A Dual Degree Program (BS/MS)
Between
Pamplin College of Business, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
And
Institut National des Télécommunications (INT)

Rationale: The Pamplin College Strategic Plan 1996-2001 states in part that its emphasis is on "integrating the computer and technology into the academic curriculum" and "preparing students for global business challenges, including providing opportunities for global experience before graduation." Institut National des Télécommunications (INT) is a leading institution in France for advanced research and instruction in information technology (including telecommunications). Cooperation between these institutions can enhance the educational opportunities for students and faculty at both institutions while making efficient use of the resources of each institution. The proposed dual degree program will enable students to complete a Virginia Tech BS from the Pamplin College of Business and a Masters of Science from INT. The nominal completion time for the awarding of both degrees is five years.

General:
1. Virginia Tech and INT have already signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) and are involved in student exchange through an implementing agreement. These agreements will continue to guide the exchange of students.
2. Each institution will maintain independent control of student admissions. Students must qualify for admission to both schools to be accepted in the dual degree program.
3. Only certain majors within the College of Business may be completed through this program. The specific course requirements for these majors are described in an appendix.
4. Students would normally begin this dual degree program as regularly admitted Virginia Tech undergraduates. To assure time to properly schedule courses, these students should express their desire to participate in the Dual Degree program prior to beginning upper division business classes at Virginia Tech. Students should consult their academic advisors about specific course scheduling decisions.
5. Current Virginia Tech students may apply for admission to this program beginning in the spring semester 2002 to begin taking classes at INT in fall 2002 or later. The first Virginia Tech BS degrees may be awarded at the end of the spring 2003 term. The first INT MS degrees may be awarded after the spring 2004 semester.
6. Students must have sufficient language skills in both English and French to participate.
Admission, Status and Fees:

1. Students must complete all courses scheduled for the first three years of the checklist for a specific major within the Pamplin College of Business. For the class of 2003, this requires the completion of 85 credit hours. Depending on the major, other courses may need to be completed at Virginia Tech as specified in the appendix.

2. Generally, students must complete at least 12 credit hours of French language course work as electives during their first three years as an undergraduate. At a minimum, students must successfully complete the equivalent of FREN 3106 and one course focusing on French in a business setting prior to beginning coursework at INT. This may require the student to register for courses beyond those specified by the checklist.

3. Virginia Tech will nominate students to the INT based on student interest and credentials. Typically, students should have a minimum of a 3.0 GPA to be considered.

4. INT will admit students as exchange students for two semesters. During this time, the students will continue to pay Virginia Tech tuition. University policies related to transfer credit will apply.

5. Pamplin undergraduate students must complete at least 50% of their coursework at Virginia Tech. Students who transfer to Virginia Tech may not be eligible for this program.

6. Normally, undergraduates must complete at least 18 of their last 46 credit hours at Virginia Tech. By virtue of this agreement, this policy is waived for students completing the dual degree program.

7. After students have successfully completed the program admission requirements at Virginia Tech and the BS requirements listed below, the INT will admit them as regular candidates for the Masters of Science. Students will pay regular tuition and fees to INT.

Completion of the Virginia Tech BS

Virginia Tech will award students a BS after they have completed the admission requirements stated above and in addition, successfully complete the following at INT. INT will provide Virginia Tech with official transcripts in English showing the completion of necessary for-credit courses prior to the awarding of the BS. These transcripts will show the course grade on the US system and will indicate the number of semester credit hours or the number of classroom contact hours for each course.

1. Intensive French language instruction in France in the summer prior to the start of regular classes at INT. This instruction will be arranged by the INT to help assure that the Virginia Tech student succeeds in regular courses. INT will determine the appropriate level and duration. Credit for completing this course will not be included in transfer courses. The cost of this instruction is the responsibility of the student.

2. Only INT courses completed with the grade of "C" or higher on the US system (or 10 or higher on the traditional French system) will be considered "successfully" completed and eligible for transfer to Virginia Tech.

3. Successful completion of INT courses as specified in the appendix for the particular Virginia Tech major.

4. Successful completion of a minimum of 30 semester credit hours of required and elective coursework at INT.
Completion of the INT MS

1. Students must complete coursework and a supervised internship consistent with
their academic goals and INT policies for a period of 12 months after the BS is
awarded.
2. The duration of the internship must be a minimum of 20 weeks. INT will help
students secure a paid internship position in Europe.
3. INT will determine specific course requirements to award its masters degree.

Program Evaluation

This program shall remain in effect for five years and shall be evaluated every two years
by both institutions. The institutions may continue the agreement beyond this period.

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