

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

*THIS AGREEMENT IS ENTERED INTO BETWEEN:*

**OCEAN UNIVERSITY OF CHINA**, Qingdao, People's Republic of China  
hereinafter called "OUC,"

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

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

- a) A three-year undergraduate program at OUC;
- b) A year of study at AUBURN that includes courses of instruction and can include 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 Definitions:**

- a) Unless otherwise stated, **CANDIDATES** shall mean an initial pool of OUC students who have been selected by OUC faculty as potential participants in this program.
- b) **OUC PARTICIPANTS** shall mean the subset of **CANDIDATES** selected to participate in this program.

## **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, at OUC, China):** OUC PARTICIPANTS will successfully complete the first three years of undergraduate study at OUC.

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

- a) PARTICIPANTS fulfill the fourth year of OUC Bachelor's degree requirements through coursework taken at Auburn University as per agreement with specific departments.
- b) As per specific program agreement, the first semester of the fourth year may be taken at OUC.
- c) AUBURN facilitates access to intensive English and cultural study as needed.
- d) An AUBURN advisor will mentor the student through coursework selection as well as the research experience or practicum.
- e) Coursework completed during Year IV will be credited towards the completion of the Bachelor's degree from OUC as well as the Master's degree from AUBURN as per specific agreements with participating academic departments.
- f) A Bachelor's degree will be conferred by OUC upon submission of official transcript from AUBURN.

**2.03** *Stage Three (August–May, Year V, at AUBURN):*

- a) Two semesters of academic study at AUBURN (January-May).
- b) Completion of M.S. degree requirements (thesis or non-thesis as per program agreement)
- c) In August of Year V, OUC PARTICIPANTS who have successfully completed the above stages will be awarded a M.S. degree from AUBURN.

**2.04 3+1 Programs:**

- a) PARTICIPANT may elect the 3+1 option at the end of Year IV.
- b) 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 OUC 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 OUC institutional processes.

### **ARTICLE 4. NUMBER OF OUC 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 OUC 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, OUC will provide AUBURN with a list of CANDIDATES to be selected as OUC PARTICIPANTS.
- 5.02** A SELECTION REVIEW COMMITTEE, comprised of representatives from OUC and AUBURN will conduct interview sessions to select potential PARTICIPANTS from among the nominated CANDIDATES.
  - a) 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) PARTICIPANT applications are processed through the AUBURN Graduate School.
- d) Final admission decisions are made by the dean of AUBURN's Graduate School upon recommendation of the receiving department.

### **5.03 Basic student requirements:**

- a) Each CANDIDATE must be enrolled in the third year of undergraduate study at OUC and be in excellent academic standing. Ideally, the OUC CANDIDATES should be among the top 10% of their class.
- b) The CANDIDATE must submit a minimum TOEFL score of 79 for the internet based test OR minimum 213 on the new computerized test OR minimum 550 on the written paper-based test. A minimum band score of 6.5 or better on the IELTS is also 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 CANDIDATE must possess excellent communications skills in 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/admissions/prospective/international.html>
- b) PARTICIPANTS pay out of state tuition through parental resources, corporate sponsorship, governmental sponsorship, or other source of funding.

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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 of other sources of support.

## **ARTICLE 6. RESPONSIBILITIES OF AUBURN**

**6.01.** AUBURN will provide OUC 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 transient graduate students at AUBURN completing courses and other requirements leading to the B.S. degree from OUC, normally at the end of Year IV.

**6.03** AUBURN will provide the necessary documents (DS2019 forms, invitation letters, etc.) to allow each OUC PARTICIPANT to apply for a J-1 Visiting Scholar visa.

**6.04** 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.

**6.05** The overall (two-year) cost of education (tuition 2015-2017) and living support (including other costs such as health care, and transportation) is estimated at US\$85,000 for each PARTICIPANT. The cost will change annually. [http://www.grad.auburn.edu/forms/intl\\_instruct.html](http://www.grad.auburn.edu/forms/intl_instruct.html)

**6.06** AUBURN will assist PARTICIPANTS in arranging accommodation in University Residence Halls, apartments, or other suitable arrangements and will provide appropriate assistance and counseling in matters of health, language, cultural understanding as needed.

**6.07** AUBURN will send OUC an official grade transcript for each PARTICIPANT in the end of the first academic year at AUBURN.

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**6.08** AUBURN is responsible for reviewing, approving, and monitoring any OUC materials describing the relationship between OUC 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 OUC**

**7.01** OUC will send AUBURN the curricula and a list of contact persons for each field of study selected for this program.

**7.02** OUC 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) OUC will provide a pool of up to five CANDIDATES, who will be interviewed by the OUC-AUBURN COMMITTEE for each field.

b) Interviews will typically occur in November.

c) The number of OUC PARTICIPANTS to be selected will depend upon the availability of qualified and financially capable applicants.

d) The number of OUC PARTICIPANTS may be expanded as the number of fields of study increase.

**7.04** OUC will provide a venue for the selection committee to interview CANDIDATES.

**7.05** OUC 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** OUC 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. OCEAN UNIVERSITY OF CHINA is not accredited by SACS Commission on Colleges and the accreditation of Auburn University does not extend to or include OCEAN UNIVERSITY OF CHINA or its students.

Further, although Auburn University may agree to accept certain course work from OCEAN UNIVERSITY OF CHINA 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**

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



rec'd  
2/10/14

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE  
AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
AUBURN UNIVERSITY AND OCEAN UNIVERSITY OF CHINA**

**ADMINISTRATIVE CONTACT**

(Person responsible for the general operation of this agreement)

	<b>Ocean University of China</b>	<b>Auburn University</b>
Name	DONG Shuanglin	Joseph Molnar / Henry Fadamiro
Department	Vice President	Office of International Agriculture
Address	Ocean University of China 5 Yushan Road, Qingdao People's Republic of China	Auburn University Auburn, AL 36849 USA
Phone	Tel: (0532) 2032827 (O) 2032697 (H)	(334) 844-5518
FAX	Fax: (0532) 2032799	(334) 844-2937
Email	<a href="mailto:dongsl@ouc.edu.cn">dongsl@ouc.edu.cn</a>	<a href="mailto:molnaji@auburn.edu">molnaji@auburn.edu</a>

**EMERGENCY CONTACT**

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

	<b>Ocean University of China</b>	<b>Auburn University</b>
Name	Summer ZHAO Jing (Ms.)	Andrew Gillespie
Department	Deputy Dean School of International Education	Office of International Programs
Address	Ocean University of China Qingdao, China 266071	228 Foy Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849-5159 USA
Office Phone	Tel: 86-532-85901296	334-844-5009
Emergency Phone (24 hrs)	Tel: 86-532-85901296	334-444-4055
FAX	Fax: 86-532-85901868	334-844-4983
Email	Email: <a href="mailto:zhaojing@ouc.edu.cn">zhaojing@ouc.edu.cn</a>	<a href="mailto:arg0014@auburn.edu">arg0014@auburn.edu</a>



AUBURN UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF  
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

September 17, 2014

*Deborah Weiss*

FROM: Deborah Weiss, Director, Auburn Abroad and Exchange Programs  
For  
Andrew Gillespie, Assistant Provost for International Programs

Agreement Type: **International Memorandum of Agreement for a 5 Year Master's Degree**

Between: Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama, USA

And: **Ocean University of China, Qingdao, Shandong, China**

Originated by: **College of Agriculture**

Re: Requesting Signature

Attached please find **two** copies of the **International Memorandum of Agreement for a 5 Year Master's Degree** between Auburn University and **Ocean University of China, Qingdao, Shandong, China** which is recommended for signature by the Office of International Programs. Please sign all of the originals attached so that we may complete the agreement process.

Please notify me at 844-5007 or [weissds@auburn.edu](mailto:weissds@auburn.edu) or Abbie Naglosky at 844-3667 when the necessary signatures are complete and I will be more than happy to pick this agreement up . Thank you for your assistance with this request.

The Office of International Programs will retain one copy of the original for the official AU record. The other originals will be returned to the **College of Agriculture**. They will send originals to their partner for final signature, with a request that one of the fully signed agreements be returned. The AU College/School will then send an electronic version of the fully signed agreement to the Office of International Programs for the official AU Record of agreements.

Should you have any questions regarding this agreement, please feel free to contact Dr. Gillespie (4-5009) or Ms. Deborah Weiss (4-5007) in the Office of International Programs.

Rec'd on OIP-AUAB  
29 Aug 2014  
Rec'd contact sheet  
9/15/14

## Review and Approval Form

for an

**International Memorandum of Agreement** 5YR MASTER'S Degree

**Between:** Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama, USA


**And:** Ocean University of China, Qingdao, Shandong, China

The following have reviewed this International Agreement, approve its content, and recommend for Auburn University signature.


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph J. Molnar, Office of International Agriculture

Date

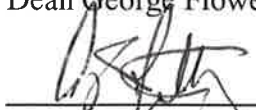
8/14/14

  
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Dean William Batchelor, College of Agriculture

8/18/14

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dean George Flowers, The Graduate School


8/20/14

  
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Andrew Gillespie, Assistant Provost for International Programs

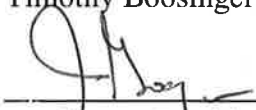
8/28/14

  
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Drew Clark, Director, Institutional Research and Assessment

Jan. 12, 2015 \*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Timothy Boosinger, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

1/14/15

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jay Gogue, President

01/20/2015

\* Held pending evidence of approval by the Graduate Council. Approved 11-11-14.