SPECIFIC AGREEMENT FOR THE EXCHANGE OF STUDENTS BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY OF OVIEDO, SPAIN, AND VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY (Virginia Tech) (United States)

Dr. Juan Antonio Vázquez García, Rector, University of Oviedo, with institutional address in San Francisco, 3. P.C. 33003 Oviedo. Asturias (Spain).

Dr. Charles W. Steger, President of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), with institutional address in Burruss Hall, Blacksburg, VA 24061 (United States).

CONSIDER

1. That in the days 12th of November and 20th of November of 1998, both Institutions signed an Agreement of academic, scientific and cultural collaboration to promote a reciprocal cooperation in the fields of teaching, scientific research and general cultural activity.

2. That this Agreement established in its third clause that cooperation programmes will be established through Specific Programmes agreed by both parties with their teaching and research guidelines.

3. That both parts are interested in the fact that this cooperation will be concrete, mainly through the exchange of students.

AGREE ON

Establishing an exchange of students, which contains the following

CLauses

FIRST: Coordinators of the exchange

Each party will designate a Coordinator who will be responsible for the coordination and administration of the exchange, including the selection and counselling of the participants in the exchange. In Virginia Tech, the Assistant Program Director for Education Abroad will be the Coordinator of the Exchange. In the University of Oviedo, this post will be occupied by the Director of the International Relations Office.

SECOND: Duration of the Exchanges.

Students can participate in the exchange for a semester or an academic year.
THIRD: Number of students that will participate in the Exchange.

The number of qualified students to be exchanged will be determined through consultation between the academic units of both institutions that are involved in the student exchange.

FOURTH: Exchange balance.

Equality in the number of exchange students is the objective of the Agreement. The exchanges will be counted in semester units: 1 semester = 1, 1 academic year = 2. Each party should be prepared, however, to consider a 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.

FIFTH: Academic Situation

Students will be registered as regular university students at their home institution; they will be considered like full-time students at the host university. Students are expected to maintain full-time status at the host institution. Exchange students will have the rights and be subject to the same regulations at the host institution.

SIXTH: Students selection

The exchange Coordinator at each institution, in consultation with the faculty and staff of the appropriate academic unit, will be responsible for the selection of suitable students for exchange. It is understood that the Coordinator will nominate students who are both academically qualified and personally suitable for exchange abroad and that academic transcripts 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.

Students involved in the exchange will have proficiency level in Spanish/English that will allow them to attend regular university classes. The Virginia Tech minimum TOEFL score for all students is 550 on the official paper-based test and 207 on the computer-based test. In graduate programs these scores may be higher. The Virginia Tech minimum IELTS score is in the 6.5 band. Virginia Tech shall inform the exchange Coordinator at the University of Oviedo about any changes in these minimum scores well in advance. The University of Oviedo may establish a minimum level (Inicial, Intermedio, Superior) in the Diploma de Español como Lengua Extranjera (DELE) for incoming students, informing the exchange Coordinator at Virginia Tech well in advance.

It is understood that both institutions will accept students in all their departments and faculties. Should any one department or faculty impose enrollment restrictions on
regular courses, the exchange student Coordinator at each institution will communicate these restrictions well in advance to the corresponding exchange Coordinator at the other institution.

The University of Oviedo offers foreign students specific courses in Spanish that do not belong to the syllabi of any official degree. Incoming students can enroll in any of these courses, paying the corresponding fees established for international exchange students at the University of Oviedo.

**SEVENTH**: 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.

**EIGHTH**: Recognition of grades.

The recognition of the grades students achieve will be done by the competent Organs, according to the following system of equivalencies:

- a) The Honors qualification (A+) of Virginia Tech, is equivalent to the qualification (M) Matricula de Honor at the University of Oviedo.
- b) The Excellent qualification (A, A-) of Virginia Tech, is equivalent to the qualification (B) Sobresaliente at the University of Oviedo.
- c) The Very Good qualification (B+, B, B-) of Virginia Tech, is equivalent to the qualification (N) Notable at the University of Oviedo.
- d) The Satisfactory qualification (C+, C) of Virginia Tech, is equivalent to the qualification (A) Aprobado at the University of Oviedo.
- e) The Fail qualification (F) of Virginia Tech, is equivalent to the qualification (S) Suspenso at the University of Oviedo.

**NINETH**: Fees of the Students Programme

Each student will pay his / her tuition and fees at the home institution and will receive these benefits in turn from the host institution. The individual student will be responsible for his or her own housing and meal arrangements during the exchange. Each receiving institution agrees to provide reasonable assistance to exchange students in finding appropriate living accommodation in residence halls or out of the campus, according to circumstances. All travelling expenses will be the responsibility of the individual student. All the charges originated at the host institution (like courses with special expenses, fieldwork courses, deposits of keys, books, etc....) will be responsibility of the students.

Neither institution will charge incoming students an application fee.
The University of Oviedo will provide a travel aid of 600 euros to each student of the University of Oviedo who will take part in the exchange, charged to the budgetary application 20.01.134B.491.07 "Area of European and Northern American Relations Agreements", or the one which finances the present agreement during the current financial year.

TENTH: Holiday periods.

Each student will be responsible for his or her own housing and meal arrangements and costs during vacation periods (breaks, holidays, and between semesters).

ELEVENTH: 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. In the case of University of Oviedo students coming to Virginia Tech, they will be required to provide proof of a health insurance which meets Virginia Tech’s minimum standards for insurance coverage before registering for classes.

TWELFTH: Dependents

The obligations of each institution under this agreement are limited to exchange of students and do not extend to partners or dependants. Expenses of accompanying partners and dependants are the responsibility of the exchange student.

THIRTEENTH: Requirements to obtain the visa

Participants should fulfil all the requirements for obtaining the visa that will allow him / her to study at the host country. All of them will need to document having sufficient financial resources for the period of stay.

FOURTEENTH: Date of validity and end of the agreement

This Agreement will be in force after its signing and for a period of five years from that date. The agreement shall be signed in the English and Spanish languages, both texts being equally authentic. This Agreement may be renewed for periods of the same duration by mutual consent of the parties before its original date of expiration. Either of the two parties may terminate this Agreement by giving six months’ notice. 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. In case there is a notice to terminate the Agreement and one party wants to make a balance of the number of students before the ending, the other party shall collaborate in this effort. Otherwise,
the end of the agreement will enter into effect six months after the date of the written announcement.

FIFTEENTH: Agreement

Acknowledging the terms expressed above and the implications thereof, the signatories of the Specific Agreement hereby established, declare, as representatives of the two institutions involved, their willingness to accept all the obligations devolving thereon. And as proof of their conformity therewith, and in order that it may be put into effect, this Agreement has been signed in duplicate, in the places and on the dates indicated below:

In Oviedo,
THE UNIVERSITY OF OVIEDO

[Signature]
Dr. Juan A. Vázquez García
Rector

16 ABR. 2007
Date

In Virginia,
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

[Signature]
Dr. Charles W. Steger
President

3/22/07
Date

[Signature]
Dr. F. Javier Mato
Vice Chancellor of Extramural Activities and International Relations

16 ABR. 2007
Date

[Signature]
Dr. S.K. De Datta
Associate Provost for International Affairs
And Director of the Office of International Research, Education and Development

March 21, 2007
Date

[Signature]
James A. Hyatt
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

Date