



AUBURN UNIVERSITY

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH
AND ASSESSMENT

August 11, 2014

Dr. Belle S. Wheelan
President
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
Commission on Colleges
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, GA 30033-4097

Dear Dr. Wheelan:

I am writing in response to your letter dated May 22, 2014, accepting notification that Auburn University has entered into an agreement with China Agricultural University (effective August 18, 2014) to offer 3+2 programs leading to the Master of Science in agricultural disciplines. Your letter requested that Auburn University provide the Commission with program-specific agreements under this master agreement when those have been articulated.

Enclosed please find two program-specific agreements and contact information for each of the five academic degree programs listed below (the agreement for the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology covers two degree programs):

- M.S. in Entomology (Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology)
- M.S. in Horticulture (Department of Horticulture)
- M.S. in Plant Pathology (Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology)

We anticipate that two additional program-level agreements will shortly be completed, also under the terms of the master agreement between Auburn University and China Agricultural University. We will send the Commission copies of those agreements after they have been signed.

If the Commission needs any other information, please contact me at 334-844-4765 or by email: clarkj3@auburn.edu.

Sincerely,

Drew Clark
Director and Accreditation Liaison

Enclosure

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

between

**China Agricultural University
Department of Horticulture**

and

**Auburn University
Department of Horticulture**

The purpose of this document is to outline departmental-specific procedures and considerations governing the admission and advancement of 3+2 students from China Agricultural University. It is intended to assure mutual understanding about the detailed conduct of the program between the two departments and to provide clear guidelines for the students who participate.

I. 3+2 Program in the Department of Horticulture

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 Horticulture at AU (www.ag.auburn.edu/hort). A student may pursue a M.S. in Horticulture, with emphasis in Applied Fruit or Vegetable Production, Applied Nursery or Greenhouse Production, or Applied Landscape Horticulture. After completing their first year study at Auburn University, CAU will award students the bachelor's degree, and students will complete coursework required by the Department (CAU). Students will receive a M.S. degree from the Department of Horticulture, AU after successfully completing the second year.

II. Application Materials for the AU Graduate School:

CAU students apply to the AU Graduate School seeking graduate admission while noting their status as CAU 3+2 students. <http://www.grad.auburn.edu/ps/requirements.html>

III. Test Scores:

The AU Graduate School requires the TOEFL or IELTS test for admission.

The AU Graduate School does not require the GRE test, but the Department does require the GRE. A general exception to this requirement has tentatively been granted for CAU 3+2 students.

IV. Application Materials for the Department:

Three letters of recommendation, resume, transcripts, and a letter of intent are required to be sent to the Horticulture Department directly. 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 advisors, please indicate this in the letter. E-mail documents are fine, but the documents should all be combined into one pdf file, and not sent as separate documents. Admission is contingent upon an AU Horticulture faculty member agreeing to serve as advisor. Additional requirements for acceptance can be found in the

Horticulture Department Graduate Student Handbook
(<http://www.ag.auburn.edu/hort/graduate.html>).

Application materials should be sent to:

Dr. Amy Wright, Professor
101 Funchess Hall
Department of Horticulture
Auburn University, AL USA 36849
wriham@auburn.edu

V. Courses Required for the 3+2 Students for the CAU B.S. Degree

CAU students will be considered as having satisfied all courses required for the CAU B.S. degree unless the AU department and the student is otherwise informed.

VI. Senior Thesis: CAU students may complete the CAU Senior Thesis requirement in the Department of Horticulture at AU through an AU faculty Directed Research Project. The Senior Thesis Defense will include a presentation of the research results followed by discussion with a research committee organized by the advising AU professor. The Senior Thesis document will be presented in English in a format suitable for submission to an identified refereed scientific journal (supervised by advising AU professor). Senior Thesis research conducted at AU will also be included in and count towards M.S. Thesis Research. If Senior Thesis Research is conducted at CAU prior to arriving at AU, the preparation of the Senior Thesis will be supervised by advising CAU professor.

VII. Courses Required for the 3+2 Program Students for a M.S. Degree:

Students in the Department of Horticulture (HORT) are required to take the following courses: 1) Experimental Methods in Horticulture (HORT 7010), 2) Experimental Statistics I (STAT 7000) or Experimental Statistics II (STAT 7010), 3) Seminar (2) (HORT 7050), 4) Research and Thesis (6) (HORT 7990), 5) Additional elective hours as approved by advising committee for a total of 30 hours.

VIII. M.S. thesis research:

The 3+2 program students are required to conduct M.S. thesis research under the direction of a faculty member. M.S. Thesis research will be conducted at AU during both years. This may or may not include the Senior Thesis Research (see above). The student will prepare a M.S. thesis based on thesis research. The M.S. Thesis Defense will include a seminar presentation of the research results to the Department followed by discussion with a research committee organized by the advising AU professor.

Horticulture Graduate Handbook:

<http://www.ag.auburn.edu/hort/graduate/Grad%20Handbook%202014.pdf>

Horticulture Graduate Program:

<http://www.ag.auburn.edu/hort/gradprogram.html>

IX. Conclusion

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.

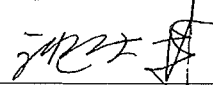
X. Signatures

For **AUBURN UNIVERSITY**
Department of Horticulture

For **CHINA AGRICULTURAL**
UNIVERSITY
Department of Horticulture

 6/30/2014

Dr. Jeff Sibley Date
Professor & Chair



Dr. Huolin Shen (沈火林) Date
Professor & Chair

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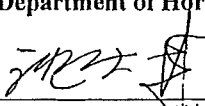
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For **AUBURN UNIVERSITY**
Department of Horticulture

For **CHINA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY**
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 6/30/2014

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