**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.

1. **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.

1. **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.

2. Termination may occur by mutual agreement or at the request of one institution with six

months written notice. If no activity occurs as described materializes within five years, the

agreement shall be considered terminated.

3. In the event of program termination, those student participants who are enrolled in the

program shall be allowed to complete the program, with the agreed upon conditions, as long as

they make academic progress toward degree completion.

4. This agreement is written only in English.

5. The parties agree to consult periodically concerning the status and progress of the program.

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Robert L. Caslen Jr., President Date Date

University of South Carolina Partner University