

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
AUBURN UNIVERSITY, AUBURN, ALABAMA, USA
AND
QINGDAO AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, QINGDAO, P.R. CHINA
TO ESTABLISH
A FIVE-YEAR MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM:

THIS AGREEMENT IS ENTERED INTO BETWEEN:

QINGDAO AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, hereinafter called "QAU," in
Qingdao, People's Republic of China

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 **QAU-AUBURN FIVE-YEAR MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM** for Chinese students. Participants will complete the QAU 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 QAU and AUBURN, this five-year graduate degree program aims to provide deep scientific, educational, and practical work experiences for QAU students in selected fields of study.

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

- Component 1: A three-year undergraduate program at QAU;
- Component 2: A two-year graduate program at AUBURN; that includes
- Component 3: An undergraduate research experience or practicum.

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

1.03 Definitions: in the text that follows, unless otherwise stated, **CANDIDATES** shall mean an initial pool of up to five QAU students who have been selected by QAU faculty as potential participants this program. **QAU PARTICIPANTS** shall mean the subset of **CANDIDATES** selected to participate in this program.

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

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

- 2.01. Stage one (Years I-III, in China):** QAU PARTICIPANTS will successfully complete the first three years of undergraduate study at QAU. QAU PARTICIPANTS fulfill the fourth year of QAU Bachelor's degree requirements through coursework taken at Auburn University. A Bachelor's degree will be conferred by QAU upon submission of official transcript from AUBURN.
- 2.02. Stage Two (August–May, Year IV, at AUBURN):** In the fall semester of Year IV, the QAU PARTICIPANTS will begin academic study at AUBURN. Coursework completed during this phase of study will be credited towards the completion of their Bachelor's degree from QAU as well as the Master's degree from AUBURN as per specific agreements with participating academic departments. The QAU PARTICIPANTS should complete a thesis to fulfill the requirement of the QAU Bachelor Degree. AUBURN will facilitate access to intensive English and cultural study as needed.
- 2.02 Stage Three (June–December, Years IV & V, in the U.S.):** Beginning in June of Year IV, the QAU PARTICIPANT will be assisted in establishing a relationship with an AUBURN advisor who will mentor the student through a research experience or practicum. This activity and resulting document should be completed by the end of Year V.
- 2.04. Stage Four (January–May, Year V):**
- a) One semester academic study at AUBURN (January-May).
 - b) Completion of degree requirements (thesis or non-thesis)

- c) In September of the fifth year of study, QAU PARTICIPANTS who have successfully completed the above stages will be awarded an MS degree from AUBURN.

2.05 3+1 Programs. This agreement also encompasses 3+1 programs where QAU PARTICIPANTS attend Auburn during their last year of undergraduate study and receive a Bachelor's degree from QAU if they don't continue to study at Auburn. Unless otherwise specified, 3+1 programs follow the same plan of study in the fourth year as 3+2 programs.

ARTICLE 3. FIELDS OF STUDY

For the first academic program year at AUBURN (to begin in late August; i.e., *Stage Two, August–May, Year IV* of the overall five-year program as described in Article 2), AUBURN will accept up to five QAU PARTICIPANTS to study at Auburn as a Master student in any major of Auburn University. The field of major will start from Entomology and Plant Pathology, Aquiculture, Ocean resources and environment (The number of fields of study may be increased by mutual agreement).

ARTICLE 4. NUMBER OF QAU PARTICIPANTS

For the first program year at AUBURN (beginning in late August), AUBURN will accept up to five QAU PARTICIPANTS. The exact number of QAU PARTICIPANTS to be accepted during each successive year of the program will be based upon the availability of qualified and financially able students.

ARTICLE FIVE. SELECTION OF QAU PARTICIPANTS

- 5.01.** By the end of November of each year, QAU will provide AUBURN with a list of up to five CANDIDATES to be selected as the pool of potential QAU PARTICIPANTS.
- 5.02.** A SELECTION REVIEW COMMITTEE, comprised of representatives from QAU and AUBURN will conduct interview sessions to select potential QAU PARTICIPANTS from among the nominated CANDIDATES.
- 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 and the forwarding of the applicants to the departments.

b) Those 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.

c) QAU PARTICIPANTS are admitted to AUBURN through the Graduate School.

d) Final admission decisions are made by the receiving AUBURN department.

5.03 Basic selection requirements:

a) Each CANDIDATE must be enrolled in the third year of undergraduate study at QAU and be in excellent academic standing. Ideally, the QAU CANDIDATES should be among the top 10% of their class.

b) The CANDIDATE must submit a TOEFL score of 79 for the internet based test OR 213 on the new computerized test OR 550 on the written paper-based test. A band score of 6.5 or better on the IELTS is also acceptable.

c) The CANDIDATE must possess excellent communications skills in English, demonstrate strong leadership capabilities.

5.04 Funding of students

a) QAU 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/admissions/prospective/international.html>

b) QAU PARTICIPANTS pay out of state tuition through parental resources, corporate sponsorship, governmental sponsorship, or other source of funding.

c) Students should expect to pay two years of tuition and living expenses at Auburn. Second year graduate students may be eligible for (but are not guaranteed) graduate assistantships as per departmental needs, the needs of principal investigators, or the availability other sources of support.

ARTICLE 6. RESPONSIBILITIES OF AUBURN

6.01. AUBURN will provide QAU with a list of contact persons in each field of study listed in ARTICLE 3 above for further communication on the curriculum.

6.02. AUBURN will accept the prescribed number of qualified QAU PARTICIPANTS, as recommended by the QAU-AUBURN COMMITTEE and approved by the AUBURN academic departments and graduate college,

and enroll them as full-time Master's degree students for the regular semesters of the academic year.

- 6.03. AUBURN will provide the necessary documents (DS2019 forms, invitation letters, etc.) to allow each QAU PARTICIPANT to apply for a J-1 Visiting Scholar visa.
- 6.04. AUBURN will be responsible for arranging mentors to supervise a senior research experience or practicum for QAU PARTICIPANTS.
- 6.05. The overall (two-year) tuition of education will be estimated at US\$25,000 for each QAU PARTICIPANT per academic year. The length of the program (covering Stages Two through Stage Four) is delineated in article 2 above). http://www.grad.auburn.edu/forms/intl_instruct.html
- 6.06. AUBURN will assist the QAU PARTICIPANTS in arranging accommodation in University Residence Halls, apartments, or other suitable arrangements and will provide appropriate assistant and counseling in matters of health, language, cultural understanding as needed.
- 6.07. AUBURN will be responsible for sending to QAU an official grade transcript for each QAU PARTICIPANT in the end of the first academic year at AUBURN (i.e., Stage 2, see 2.02 above).

ARTICLE 7. RESPONSIBILITIES OF QAU

- 7.01. QAU will send AUBURN the curricula and a list of contact persons for every field of study selected for this program.
- 7.02. QAU will be responsible for providing AUBURN with a pool of up to five CANDIDATES, who will be interviewed by the QAU-AUBURN COMMITTEE. The number of QAU PARTICIPANTS to be selected will depend upon the availability of qualified and financially capable applicants. The number of QAU-PARTICIPANTS may be expanded as the number of fields of study increase.
- 7.03. QAU will be responsible for providing a venue for the selection committee to interview CANDIDATES. Tentatively, November will be the first day of interviews for the initial year of this program.

ARTICLE 8. PROTOTYPE SCHEDULE FOR THE PROGRAM

- 8.01 Selection of the first pool of CANDIDATES by QAU will begin in the fall semester.

- 8.02. Selection of the first pool of QAU PARTICIPANTS, from the above pool of CANDIDATES, by a QAU-AUBURN COMMITTEE, will take place at QAU in November. In December, final admission decisions are made by the AUBURN academic departments receiving applications.
- 8.03. The first group of QAU PARTICIPANTS will arrive in AUBURN in August, and continue on to the subsequent stages of the program.

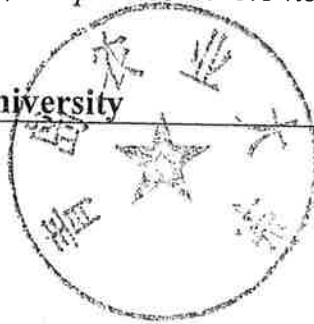
ARTICAL 9. REVIEW, RENEWAL TERMINATION, AND ADMENDMENT

This program shall start in the fall semester of the year 2014, and will be reviewed by both PARTIES on an annual basis. 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 shall not be affected; they will be allowed to complete the program and be awarded a Master's Degree. 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.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have offered their signatures:

For Qingdao Agricultural University

Li Baodu, President,



Date: June 8, 2013

Yang Tongyi, Vice President

Date: June 8, 2013

Lin Qi, Dean of College of Agriculture and Plant Protection

Date: June 8, 2013

FOR AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Jay Gogue, President

09/09/2013

Date: ~~June 8, 2013~~

Timothy Boosinger, Provost

Date: June 8, 2013

George Flowers, Dean of the Graduate School

6-8-2013
Date: June 8, 2013

William Batchelor, Dean of the College of Agriculture

Date: June 8, 2013