JOINT AGREEMENT FOR COLLABORATIVE DOCTORATES BETWEEN

TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY
(Department of Engineering Mechanics)

AND

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY
(Department of Engineering Science and Mechanics)

Preamble

Tsinghua University (TU) at Tsinghua Park, Haidian District, Beijing 100084, China, represented in this deed by its Vice Director of the Office of International Cooperation and Exchange, Dr. Guangzhi Xia, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech or VT) at 223 Norris Hall MC 0219, Blacksburg, VA 24061, USA and represented by its Vice Provost for Outreach and International Affairs, Dr. John Dooley, have agreed to exchange students.

Article 1

TU students or VT students who have already been awarded the Master of Science degree or are at an equivalent level as determined by both parties may be selected for the Collaborative PhD degree program.

Selected candidates will be enrolled in the PhD program in Engineering Mechanics at TU and in the Engineering Mechanics PhD program at VT.

In general, the time to degree will be four years of which a minimum of 18 months, at least 12 of these consecutively, will be spent at each of the two Institutions.

Students enrolled in this collaborative program will comply with all regulations relevant to the PhD students of both Institutions. PhD Degrees will be granted independently by each institution and will be based on meeting all degree requirements of that institution.

The program of study and research for each student must be approved in advance by both Institutions.

Students will be allowed to transfer the equivalent of thirty Virginia Tech credits of coursework (normally ten three-credit courses) from one Institution to another.

Article 2

Each Institution will appoint an advisor for each student to whom the student will turn for advice or assistance during her/his residence at that Institution.

Article 3

The responsible Authorities at both Institutions will admit one or two PhD students to the exchange program each year.

This selection will be made by both Institutions based on academic results and language skills in both Chinese and English.
Article 4

The host Institution will make arrangements to pay for tuition and support the students participating in this program in a manner consistent with that provided to its own students in its PhD program. Each Institution will guide students on ways to make economical travel and lodging arrangement during their residency.

Students will be required to show proof of health insurance before assuming their residency at each Institution.

Each Institution will financially support students during their residency at the Institution. A written agreement for this support will be finalized as the program of study and research is approved for each student.

Article 5

The persons responsible for the program at both Institutions shall meet at least once a year in order to:

- review the effectiveness of the teaching and research programs;
- examine the academic results achieved by the students in the context of the Institutions' collaborative efforts; and
- propose further actions.

The cooperation and exchange program will be research-based. Therefore, a delegation from each Institution will visit the other at least once every 12 months to continually develop a list of professors who have synergistic and potentially collaborative research fields. Such a visit could potentially lead to short visits for visiting faculty, and synergistic workshops and information exchange regarding research.

Article 6

This agreement shall come into force immediately after the signature of the responsible University authorities and the approval of their respective governing bodies, if necessary.

This agreement shall be effective for a period of five years. Students shall be exchanged only during the first three years; however, any student who has started the Collaborative PhD program will continue in the program thereafter until he or she obtains the degree. This agreement can be renewed in writing after verification of the activities developed during its duration, provided that both parties agree on the terms of the renewal.

This agreement may be amended by the mutual written consent of the parties hereto. Any party may withdraw from this agreement at any time, and the agreement will terminate one hundred eighty (180) days after the date of the written communication of the withdrawal to the partner Institution. In such an event, any student who has commenced the Collaborative PhD program shall be permitted to finish the program but no new students will be accepted.

Article 7

The parties agree to attempt to resolve in a friendly manner any controversy arising from the interpretation of the present agreement.

Article 8

The exchange of persons shall comply with all regulations and procedures in force at both Institutions.

Article 9

The signing of this agreement does not entail any financial obligation for the parties.
Signatures

For Tsinghua University
Beijing 100084, China

Dr. Guangzhi Xia  Date
Vice Director of the Office of International Cooperation and Exchange
Tsinghua University

Prof. Hong Gao  Date
Vice Director of the Graduate School
Tsinghua University

Prof. Quanshui Zheng  Date
Head of Engineering Mechanics Department
Tsinghua University

Signatures

For Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University
Blacksburg, Virginia, USA

Dr. John Dooley  Date
Vice Provost for Outreach and International Affairs
Virginia Tech

James A. Hyatt  Date
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
Virginia Tech

Dr. S. K. De Datta  Date
Associate Provost for International Affairs
Virginia Tech

Dr. Charles W. Steger  Date
President
Virginia Tech

Joint Agreement for Collaborative Doctorates
Virginia Tech – Tsinghua University