

AGREEMENT OF ACADEMIC COOPERATION

Between

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

And

PARTNER UNIVERSITY

For the

DUAL DEGREE Ph.D. PROGRAM IN [academic area]

In order to advance academic collaboration between the University of South Carolina (South Carolina) and **Partner University (PU)**, the Department of **[academic area]** at both institutions will cooperate in the development of a dual degree program. This program will provide opportunities for Ph.D. students to expand their learning and research and to enhance their academic mentoring to include faculty from both institutions.

A. Purpose of the Program

The institutions seek to expand doctoral level education for their Ph.D. students in **[academic area]**. Students will be encouraged to take course work, conduct research, and complete dissertations at the partner institution and may receive Ph.D. degrees from each university upon completion of the degree requirements for each school. Transfer of academic credit between the institutions may be approved to meet academic program requirements.

B. Eligibility for participation

1. Student participants must have completed the master's degree in **[academic area]** at the home institution prior to acceptance into the dual degree program and must be recommended for the program by the faculty of the home institution.
2. Students must meet all eligibility requirements for admission to the program and must follow the normal application process for graduate admission to the institution.
3. **PU** students are required to submit English Language examination results to South Carolina that meet minimum test score requirements. These include a minimum of 80 on the TOEFL or 6.5 on the IELTS.

C. Transfer of Academic Credit

1. Student participants who have been accepted by the partner institution may transfer academic credit from the home institution to meet some of the course requirements of the host institution. All transfer of academic credit must be pre-approved by the host institution.

D. Academic Program Requirements

1. Each institution has established degree requirements that must be met by student participants in order to earn Ph.D. degrees. Each institution will confer the Ph.D. degree to participants only upon completion of its own institution's specified requirements.

2. At South Carolina, student participants are required to complete at least 30 hours of credit while enrolled at South Carolina. These include eighteen hours of course work credit and twelve hours of dissertation credit. In addition to at least 30 hours credit earned at South Carolina, up to twelve hours of academic credit from **PU** may be accepted and applied toward the Ph.D. degree requirements.

3. At South Carolina, student participants are normally required to take a qualifying examination at the end of the first year of study. For student participants in this program, successful completion of the master's degree at **PU**, with defense of thesis, can be accepted as fulfillment of this requirement.

4. At South Carolina, student participants may meet the full-time residency requirement with 18 hours of course work taken in 3 consecutive major semesters. Enrollment in a summer term is not required to maintain continuity, but credits earned during summer terms will count toward the 18 hours required for residency.

5. The comprehensive exam will usually be taken at the end of coursework. In the event that a student participant has returned to the home institution prior to administration of the comprehensive exam, the comprehensive exam may be proctored at the home institution.

6. At South Carolina, a student participant is expected to make satisfactory progress toward completion of the Ph.D. degree. If a post-masters student is admitted to South Carolina with an assistantship, the student should anticipate **no more than 3 years** of assistantship support from South Carolina.

7. In the event that a student participant has returned to the home institution at the time of the dissertation defense, permission can be granted for the defense to be done via skype, teleconference, or similar long distance communication medium, as approved by the Graduate School at South Carolina.

E. Faculty Composition of Dissertation Committees

1. Because student participants' research will be collaborative between the two institutions, it is expected that dissertation committees will consist of faculty from both institutions. Each institution's policies and regulations about faculty membership of dissertation committees will be respected.

2. At South Carolina, the Chair of the committee must be a regular member of the graduate faculty in the Department of [academic area]. A faculty member from PU may serve as co-chair of the committee, if receiving a term appointment to the Graduate faculty at South Carolina. Faculty members from PU may serve as members of the dissertation committee as outside members, with no term appointment being necessary. At least one half of faculty members on the dissertation committee should be from the home institution.

3. Funding for faculty to travel to participate in dissertation committee work is the responsibility of the individual faculty member or one of the institutions, contingent upon availability of funding. A student defending a dissertation shall not be responsible for travel costs of faculty members.

F. Program Costs

1. Student participants in the program are eligible to receive funding from either the host or home institution, as is available and governed by each institution's policies and available funding.

2. At South Carolina, student participants will be considered on a competitive basis for graduate assistantship support which includes a salary and a reduction of tuition to the graduate resident rate. Those student participants who do not qualify for an assistantship may, under the terms of this agreement, be entitled to the Graduate Resident Tuition Rate, which provides reduced tuition.

3. All individual expenses of student participants, including travel and room and board, are the responsibility of the individual student.

4. At South Carolina, student participants are required to enroll in the University's Student Health Insurance Plan while enrolled in the program. In addition, South Carolina students are required to purchase the Study Abroad Travel and Health Insurance policy while studying at PU.

G. Terms and Conditions

1. This agreement shall be effective upon approval and signature of both parties.

