

# **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

**between**

**Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University  
College of Horticulture**

**and**

**Auburn University  
Department of Horticulture**

Auburn University (AU), located in Auburn, Alabama (USA) and Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University (NWFU), located in Yangling, Shaanxi Province (PRC) previously entered into a broad agreement, dated June 7, 2013, to create a Five-Year Master's Degree Program (3 + 2 program), whereby qualified students from NWFU could earn a Bachelor's degree from NWFU and a Master's degree from AU upon successful completion of five years of study. The purpose of this subsidiary agreement is to outline specific procedures and considerations governing the admission and advancement of NWFU students in the Five-Year Master's Degree program with Auburn University in the area of Horticulture. This document 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. Five-Year Master's Degree Program in the Department of Horticulture**

A Five-Year Master's Degree program between AU and NWFU provides for direct admission of selected third-year NWFU students who have completed three years of NWFU coursework into the M.S. degree program in AU's Department of Horticulture (HORT). Students participating in this program will complete three years of undergraduate study at NWFU in the field of Horticulture. In the fourth year of the program, students who have been admitted to AU's M.S. program in Horticulture will complete graduate-level AU course work consistent with the requirements of that program and with the requirements of their NWFU department. Upon documentation of successful completion of the fourth year, students will receive the B.S. in Horticulture from NWFU. In the fifth year of the program, students will complete thesis research at AU. Upon successful completion of all degree requirements, students will receive from AU the M.S. degree in Horticulture.

## **II. Application Materials for the AU Graduate School:**

NWFU students apply to the AU Graduate School seeking graduate admission while noting their status as NWFU Five-Year Master's Degree 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 NWFU Five-Year Master's Degree students.

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

Three letters of recommendation, resume, and a letter of intent are required to be sent to the 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 accepted, but the documents should all be combined into one PDF file, and not sent as separate documents. These materials should be sent to:

Dr. Amy Wright ([wriham@auburn.edu](mailto:wriham@auburn.edu))

101 Funchess Hall

Department of Horticulture

Auburn University

Auburn, AL 36849

USA

#### **V. Courses Required for the Five-Year Master's Degree Students for the NWAUFU B.S. Degree:**

Upon receipt of an official AU transcript, NWAUFU will award the B.S. in Horticulture to students enrolling in the Department of Horticulture under this agreement and successfully completing one year of AU course work approved by both AU and NWAUFU. If for any reason NWAUFU identifies courses required for the NWAUFU B.S. in Horticulture that these students have not satisfied by means of their combined NWAUFU and AU course work, NWAUFU accepts responsibility for notifying both the AU Department of Horticulture and the student in writing at least 30 days before the beginning of the student's second year of enrollment at AU.

#### **VI. Senior Thesis Required for the NWAUFU B.S. Degree:**

The Senior Thesis is a requirement of NWAUFU, and not AU. However, students in the Department of Horticulture may choose to complete their Senior thesis while at Auburn. This must be agreed upon with the AU major advisor, and the thesis topic must be approved by the AU 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 AU major advisor. If the Senior thesis is completed before the student arrives at AU, the preparation and approval of the thesis lies solely with advisors at NWAUFU, and it may not count towards any academic requirement at AU.

#### **VII. Courses Required for the Five-Year Master's Degree Program Students for a M.S. Degree:**

Specific course requirements will be determined by the student's graduate thesis committee. A strong background in chemistry, math, biology and other basic sciences is required. Introductory Horticulture courses are also required. Student transcripts will be used to determine if course deficiencies exist. In all, 30 hours of course work 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 thesis committee.

#### **VIII. M.S. thesis research:**


The Five-Year Master's Degree program students are required to conduct M.S. thesis research under the direction of a faculty member: <http://hort.auburn.edu/>. NWFU students are encouraged to contact professors whose program they are interested in before coming to Auburn.

**IX. Conclusion**


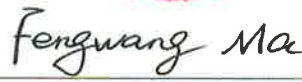
This agreement is subsidiary to and governed by the Five-Year Master's Degree Broad Agreement between the two institutions, dated June 7, 2013, wherein procedures for modification and notification are detailed.

**X. Signatures**

For **AUBURN UNIVERSITY**  
Department of Horticulture

  
Dr. J. David Williams  
Professor & Department Head  
Date: 8/3/2015

For **NORTHWEST AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY UNIVERSITY**  
College of Horticulture

  
  
Dr. Fengwang Ma  
Professor & College Dean  
Date: 2015/07/05