JOINT AGREEMENT FOR DUAL DOCTORATES BETWEEN

POLITECNICO DI MILANO
(Department of Mathematics)

AND

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

Preamble

This Joint Agreement between the two above-named institutions is to set up and develop a system of academic exchanges under the umbrella of the existing Memorandum of Understanding between both institutions signed September 25, 2009.

Hence, the Politecnico di Milano (Department of Mathematics) (PM) at Piazza Leonardo da Vinci 32, 20133 Milano, Italy, represented in this deed by its Rector’s Delegate for International Networks, Prof. Giancarlo Spinelli, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) at 223 Norris Hall (MC 0219), Blacksburg, VA 24061, USA and represented by its Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs, Dr. John Dooley, have agreed to exchange students who will be awarded the degrees of both institutions under the conditions specified hereunder.

Article 1

PM graduates who have been awarded the "Laurea specialistica in Ingegneria" or (in future) "Laurea Magistrale in Ingegneria" or Virginia Tech graduates who have been awarded the Master of Science in Engineering may be selected for this Dual PhD program.

Selected candidates will be enrolled in the Dottorato di Ricerca in Matematica of PM and in the Engineering Mechanics PhD program at Virginia Tech. Upon enrollment, all rules contained in the regulations of the respective programs shall apply.

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

In both cases, students will be allowed to transfer the equivalent of fifteen credits (30 ECTS credits) of coursework (normally five three-credit courses) from one institution to another. Additionally, students can count up to five other three-credit courses as supporting courses. At Virginia Tech, up to one half of the graded graduate credits received at PM may be allowed as transfer credit.

The time to degree will be no less than four (4) years of which a minimum of eighteen (18) months will be spent at each of the two institutions.

Students will fulfill all requirements and regulations relevant to the PhD degree of each institution.

Students must complete two separate and distinct dissertations in order to receive two degrees.

After completing all requirements, students shall be awarded the "Dottorato di Ricerca in Mathematica" by PM and the "PhD in Engineering Mechanics" by Virginia Tech.

Article 2

Each institution will appoint an advisor for each student to whom the student will turn to for advice or assistance during her/his residence at that institution.
Article 3
The responsible Authorities at both institutions will decide the number of students to be admitted to the exchange each year.
This selection will be made by both institutions based on academic results.

Article 4
Students will assume expenses for travel, accommodations, and expenses unrelated to the PhD program. Each institution will assist students on ways to make economical travel and lodging arrangements during their residency.

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

Each institution will provide financial support for its students during their residency at the foreign institution in a manner substantially similar to the support provided to its doctoral students who are not enrolled in the Dual PhD program. An agreement between the institution and its student for this support will be finalized as the program of study and research is approved.

Article 5
The persons responsible for the program at both institutions shall meet generally 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.

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 (5) years and may be renewed and 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 Dual PhD program shall be permitted to finish the program but no new students will be accepted.

However, in no event shall the term of this agreement extend beyond the termination date of the Memorandum of Understanding between the parties.

Article 8
The parties agree to attempt to solve in a friendly manner any controversy rising from the interpretation of the present agreement.

Article 9
The exchange of persons shall comply with all the regulations and procedures in force at both institutions.

Article 10
The signing of this agreement does not entail any financial obligation for the parties.
Signatures:

Dr. Charles W. Steger
President
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA, USA

7/22/11

Date

Dr. Guru Ghosh
Associate Vice President for
International Affairs
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA, USA

7/15/11

Date

Prof. Giovanni Azzone
Rector
Politecnico di Milano
Milan, Italy

Date

Prof. Giancarlo Sornelli
Rector’s Delegate for International
Networks
Politecnico di Milano
Milan, Italy

21/7/2011

Date