

**AGREEMENT
ON DUAL DOCTORAL DEGREE PROGRAM BETWEEN NATIONAL CHUNG HSING UNIVERSITY
AND UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY**

National Chung Hsing University (NCHU) in Taichung City, Taiwan, and Utah State University (USU) in Logan, Utah, USA, (hereinafter referred to as "the partner universities") entered into an Agreement for Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as "General Agreement") regarding the establishment of linkages and collaborative activities. The General Agreement envisioned cooperation in the areas of teaching, research, consultation, and faculty and/or student exchanges. The General Agreement enables the partner universities to prepare working programs detailing specific forms and contents of cooperation. Therefore, NCHU and USU agree to cooperate in a Dual Doctoral Degree Program.

ARTICLE 1. GOALS AND PURPOSE

- 1.1 A primary goal of this Agreement is to offer a bi-national graduate education experience to students who wish to take advantage of education and research opportunities at both NCHU and USU. A second goal is to enhance scientific and technical collaboration between faculty and students at NCHU and USU, and thus between the two countries.
- 1.2 The purpose of this Agreement is to describe the specific terms and conditions agreed to by NCHU and USU regarding a dual doctoral degree program (hereinafter referred to as the "Program").

ARTICLE 2: DUAL Ph.D. DEGREES at NCHU and USU

- 2.1 The two partner universities consider the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree as equivalent.
- 2.2 Full-time students at NCHU and USU may pursue dual Ph.D. degrees offered by the partner universities by complying with the following requirements:
 - 2.2.1 To be considered for the Program, students must meet a residency requirement of at least one continuous academic year at the students' university of origin (home university) before they can apply and be admitted to the graduate program of the partner university (host institution). Admissions criteria are as published by the respective partner universities. The only additional requirement for NCHU students will be that they meet the English language requirement set by the USU School of Graduate Studies (currently a minimum score of 79 on the internet-based TOEFL, or a minimum score of 6.0 (with minimum scores of 5 on each subscale) on the IELTS).

2.2.2 Students participating in the Dual Doctoral Degree Program must spend at least one year at each partner university.

2.2.3 The equivalence of degree work at the partner universities is based on acceptance of courses taken at NCHU by USU; and acceptance of courses taken at USU by NCHU.

2.2.4 The determination and applicability of completed course units towards specific graduation requirements rests with the department or college of the student's major. Official transcripts will be transmitted to the department of the partner university at the end of each semester.

2.2.5 Final selection and approval of a student will be by a committee composed of a program coordinator and a faculty member who has agreed to serve as the student's advisor from each of the partner universities. The final decision will be based on the application file and face-to-face/videoconference interviews.

2.2.6 Students must be assigned an advisor from NCHU and USU, both of whom must be members of the student's Doctoral Supervisory Committee. The committee shall consist of three faculty members from each university, comprising a six-member committee.

2.2.7 Students must pass the following exams/procedures from the department and university

1. Ph.D. qualifying exam
2. Ph.D. dissertation proposal
3. Ph.D. dissertation defense

The Ph.D. qualifying exam and the dissertation defense can take place at either NCHU or USU, with Doctoral Supervisory Committee members participating face-to-face or via interactive video conferencing (IVC). The Ph.D. dissertation proposal must be approved by all members of the Doctoral Supervisory Committee. An official statement reporting the results of each of the above exams/procedures must be transmitted to the partner university.

2.2.7 The Ph.D. dissertation should be completed in English with the abstract written in both Mandarin and English languages. Program coordinators will be responsible for translation and editing in their respective languages. The whole or part of the dissertation must be transferred to an article accepted by a journal listed in the Science Citation Index (SCI), Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI), or SCOPUS before the student can participate in his/her dissertation defense. The article should include affiliations with and acknowledgements of financial support from both partner universities when subject to publication.

2.3 The two partner universities assess the Ph.D. student jointly for the awarding of the dual degree. Qualified students who have successfully completed the proposed Dual

Ph.D. Program will be conferred with two Ph.D. degrees, one from NCHU and one from USU. The diplomas awarded by NCHU and USU will be for the degrees appropriate to the programs in which the students were enrolled.

- 2.4 Participating departments at NCHU and USU are listed in Appendix 1. Additional departments may be added to this list with the approval of the appropriate department, college, and university administrators.
- 2.5 Approximately equal numbers of students (or equivalent months or semesters of student exchanges) shall participate in this program, resulting in approximately equal transfer of credits between institutions. A maximum of four students (or equivalent exchange students) from either institution can participate in this program over a period of two years, under annual review of student numbers. In case of imbalance in student flows, an appropriate arrangement will be defined in consultation between the partner universities.

ARTICLE 3: PROGRAM COORDINATORS

The partner universities will each designate a faculty member to coordinate this program. The program coordinators are responsible for the organization, scheduling, and reporting of all aspects of the student participation in the degree program. The program coordinator is also expected to liaise with the offices responsible for research, graduate studies, and international student services.

In order to ensure timely admission to the host institution, the program coordinators agree to be in contact with one another by October 1 and April 1 of each year regarding the number of students to enroll in the program for the following semester.

ARTICLE 4: TUITION, FEES, and REGULATIONS

- 4.1 Participating students shall comply with the regulations of both institutions to complete the process of registration, withdrawal, and resumption. Transferred credits shall be approved in compliance with the regulations of both institutions or by the terms of agreement if they differ from standard institutional regulations.
- 4.2 All students will pay tuition and student fees at their home institution. Students will register for courses at the institution at which they take the courses. For the semesters during which students are attending and enrolled at the host institution, the students will register at their home institution and pay tuition and fees to the home institution only. Each host institution will fully recognize the tuition and student fees paid to the home institution and will not charge students additional regular or differential tuition, with the exception of additional fees that may be necessary to cover required social insurance (e.g. health insurance) as defined by each country's laws.

In the event of imbalance of students (or student semesters) between the partner universities, the university receiving more students than it sends may invoice the sending counterpart for the teaching costs of the surplus in students.

- 4.3 Tuition and fees paid to USU and NCHU do not cover living costs. Students will be responsible for paying all other costs related to their participation in the program. These costs may include accommodations, food, travel, medical insurance, civil liability including any mandatory requirements from the host institution or country, unless paid by their home institution, textbooks, clothing, personal expenses, costs for passports, visas, visa extensions, or residency permits, and all other debts and incidental expenses incurred during the stay at the host institution.
- 4.4 Participating students shall purchase insurance necessary to comply with the regulations of both partner universities.

ARTICLE 5: VALIDATION OF COURSES TAKEN AT THE HOST UNIVERSITY

- 5.1 The course requirements for each student are to be determined in advance of that student's stay at the host university by the Doctoral Supervisory Committee, with the agreement of their respective unit heads and in consultation with the program coordinators. For each individual student, the specific requirements are to be delineated in a program of study prior to the student's departure.
- 5.2 Credit requirements are defined in Appendix 2.

ARTICLE 6: CONFIDENTIALITY OF STUDENT RECORDS

- 6.1 NCHU and USU agree to treat all student records confidentially and not to disclose student records except to NCHU and USU faculty and staff who have a legitimate need to know consistent with their official responsibilities.
- 6.2 NCHU and USU recognize that each is required to comply with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") (Title 20 United States Code Annotated, §1232g) in each Party's respective handling of Confidential USU Student Information.

Definition. "Confidential USU Student Information" is defined as information that is personally identifiable to a student who is or was enrolled at USU by any of the following means: the student's name, the name of the student's parent or other family members; the address of the student or student's family; a personal identifier, such as an identification number, or biometric record; other indirect identifiers, including but not limited to the student's date of birth, place of birth, and mother's maiden name; or any other information that, alone or in combination, is linked or linkable to a specific student that would allow a reasonable person in the school community to identify the

student with reasonable certainty and includes information supplied to NCHU by USU as well as any information provided by USU's students and third parties to the NCHU.

Confidentiality. NCHU represents and certifies that it: (1) will protect and hold in strict confidence all Confidential USU Student Information it receives from or on behalf of USU (or its students), including without limitation, academic information, professional training and/or certifications, evaluations of students, health and other insurance information, and the results of criminal background checks and/or drug testing or treatment information; (2) will not, except with the written consent of the student, use Confidential USU Student Information for any purpose other than to carry out the purposes of the Agreement; and (3) will not disclose Confidential USU Student Information except to authorized individuals within its organization who have a legitimate need to know Confidential USU Student Information to carry out the purposes of the Agreement.

Control and Breach. NCHU agrees that NCHU is under the direct control of USU with respect to the use and maintenance of Confidential USU Student Information. If USU reasonably determines in good faith that NCHU has materially breached any of its confidentiality obligations under this Agreement or has violated FERPA, USU, in its sole discretion, will have the right to require NCHU to submit to a plan of monitoring and reporting; provide NCHU with a fifteen (15) day period to cure the breach; or terminate the Agreement immediately. Before exercising any of these options, USU will provide written notice to NCHU describing the violation and the action it intends to take. If the Family Policy Compliance Office of the U.S. Department of Education determines that the NCHU improperly disclosed personally identifiable information obtained from USU's education records, USU may not allow the NCHU access to education records for at least five years.

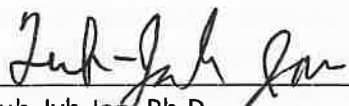
ARTICLE 7: TERM AND VALIDITY

This agreement will come into effect on the date of the last signatures of representatives of both universities, and shall be considered to be in force and valid for a period of five (5) years.

Either partner university may terminate or amend the agreement by giving no less than 120 days of prior written notice. A request for termination shall not prevent the completion of activities and degrees already underway.

SIGNATURES

National Chung Hsing University



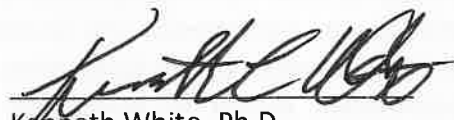
Fuh-Jyh Jan, Ph.D.

Dean

College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Date:

Utah State University



Kenneth White, Ph.D.

Dean

College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences

Date:

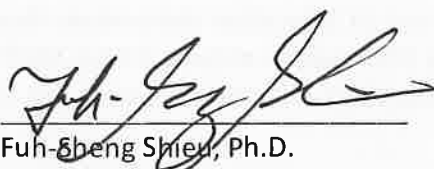


Richard S. Inouye, Ph.D.

Vice Provost for Graduate Studies

School of Graduate Studies

Date:

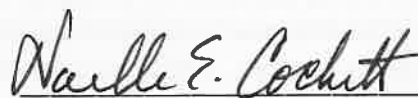


Fuh-Sheng Shien, Ph.D.

President

National Chung Hsing University

Date:



Noelle E. Cockett, Ph.D.

President

Utah State University

Date: *April 2, 2019*

Appendix 1: Participating Departments and Degree Programs

National Chung Hsing University

Department of Agronomy

PhD in Agronomy

Department of Animal Science

PhD in Animal Science

Department of Applied Economics

PhD in Applied Economics

Department of Bio-industrial Mechatronics Engineering

PhD in Bio-industrial Mechatronics Engineering

Department of Chemistry

PhD in Chemistry

Department of Entomology

PhD in Entomology

Department of Forestry

PhD in Forestry

Department of Food Science and Biotechnology

PhD in Food Science and Biotechnology

Department of Horticulture

PhD in Horticulture

Department of Soil and Environmental Sciences

PhD in Soil Science

Department of Soil and Water Conservation

PhD in Soil and Water Conservation

Utah State University

Department of Plants, Soils, and Climate:

- PhD in Climate Science
- PhD in Plant Science
- PhD in Soil Science
- PhD in Ecology

This list of participating Departments & Degree Programs is subject to change. However, changes will require a letter that has been signed by the appropriate individuals at both the National Chung Hsing University and Utah State University.

Appendix 2: Ph.D. Credit Requirements

National Chung Hsing University

Potential Ph.D. students must first study at the home university for at least one year before transferring to the host university. The minimum residency requirement at NCHU is 4 semesters. NCHU students shall follow all the regulations regarding registration, suspension and resumption of study, specified in **The NCHU Student Study Regulation**.

The graduation requirements are varied by departments, for example:

- Department of Agronomy: 40 credits (minimum), with 18 required credits (including 12 credits for thesis)
- Department of Animal Science: 30 credits (minimum), with 16 required credits (including 12 credits for thesis)
- Department of Applied Economics: 54 credits (minimum), with 36 required credits (including 12 credits for thesis)
- Department of Bio-industrial Mechatronics Engineering: 32 credits (minimum), with 14 required credits (including 12 credits for thesis)
- Department of Chemistry: 30 credits (minimum), with 18 required credits (including 12 credits for thesis)
- Department of Entomology: 32 credits (minimum), with 14 required credits (including 12 credits for thesis)
- Department of Forestry: 36 credits (minimum), with 16 required credits (including 12 credits for thesis)
- Department of Food Science and Biotechnology: 36 credits (minimum), with 14 required credits (including 12 credits for thesis)
- Department of Horticulture: 30 credits (minimum), with 20 required credits (including 12 credits for thesis)
- Department of Soil and Environmental Sciences: 34 credits (minimum), with 20 required credits (including 12 credits for thesis)
- Department of Soil and Water Conservation: 36 credits (minimum), with 12 required credits for thesis and attending seminars for at least 6 semesters (but without credits)

Utah State University

The USU School of Graduate Studies requires a minimum of 12 dissertation credits if the student has a master's degree and a minimum of 18 dissertation credits if the student does not have a master's degree. Only 12 credits may be transferred into a doctoral program at USU. Specific requirements vary by department and/or program, for example

- The Department of Plants, Soils, and Climate requires 30 credits for students with a master's degree, and 60 credits for students without a master's degree.

Students in the NCHU-USU Dual Doctoral Degree Program will be required to meet the residency and credit requirements for the specific PhD program at both NCHU and USU.