

# **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

**between**

**China Agricultural University  
Department of Crop Genetics and Breeding**

**and**

**Auburn University  
Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences**

## **3+2 Program in the Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences**

The purpose of this document is to outline department-specific procedures and requirements for the 3+2 program between CAU – Department of Crop Genetics and Breeding and Auburn University – Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences.

A 3+2 program between Auburn University (AU) and China Agricultural University (CAU) provides for direct admission of selected third-year China Agricultural University students with completion of four years of CAU coursework into the M.S. degree program in the Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences (CSES) at AU. A student may pursue a MS in Crop or Soil Science, with emphases (among others) in Crop Production, Soil Science, Plant Breeding and Genetics, Weed Science, Water Quality, Soil Chemistry, Turfgrass Management, Soil Microbiology, Soil Pedology/Mineralogy, Forage Production, Biofuel Production, and Biotechnology and Genomics. After completing their first year of study at Auburn University, CAU will award students the bachelor's degree and students will complete coursework required by the Department (CAU). Thesis research will be completed at AU in the second year and students will receive the M.S. degree from the Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences, AU.

### **Application Materials for the Department:**

Three letters of recommendation, a resume, and a letter of intent are required, and should be sent directly to the Department, addressed to either of the people listed on the following page. The letter of intent is a personal statement of interest and should contain appropriate information about a student's academic or research experience, career goals, and how acquisition of the specific M.S. degree will serve to advance their professional goals. If students have contacted potential supervisors, please indicate this in the letter. E-mail documents are accepted, but the documents should all be combined into one pdf file, and not sent as separate documents. These materials should be sent to:

### Crops:

Dr. Charles Y. Chen  
201 Funchess Hall  
Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences  
Auburn University  
Auburn, AL 36849  
USA  
[cyc0002@auburn.edu](mailto:cyc0002@auburn.edu)

### Soils:

Dr. Beth Guertal, Professor  
201 Funchess Hall  
Department of Crop, Soil and  
Environmental Sciences  
Auburn University  
Auburn, AL 36849 USA  
[guertea@auburn.edu](mailto:guertea@auburn.edu)

### Contact at CAU:

Dr. Zhongfu Ni  
Head and Professor  
Department of Crop Genetics and Breeding  
Chinese Agricultural University

### **Application materials for the AU Graduate School:**

CAU students should apply to the AU Graduate School seeking graduate admission. However, they should note on their application that they are CAU 3+2 students. Application instructions can be found at: <http://www.grad.auburn.edu/ps/requirements.html>

### **Departmental Courses Required for the 3+2 Program Students for a M.S. Degree:**

Specific course requirements will be determined by the student's graduate thesis committee. Required pre-requisite courses include a strong background in chemistry, math, biology and other basic sciences. Introductory crop and soil science courses are also required. Your transcripts will be used to determine if course deficiencies exist. In all, 30 hours of coursework are required for the M.S. degree. Of those hours, 6 hours may be Research & Thesis and 2 are Seminars. The remaining 22 hours are coursework selected by the student and the graduate committee.

### **Other Specific Requirements:**

1. The AU Graduate School requires the TOEFL or IELTS test for admission.
2. The Department requires students to take the Graduate Requisite Exam (GRE) upon acceptance into the graduate school. This exam may be taken once arrived at Auburn, and is not a part of the application process. It is required for entry into the second year of the program at Auburn.

### **The Senior Thesis**

The Senior thesis is a requirement of CAU, and not AU. However, students in the Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences may choose to complete their Senior thesis while at Auburn. This must be agreed upon with the major advisor, and the thesis topic must be approved

by the major advisor. The Senior Thesis will be written in English, and may count as a part of the M.S. Thesis, if approved by the major advisor. If the Senior Thesis is written while the student is at AU the thesis topic and a brief outline (~2 pages) of the idea must be approved by a designated faculty member (designated by CAU) at CAU. This dual approval is needed since the Senior Thesis is completed as a part of CAU graduation requirements.

If the Senior Thesis is completed before the student arrives at AU, the preparation and approval of the thesis lies solely with advisors at CAU, and it does not count towards any academic progress at AU.

**M.S. thesis research:**

The 3+2 program students are required to conduct M.S. thesis research under the direction of a faculty member: <http://www.ag.auburn.edu/agrn/>. We encourage students to contact professors whose program they are interested in before coming to Auburn.

**Estimated Costs:**

The total ESTIMATED costs for the program (MS student) are listed below:

ESTIMATED COST OF ATTENDANCE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ("F" and "J" Visa Students)

Auburn University requires all international students seeking admission show proof of financial support for themselves and their dependents. This covers the cost of tuition and fees, housing and food, books and supplies, personal items, transportation, and health insurance for a minimum of 9 months.

<i>Estimates for the 2013-2014 academic year</i> <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>COST PER ACADEMIC YEAR</b> <sup>(2)</sup>	
	<u>undergraduate</u>	<u>graduate</u>
Tuition and Fees	\$26,624	\$26,642 <sup>(3)</sup>
Living Expenses	\$10,020	\$10,020
Health Insurance <sup>(4)</sup>	<u>\$ 1,792</u>	<u>\$ 1,792</u>
Total Expenses	\$38,436	\$38,454

- » Accompanying spouses require an additional \$4,079 per year.
- » Dependent children each require an additional \$3,403 per year.

**Notes**

(1) These costs are estimates as of October 2013 and subject to change without notice. These amounts will vary depending on where you live and your personal spending habits. These figures do not include transportation expenses. A typical cost for a one-room dormitory (with meals included) that is walking distance to campus is 700.00/month.

(2) Cost figures include tuition expenses for fall and spring semesters (nine months) and living expenses for 12 months.

(3) Students receiving Auburn University research or teaching assistantships do not pay most university fees, and receive a partial health insurance subsidy. These assistantships are highly competitive and will NOT be provided in

the first year of this program, and will be highly competitive in the second year. A student should not expect assistantship support for this program.

(4) Auburn University health insurance is mandatory for all international students (F-1 & J-1) and their dependents (F-2 & J-2).

(5) Tuition and fees are calculated on two semesters of study, with 9 hours of coursework in each semester. If a student worked on their project in the summer they would enroll in one hour of Research & Thesis, and that would be an additional \$2,175.00 in cost. A full-time (9 hours) summer semester would be an additional \$13, 191.00.

(6) Specific information about fees (as calculated on a per hour basis) can be found at:  
[http://www.auburn.edu/administration/business\\_office/pdf/tuition\\_credit-hour-13-fall.pdf](http://www.auburn.edu/administration/business_office/pdf/tuition_credit-hour-13-fall.pdf)

This agreement is subsidiary to and governed by the 3+2 Broad Agreement between the two institutions wherein procedures for modification and notification are detailed.

Signatures:

For AUBURN UNIVERSITY  
Department of Crop, Soil  
and Environmental Sciences



Dr. John Beasley  
Professor and Department Head

For CHINA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY  
Department of Crop Genetics and Breeding



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Dr. Zhongfu Ni  
Professor and Department Head