courses and other requirements leading to the B.S. degree from NWAFU, normally at the end of Year IV.

**6.03** AUBURN will provide the necessary documents to allow each NWAFU PARTICIPANT to apply for an appropriate 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.

**6.06** The overall (two-year) cost of education (tuition 2014-2016) and living support (including other costs such as health insurance, 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 NWAFU an official academic transcript for each PARTICIPANT at the end of the first academic year at AUBURN.
- 6.09** AUBURN is responsible for reviewing, approving, and monitoring any NWAFU materials describing the relationship between NWAFU 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 NWAFU**

- 7.01** NWAFU will send AUBURN the curricula and a list of contact persons for each field of study selected for this program.
- 7.02** NWAFU 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) NWAFU will provide a pool of up to five CANDIDATES for each field, who will be interviewed by the NWAFU-AUBURN COMMITTEE.
  - b) Interviews will typically occur in November.
  - c) The number of PARTICIPANTS to be selected will depend upon the availability of qualified and financially capable applicants.
  - d) The number of PARTICIPANTS may be expanded as the number of fields of study increases.
- 7.04** NWAFU will provide a venue for the selection committee to interview CANDIDATES.
- 7.05** NWAFU 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** NWAFU 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. NORTHWEST AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY UNIVERSITY is not accredited by SACS Commission on Colleges and the accreditation of Auburn University does not extend to or include NORTHWEST AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY UNIVERSITY or its students. Further, although Auburn University may agree to accept certain course work from NORTHWEST AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY 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 CANDIDATES by NWAFU will begin in the fall semester.
- 8.02** Selection of the first pool of NWAFU PARTICIPANTS, from the above pool of CANDIDATES, by a NWAFU-AUBURN COMMITTEE, will take place at NWAFU in November.
- 8.03** In December, final selection decisions are made by the receiving AUBURN academic departments.
- 8.04** The first group of NWAFU PARTICIPANTS will arrive in AUBURN in August, of the following year and continue on to the subsequent stages of the program.

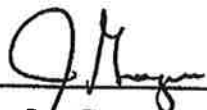
#### **ARTICLE 9. REVIEW, RENEWAL, TERMINATION, ADMENDMENT**

- 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 THE AUBURN  
UNIVERSITY**

**FOR THE NORTHWEST A&F  
UNIVERSITY**



Dr. Jay Gogue, President

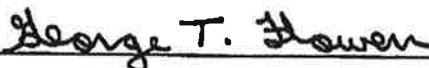


Dr. Sun Qixin, President

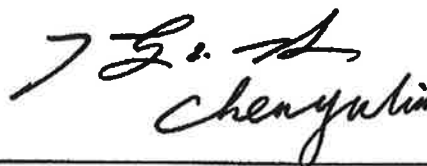


Dr. Timothy Boosinger, Provost

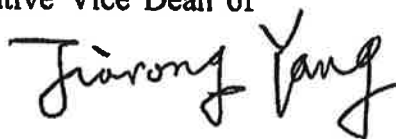
Dr. Chen Yulin, Director, Division of  
Teaching Affairs



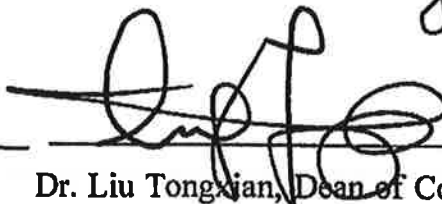
George Flowers, Dean of the  
Graduate School

  
Chenyulin

Dr. Yang Jiarong, Executive Vice Dean of  
Graduate School



William Batchelor, Dean of the  
College of Agriculture



Dr. Liu Tongxian, Dean of College of Plant  
Protection

June 7, 2013

Date: