



VYTAUTAS
MAGNUS
UNIVERSITY
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AGRAR UNIVERSITETI**
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AGREEMENT ON A DOUBLE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME No. 6211IX010

between

Vytautas Magnus University (VMU),
represented by Professor Juozas Augutis, Rector
(K. Donelaicio str. 58, LT-44248, Kaunas, Lithuania),

and

Tashkent State Agrar University (TSAU)
represented by Sulaymonov Botirjon Abdushukirovich, Rector
(University str. 2a, 100140, Kibray dist., Tashkent reg., 100164 Uzbekistan)

6th of July, 2021

1. PREAMBLE

In the spirit of prolific international relations and academic cooperation, Vytautas Magnus University (hereinafter referred to as “VMU”) and Tashkent State Agrarian University (hereinafter referred to as “TSAU”) (hereinafter both VMU and TSAU collectively referred to as the “Parties” and separately – as the “Party”) wish to strengthen their ties further, in accordance with their mutual interests in delivering programmes of academic excellence and cultural diversity. Hence, TSAU and VMU have decided to conclude this Agreement on a Double Diploma Programme (hereinafter referred to as the “Agreement”) that allows students to obtain two degrees at the undergraduate level.

This Agreement has been entered into between VMU and TSAU to facilitate credit transfer and provide a smooth transition of students from TSAU to VMU in order for them to obtain VMU Master’s degree in Agricultural Sciences (study programme Agronomy) and TSAU Master’s degree in Agronomy (study programme Agronomy). The Agreement is in compliance with both legislations, specifically the Law on Higher Education and Research of Republic of the Lithuania and Law on Higher Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

2. SCOPE OF COOPERATION

2.1. This Agreement delineates the legal and organizational framework for the Double Diploma Programme (hereinafter referred to as the “DDP”). The DDP will provide the opportunity for undergraduate students from TSAU to simultaneously pursue the Master’s degree in Agricultural Science (study programme Forestry) from VMU and the Master’s degree in Agronomy (study programme Agronomy) from TSAU, by completing in accordance with the curriculum provided in the Appendix No. 1.

2.2. Upon the successful completion of the DDP, the following degrees shall be awarded by both Parties:

VMU

- *Master in Agricultural Sciences (Programme Agronomy, code 6211IX010)*

TSAU

- *Master in Agronomy (Programme Plant science, code 5A410202)*

3. DDP MANAGEMENT

- 3.1. Both Parties agree to provide all necessary means and resources to implement and operate the DDP in accordance with the conditions set forth in this Agreement.
- 3.2. VMU shall assist the incoming DDP students when dealing with academic, administrative, organisational and social-cultural issues.
- 3.3. Each institution will nominate DDP coordinator who will ensure that the DDP proceeds in accordance with a mutually agreed academic plan, and that this Agreement is executed in full.
- 3.4. The DDP coordinators assigned in both institutions shall be obliged to do the following:
 - 3.4.1. identify the target number of students to study in the DDP each year (at least 64 students each year); the number will be negotiated and determined well in advance prior to the deadline for submitting applications, being regulated on a yearly basis, depending on the availability of places;
 - 3.4.2. guarantee the monitoring of the DDP and its compliance with regulations on both the institutional and national level;
 - 3.4.3. discuss and approve changes in the DDP, including the number of credits, teaching load, co-independent work by the student, etc.;
 - 3.4.4. approve the final study plans of the student (Learning Agreement);
 - 3.4.5. monitor, control and implement the quality assurance plan;
 - 3.4.6. manage administrative and academic issues.

4. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS, SELECTION AND STUDY PROGRAMME

- 4.1. The candidates to enter the DDP shall be selected by TSAU in accordance with the selection criteria jointly defined and agreed upon by TSAU and VMU. The selection of the participants in the DDP will be based on:
 - 4.1.1. Transcript of student's records with his/her courses and grades;
 - 4.1.2. Language proficiency certificate or language interview with candidate;
 - 4.1.3. Other requirements set between both Parties;
 - 4.1.4. For students from TSAU, the required English level is B1 or higher, alternative – 4,5 or higher grade of IELTS exam.
- 4.2. Selected students will be reviewed by VMU upon completing a formal application to the DDP within the deadlines imposed by the TSAU.
- 4.3. VMU has the right to reject candidates proposed by the TSAU for academic rationales or any other substantial reason that has occurred during the joint selection process; however, VMU is obliged to motivate this rejection.
- 4.4. This Agreement applies to TSAU students of Agronomy program who have successfully completed the courses, the volume of which is 60 credits according to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) (this number may slightly vary each year due to the actual regulations of TSAU and VMU; Parties agree that no additional amendment of this Agreement will not be made for the slight changes of the credits' number).
- 4.5. TSAU shall have the right to send and VMU to admit no less than four (4) students to the DDP per year.
- 4.6. Both VMU and TSAU shall be granted access to all written application documents and protocols of selection procedures for the DDP. Both Parties reserve the right to send a representative with an advisory capacity to the interviews conducted by other Party to select the candidates. Joint selection interviews by the TSAU and VMU are encouraged.
- 4.7. The courses shall be taught in English or Russian in VMU during the study years.

4.8. Within the DDP, the degrees of TSAU and of VMU shall be managed separately. This means that once selected for the DDP, the students shall regularly and separately enrol into the Master's programme at VMU or TSAU. The separate management of two degrees also enables the student to quit the DDP and continue his/her studies in the TSAU or VMU Master's programme only.

4.9. This Agreement provides the selected students with the guarantee that the credit transfer and recognition mechanisms shall be implemented. VMU shall also send the transcripts of records (ECTS model) to TSAU as soon as they are available and vice versa. At the end of two years, each student shall be subjected to a procedure designed to examine whether he/she has fulfilled all the requirements necessary to receive the degree from both institutions. This procedure shall be jointly monitored by the academic coordinators managing the DDP in both institutions.

4.10. According to the rules prevailing in each Party, students may receive an honourable mention, if they fulfil the requirements.

4.11. The diploma awarded by TSAU shall be issued in Uzbek or English language, refer to this Agreement and acknowledge the existence of the other diploma awarded on the basis of this Agreement. The diploma awarded by VMU shall be issued in English. This diploma shall refer to this Agreement and acknowledge the existence of the other diploma awarded in accordance with this Agreement. The Diploma Supplement or other respective documents shall refer to a document comprising the information that is usually presented in the Diploma Supplements of the two Parties. The Diploma Supplement will be issued by VMU.

5. STRUCTURE OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME

5.1. The structure of the Double Degree Master's Programme both at TSAU and VMU is provided in the Appendix No. 1 of this Agreement. It is agreed and understood that each Party has the right and responsibility to make changes to its curricula to meet accreditation standards. Any such changes that impact upon DDP will be promptly and duly communicated to the other Party in writing.

5.2. The intended period of study for the DDP shall be two (2) years (four semesters). Semesters from the first to the second shall be taught at TSAU, while semesters from the third to the fourth shall be taught in VMU.

5.3. Students enrolled in the DDP shall have access to courses and enjoy the same rights and privileges and be subjected to the same rules and regulations as the regular students of both Parties.

6. FINAL THESIS

6.1. In addition to the term papers at both Parties, the students enrolled in the DDP shall be required to write a final thesis.

6.2. Both Parties shall ensure legal and organizational pre-conditions necessary for students enrolled in the DDP to start their final thesis no later than 3rd semester of Master's studies.

6.3. The final thesis written during the DDP shall be jointly supervised by both Parties. Consequently, the students shall choose the main and the second supervisor, appointed jointly by both Parties.

6.4. The outcome of the final thesis might take the form of a written academic paper in English (thesis). A thesis must always include a brief summary of at least 1 (one) page as an abstract in English. The thesis should be defended in English and in accordance with the regulations prevailing at the Party, chosen for the defence of the final thesis. A copy of the thesis shall be sent to the other Party and included into the student's file.

6.5. The management process of the final thesis defence should meet all legal and academic constraints of both Parties. However, this process shall be adjusted as much as possible to avoid unnecessary inconveniences for the students.

7. FINANCIAL ISSUES

7.1. The students shall be responsible for covering their travel costs to the receiving Party and living costs throughout their stay, including accommodation (VMU shall render assistance to the incoming students in finding appropriate accommodation), books, equipment, consumables, health insurance, a student union fee (if applicable) and other expenses arising out of the exchange.

7.2. The students shall cover the tuition fees for 1 year of studies at the sending institution (TSAU) and tuition fees for 1 year of studies at the receiving institution (VMU). The tuition fee for 1 year of studies at VMU will be negotiated with each candidate individually (depends on financial, academic indicators and the chosen direction of study).

7.3. Additional agreements or amendments to this Agreement regarding the tuition fees at VMU can be negotiated on a yearly basis, taking into consideration a number and/or academic achievements of the candidates and other aspects.

8. DURATION, AMENDMENT, REVIEW AND TERMINATION OF THE AGREEMENT

8.1. This Agreement shall come into effect on the day of signature by both Parties and shall be valid for 5 (five) years. Both Parties may terminate this Agreement, provided that the written notice of the intent is issued at least 6 (six) months prior to the termination. Commitments already in progress shall be fulfilled. The Agreement may be terminated at any time by the agreement of the Parties. The Agreement may be terminated at the initiative of one of the Parties if the other Party fails to perform or improperly performs the obligations assumed under the Agreement. In this case, the other Party (the guilty Party) must compensate the direct losses incurred by the Party due to the termination of the Agreement. The Agreement may be terminated at the initiative of one of the Parties without the fault of the other Party. In such a case, upon termination of the Agreement, the terminating Party must compensate the other Party for the direct losses incurred as a result of the Agreement termination.

8.2. Evaluation of this Agreement will be initiated by both Parties at least 6 (six) months prior to its expiration. The Agreement is based on long-term strategic cooperation interests of both Parties. TSAU and VMU shall support and work towards the renewal and extension of this Agreement to ascertain the continuation of the DDP.

8.3. Violation of both Parties' rules and other institutional regulations regarding academic and ethical behaviour and the non-observance of the study requirements may result in the immediate student' withdrawal of the DDP.

8.4. Amendments or changes to this Agreement shall be made in writing and signed by the duly authorised representatives of the Parties.

8.5. The Parties agree to solve any dispute arising from the interpretation of this Agreement in a friendly manner.

8.6. In case the dispute cannot be resolved, the claim shall be submitted for arbitration; each Party shall appoint a member of the arbitration panel and one member shall be chosen by mutual consent.

8.7. This Agreement has been signed in two identical originals in English; each Party shall keep one original.

In witness thereof, the parties below have offered their signatures:

For and on behalf of

For and on behalf of

Tashkent State Agrarian University, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania

Date:

Signature:



Acad. Botirjon Sulaymonov,
Rector, Tashkent State Agrarian University

Date:

Signature:



Prof. Juozas Augutis,
Rector, Vytautas Magnus University

APPENDIX No. 1
to the 6th of July, 2021 Agreement on a Double Diploma Programme No. 6211IX010
Curriculum of the Double Degree Programme

Equivalence of TSAU and VMU courses				
	Courses in TSAU	ECTS credits	Courses in VMU	ECTS credits
	Information Technology in Agriculture	6	Information Technology in Agriculture	6
	Bioeconomy Development	6	Bioeconomy Development	6
	Law	6	Law	6
	Methodology of Extension	6	Methodology of Extension	6
	Agrobiological Potential of Crops	6	Agrobiological Potential of Crops	6
	Experimental Design and Analysis	6	Experimental Design and Analysis	6
	Impact of Agricultural Activities on Environment	6	Impact of Agricultural Activities on Environment	6
	Integrated Pest Management	6	Integrated Pest Management	6
	Biology and Fertility of Soil	6	Biology and Fertility of Soil	6
	Plant Nutritional Physiology	6	Plant Nutritional Physiology	6
	Alternative crop science	6	Alternative crop science	6
	Purposive plant breeding and seed production	6	Purposive plant breeding and seed production	6
	Precision agriculture	6	Precision agriculture	6
	Innovations in crop production	6	Innovations in crop production	6
	Agroecosystems Sustainability	6	Agroecosystems Sustainability	6
	Final thesis	30	Final thesis	30
Total		120		120

For and on behalf of
Tashkent State Agrarian University



Date:
Signature: 

Acad. Botirjon Sulaymonov,
Rector, Tashkent State Agrarian University

For and on behalf of
Vytautas Magnus University

Date:
Signature: 

Prof. Juozas Augutis,
Rector, Vytautas Magnus University

APPENDIX No. 2
to the 6th of July, 2021 Agreement on a Double Diploma Programme No. 6211IX010

Vytautas Magnus University (VMU), represented by Professor Juozas Augutis, Rector (K. Donelaicio str. 58, LT-44248, Kaunas, Lithuania),
and

Tashkent State Agrar University (TSAU), represented by Sulaymonov Botirjon Abdushukirovich, Rector (University str. 2a, Kibray dist., Tashkent reg., 100164 Uzbekistan),
both VMU and TSAU collectively referred to as the “Parties” and separately as the “Party”,
with the intent to supplement the 6th of July, 2021 Agreement on a Double Diploma Programme No. 6211IX010 (hereinafter referred to as the Agreement) agree as follows:

1. Parties agree that in case TSAU will gather a group of more than 6 (six) students to study on a Double Diploma Programme, VMU will apply 25 (twenty-five) % discount for tuition fee for every student in that group, i. e. the tuition fee for 1,5 year studies at VMU will be negotiated with each candidate individually (depends on financial, academic indicators and the chosen direction of study).

2. In cases when one or few students will quit the studies or will be removed from the studies either at VMU or TSAU and overall number of students in the group will become less than 10 (ten) students, the discount will continue to be valid for the students still enrolled in Double Diploma Programme.

3. In cases if a student is expelled from studies for being engaged in a criminal act or doing other things unacceptable to VMU, the discount will not be applicable, and the full tuition fee should be paid.

For and on behalf of

For and on behalf of

Tashkent State Agrarian University

Vytautas Magnus University

Date:

Signature:

Acad. Botirjon Sulaymonov,
Rector, Tashkent State Agrarian University

Date:

Signature:

Prof. Juozas Augutis,
Rector, Vytautas Magnus University

