



AUBURN UNIVERSITY

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH  
AND ASSESSMENT

April 14, 2015

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

Dear Dr. Wheelan:

Consistent with the Commission's policies on *Agreements Involving Joint and Dual Academic Awards* and on *Substantive Change for SACSCOC Accredited Institutions*, I am writing to notify you that, effective March 24, 2015, Auburn University entered into an agreement with Huazhong Agricultural University (HZAU) (Shizishan No. 1, Wuhan 430070, Peoples Republic of China) to establish a five-year Master's Degree program (a 3+2 Program) in various fields of Agriculture. A signed copy of the agreement is enclosed.

The purpose of the agreement is to encourage qualified Chinese students to complete a program of study at the two institutions leading to the earning of Bachelor's degree from HZAU and a Master of Science degree from the College of Agriculture of Auburn University. Qualified students would complete three years of baccalaureate study at HZAU, followed by two years of advanced undergraduate and graduate study at Auburn. At the conclusion of the students' first year of study at Auburn, HZAU would award an appropriate baccalaureate degree, accepting Auburn course work in transfer. At the conclusion of the students' second year of study at Auburn, Auburn University would award the appropriate MS degree.

This is an overarching agreement, with an effective date of August 18, 2014, the first day of Auburn's 2014 Fall Semester. The overarching agreement will be implemented through specific curriculum-level agreements. 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](mailto:clarkj3@auburn.edu).

Sincerely,

Drew Clark  
Director and Accreditation Liaison

Enclosure

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**  
**BETWEEN**  
**AUBURN UNIVERSITY**  
**AND**  
**HUAZHONG AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY**  
**TO ESTABLISH**  
**FIVE-YEAR MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS**

*THIS AGREEMENT IS ENTERED INTO BETWEEN:*

**HUAZHONG AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY**, Wuhan, People's Republic of China hereinafter called "HZAU,"

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

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

- a) A three-year undergraduate program at HZAU;
- 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 An initial pool of up to five HZAU students will be selected by HZAU faculty as potential participants in each degree program or as otherwise specified by the specific degree program agreement.**

**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):*** HZAU PARTICIPANTS will successfully complete the first three years of undergraduate study at HZAU.

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

- a) PARTICIPANTS fulfill the fourth year of HZAU 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 HZAU 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 HZAU 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, HZAU 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 HZAU PARTICIPANTS attend Auburn during their last year of undergraduate study and receive a Bachelor's degree from HZAU.
- 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 HZAU 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 HZAU institutional processes.

#### **ARTICLE 4. NUMBER OF HZAU 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 HZAU 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 November of each year, HZAU will provide AUBURN with a list of prospective HZAU PARTICIPANTS.
- 5.02** A SELECTION REVIEW COMMITTEE, comprised of representatives from HZAU 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 HZAU and be in excellent academic standing. Ideally, the HZAU PARTICIPANTS should be among the top 10% of their class.

- 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) GRE scores are submitted as per departmental requirements or as stipulated in the specific program agreement governing admission and degree requirements
- d) 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. RESPONSIBILTIES OF AUBURN**

- 6.01.** AUBURN will provide HZAU 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 HZAU, normally at the end of Year IV.
- 6.03** AUBURN will provide the necessary documents (I-20 forms, invitation letters, etc.) to allow each HZAU PARTICIPANT to apply for an F-1 Student visa.
- 6.04** AUBURN will arrange mentors to supervise an undergraduate 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 assistant and counseling in matters of health, language, cultural understanding as needed.
- 6.08** AUBURN will send HZAU 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 HZAU materials describing the relationship between HZAU 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 HZAU**

- 7.01** HZAU will send AUBURN the curricula and a list of contact persons for each field of study selected for this program.
- 7.02** HZAU 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) HZAU will provide a pool of up to five prospective PARTICIPANTS, who will be interviewed by the HZAU-AUBURN COMMITTEE for each field.
  - b) Interviews will typically occur directly after AU receives the list of prospective PARTICIPANTS.
  - c) The number of HZAU PARTICIPANTS to be selected will depend upon the availability of qualified and financially capable applicants.
  - d) The number of HZAU-PARTICIPANTS may be expanded as the number of fields of study increase.

- 7.04 HZAU will provide a venue for the selection committee to interview students.
- 7.05 HZAU 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 HZAU 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. Huazhong Agricultural University is not accredited by SACS Commission on Colleges and the accreditation of Auburn University does not extend to or include Huazhong Agricultural University or its students. Further, although Auburn University may agree to accept certain course work from Huazhong 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**

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- 8.01 Selection of the first pool of students by HZAU will begin in the fall semester 2014 upon approval of the Auburn University governing body.
- 8.02 Selection of the first pool of HZAU PARTICIPANTS, from the above pool of students, by a HZAU-AUBURN COMMITTEE, will take place at HZAU in November.
- 8.03 In December, final admission decisions are made by the receiving AUBURN academic departments.
- 8.04 The first group of HZAU 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 HUAZHONG AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY**



Xiuxin DENG, President

Date: 2014.11.28

**FOR AUBURN UNIVERSITY**



Jay Gogue, President

03/24/2015

Date:



Timothy Boosinger, Provost

3/23/2015

Date:



George Flowers, Dean of the Graduate School

2/18/2015

Date:



William Batchelor, Dean of the College of Agriculture

JAN 13, 2015

Date:

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE  
3+2 AGREEMENT BETWEEN AUBURN UNIVERSITY  
AND HUAZHONG AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY**

**ADMINISTRATIVE CONTACT**

(Person responsible for the general operation of this agreement)

	<b>Huazhong Agricultural University</b>	<b>Auburn University</b>
Name	Qiaoyun Huang	Yucheng Feng
Department	College of Resources and Environment	Department of Crop, Soil & Environmental Sciences
Address	Shizishan No. 1 Wuhan 430070 P.R. China	202 Funchess Hall Auburn, AL 36949 USA
Phone	86-27-87671033	334-844-3967
FAX	86-27-87288618	334-844-3945
Email	qyhuang@mail.hzau.edu.cn	yfeng@auburn.edu

**EMERGENCY CONTACT**

(First person to be contacted in the event of an emergency related to this agreement)

	<b>Huazhong Agricultural University</b>	<b>Auburn University</b>
Name	Youliang Yuan	Andrew Gillespie
Department	Department of International Cooperation and Exchange	Office of International Programs
Address	Shizishan No. 1 Wuhan 430070 P.R. China	228 Foy Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849-5159 USA
Office Phone	86-27-87282026	334-844-5009
Emergency Phone (24 hrs)	86-27-87281181	334-444-4055
FAX	86-27-87396057	334-844-4983
Email	fao@mail.hzau.edu.cn	arg0014@auburn.edu