MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

BETWEEN

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

AND

UNIVERSITÄT BASEL
BASEL, SWITZERLAND

The Universität Basel and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) agree to implement this Memorandum of Understanding.

This agreement is based on the principle of reciprocity and expresses the interest of both parties in exchanging scholars, students, academic information and materials in the belief that the research and educational process at both the institutions will be enhanced and that mutual understanding between their respective scholars and students will be increased by the establishment of such exchange programs.

1. The universities agree to encourage the development of the following exchange programs based on their respective academic and educational needs:

   - Exchange of faculty
   - Exchange of students (undergraduate and/or graduate)
   - Joint supervision of masters and Ph.D. students
   - Exchange of academic information and materials
   - Exchange of periodicals and other publications
   - Organization of joint research programs
   - Organization of joint conferences
   - Organization of other academic exchanges agreeable to both universities

2. The parties recognize that the implementation of any exchange program will depend upon the academic interests and expertise of individual faculty members and upon the availability of financial resources. Accordingly, the implementation of each exchange program based on this agreement shall be separately negotiated and determined by both universities.

3. This agreement is not intended to be a legally binding document. It is meant to describe the nature and to suggest the guidelines of the cooperation described above. Nothing therefore shall diminish
the full autonomy of either institution, nor will any constraints be imposed by either upon the other in carrying out the agreement.

4. The agreement shall become effective on the day representatives of both universities affix their signatures and seals, will be in force for a period of five years, and is subject to revision or modification by mutual written agreement. It is also understood that either institution may terminate the agreement at any time, although it is assumed that such action would only be taken after mutual consultation in order to avoid any possible inconvenience to the other institution.

5. Virginia Tech is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools’ Commission on Colleges to award bachelor, master, and doctoral degrees. The Universität Basel is a Swiss public university and by definition of law as comprehensive university entitled to award bachelor, master, and doctoral degrees.

6. Universität Basel is not accredited by the Commission on Colleges and the accreditation of Virginia Tech does not extend to or include the Universität Basel or its students. Although Virginia Tech accepts certain course work in transfer toward a credential from the Universität Basel, or collaborates in other ways for generation of course credits or program credentials, other colleges and universities may or may not accept this work in transfer, even if it appears on a transcript from Virginia Tech. This decision is made by the institution subsequently considering the possibility of accepting such credits.

Institutional Names on an Academic Credential. For undergraduate academic credentials students taking courses from participating institutions in a collaborative arrangement may be awarded the academic credential from the SACSCOC-accredited institution when 25 percent or more credits were earned through that institution’s own direct instruction.

For graduate academic credentials, students taking courses from participating institutions in a collaborative arrangement may be awarded the academic credential from the SACSCOC-accredited institution where one-third or more of the credits were earned through that institution’s own direct instruction.

In the case of Universität Basel, recognition of academic credentials earned at a partner university is at the discretion of the respective School Management (Fakultät).

Use of the SACSCOC Logo. Neither Member nor Partner institutions may use the SACSCOC logo. Its use is reserved exclusively for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.
7. For Virginia Tech, Guru Ghosh, and for the Universitát Basel, Erich Thaler, shall serve as liaison officers for this agreement. Contact details can be found in Attachment A.

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

10/3/13  
Date

Prof. Dr. Edwin Constable  
Vice-Rector  
Universität Basel  
Basel, Switzerland  

3 October 2013  
Date

Prof. Sue Ott Rowlands  
Dean  
College of Liberal Arts & Human Sciences  
Virginia Tech  
Blacksburg, VA, USA  

10/3/13  
Date
ATTACHMENT A
ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAM AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Basel: Administration of this agreement is housed in the Global Affairs Office at the Universität Basel. Such functions are under the direct responsibility of the Head of Global Affairs. Academic responsibilities are housed in the Faculty of the Humanities. Correspondence regarding these matters should be directed to:

U Basel Administrative Management
Mr. Erich Thaler
Head
Global Affairs Office
Petersgraben 35
4003 Basel
Universität Basel
Switzerland
phone: +41 61 267 28 30
fax: +41 61 267 30 03
e-mail: Erich.Thaler@unibas.ch
http://internationalaffairs.unibas.ch

For purposes of day-to-day management of the program, nomination of participants, and other administrative activities, the following shall serve as the University of Basel contact: mobility@unibas.ch.

Virginia Tech: Administration of this agreement is housed in the Office of Outreach and International Affairs at Virginia Tech. Such functions are under the direct responsibility of the Vice President, Guru Ghosh. Academic responsibilities are housed in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. Correspondence regarding these matters should be directed to:

Virginia Tech Administrative Management
Mr. Ian Leuschner
Director, International Support Services
Office of International Affairs (0378)
526 Prices Fork Road
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061
USA
phone: 540-231-3736
e-mail: ileuschner@vt.edu
http://www.oired.vt.edu/

For purposes of day-to-day management of the program, nomination of participants, and other administrative activities, the following shall serve as the Virginia Tech contact: ileuschner@vt.edu.