STUDENT EXCHANGE AGREEMENT

between

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY
(Virginia Tech)
Blackburg, Virginia, USA

and

UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE
Bloemfontein, South Africa

In the interests of expanding educational opportunities, Virginia Tech and the University of the Free State agree to promote the exchange of students under the following provisions:

1. **Responsible Office**
Each party to the agreement will designate an office or representative who will be responsible for the coordination and administration of the exchange, including the selection and counseling of the exchange participants. For Virginia Tech, the Office of Academic Programs of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences will be the responsible office. For the University of the Free State, the responsible office will be that of the Dean: Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences.

2. **Duration of Exchanges**
Each institution agrees to exchange students for a semester or an academic year. It is foreseen at the beginning that University of the Free State students will go to Virginia Tech during the August - December semester each year, and Virginia Tech students will go to the University of the Free State during the January - June semester each year. This may be changed by agreement of both parties.

3. **Number of Students to be Exchanged**
The number of qualified students to be exchanged will be determined annually by mutual agreement between the two institutions. A typical number of students from one institution studying at the other would be seven.

4. **Faculty Accompaniment and Activities**
Each institution will select a faculty member to accompany each group of its students studying at the other institution. This person will be available to provide appropriate counseling to students from his/her university and to participate in activities at the host institution as agreed upon by the two institutions. Such participation could be in the form of teaching, research or other collaborative activities.
5. **Balancing the Exchange**
Parity in numbers of exchange students is the objective of the agreement. However, each party should be prepared to consider a small disparity in any given semester or year during the period of agreement. Any and all imbalances shall be resolved by the end of the period of agreement.

6. **Academic Status**
All students will remain enrolled as regular degree candidates at the home institution and will not be enrolled as candidates for degrees at the host institution. Students are expected to maintain full-time status at the host institution.

7. **Student Eligibility**
The responsible office at each institution will be responsible for the selection of suitable nominees for exchange. It is understood that nominated students should be both academically and personally suitable for exchange abroad, and that details of academic background as well as references will be provided to the host institution. It is hoped that the host institution will not reject a nominated student unless he/she does not meet established admission requirements for international students, or unless the host institution cannot guarantee availability of required courses.

8. **Transcripts**
Both institutions agree to provide a transcript at the end of the period of study, giving details of the courses studied and grades and credits awarded.

9. **Student Program Fees**
Each student will pay his or her regular tuition, fees and dormitory accommodations to the home institution and will receive these benefits in turn from the host institution. The host institution agrees to make the necessary arrangements for reserving spaces in the residence halls or, if requested and agreed upon by both parties, will provide assistance in locating off campus housing. All meals and travel costs will be the responsibility of the individual student. Miscellaneous fees such as special course fees, fieldwork courses, key deposits, books, etc. will be paid directly by each participant.

10. **Vacation Periods**
The individual student will be responsible for his or her own housing arrangements and costs during periods when residence halls may be closed.

11. **Insurance**
Each participant will provide his or her own health and accident insurance. Proof of adequate insurance coverage must be provided to the international office of each institution.

12. **Dependents**
The obligations of each institution under this agreement are limited to the exchange of students and do not extend to partners or dependents. Expenses of accompanying partners and dependents are the responsibility of the exchange student.
13. **Visa Requirements**
Participants will be required to meet any visa requirements that pertain to studying in the host country.

14. **Effective Date and Termination of Agreement**
This agreement shall be in effect from July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2008. At the anniversary of the agreement, each institution will exchange a brief report indicating any imbalances of student numbers and/or other issues or problems. This agreement may be amended, and/or extended by mutual consent of both institutions for a period beyond its original date of expiration. Either party may terminate this agreement by serving written notice to the other party. Such termination will take effect six months from the date of that written notice.

15. **Agreement**
In agreement with the above terms of participation, the following signatures are affixed:

[Signature]

Charles W. Steger  
President  
Virginia Tech

[Signature]

Gerit N. van Wyk, Donn  
Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences  
University of the Free State

Date  
5 Oct 2002

Date  
5 Nov 2002