International Academic Cooperation Agreement
between
Università degli Studi dell’Aquila (Italy)
and
Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (Georgia)
regarding
Bi-National Double Master’s Degree Studies in
Physics

Università degli Studi dell’Aquila represented by Prof. Paola Inverardi, the Rector, and the Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, represented by Prof. George Sharvashidze, the Rector, subscribe the following agreement in order to increase and strengthen their partnership and administer an international student mobility program and bi-national double degree Masters’ studies in Physics.

Art. 1

Università degli Studi dell’Aquila and the Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University shall cooperate, in the exchange of students, academic staff and technical and administrative personnel with the aim of offering an educational bi-national program of studies to receive a double degree in Physics. The students pursuing this bi-national program of studies, as specified in this Agreement, shall obtain a degree in Physics from both Institutions, namely, Laurea Magistrale: in Physics from Università degli studi dell’Aquila and Master of Physics from the Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University.

Art. 2

The persons responsible for the performance and compliance of this Agreement shall be: Prof. Alessandra CONTINENZA for the Italian Institution and Prof. Nana SHATASHVILI for the Georgian Institution.

Art. 3

Each Institution involved shall select students who will have access to the bi-national program of studies according to the procedures defined in advance. The maximum accepted number of participant students shall not exceed ten, five for each Institution. This limit may be changed, if both partners agree thereto and if the principle of reciprocity is observed.

Art. 4

Students participating in the bi-national program of studies shall be enrolled in both Institutions as of the academic year in which the exchange starts. Students shall pay tuition fees and other tax/charges, if any, to their home Institution only.
Art. 5

Each Institution shall define a study program, agreed upon by both Institutions and specified in the enclosed Technical Schedule. The study program shall be revised on a bi-annual basis (by the end of July at the latest) and shall include courses, seminar classes, exams and corresponding credits which shall be a part of the double degree program of studies for the next two years, including all the technical details required to carry out this Agreement. Acceptance of the enclosed Technical Schedule by both partners shall be the necessary condition for student exchanges and award of the double degree.

Art. 6

Students pursuing the bi-national program of Double-Degree studies shall pursue a part of the program at Università degli Studi dell’Aquila and a part thereof at the Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University according to the enclosed Technical Schedule and following the applicable rules of each Institution. Each Institution shall guarantee the full academic recognition of the credits and examination records obtained by students at the partner Institution, according to the Technical Schedule, in view of pursuing the double degree. Each Institution shall provide language assistance to the incoming students, possibly offering courses in English and providing tutorial assistance and teaching materials in English.

Art. 7

At the end of the bi-national program of Double-degree studies, each student shall work on a unique Master’s Thesis, in English, under the supervision of an Italian and Georgian academic staff member. One copy of the thesis shall be prepared according to the requirements of the Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University and deposited at the Department of Physics of the Tbilisi State University, while one copy shall be prepared according to the requirements of Universita' degli Studi dell'Aquila and deposited at the student Registry office in charge at Università degli Studi dell’Aquila.

The thesis supervisor and co-supervisor shall prepare a written report on the thesis in English including the score expressed according to the requirements of the Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University as well as the score expressed according to the requirements of Universita' degli Studi dell'Aquila. Two different reports of the thesis defence shall be prepared: one in Italian and one in English, according to the requirements of Universita' degli Studi dell'Aquila and one in Georgian and one in English, according to the requirements of the Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University.

The student shall defend his or her thesis according to the academic requirements of both Institutions. The student shall defend his or her thesis in an examination only once in one of the partner Institutions, if at least one academic staff member of the other partner Institution is a member of the examination board; otherwise, the student shall have to defend his or her thesis twice, separately at each Institution. The two Laurea Magistrale / Masters’ degrees in Italian and Georgian shall be accompanied by Diploma Supplements. A Diploma Supplement containing all the detailed information regarding the study program pursued, the scores and the score system adopted shall be issued in two copies: Italian/English and Georgian/English.

Art. 8

The partner Institutions shall regularly exchange information and materials related to the activities hereunder; moreover, they shall be constantly in contact regarding teaching and managerial issues related to the ongoing collaboration.
A bi-national committee composed by four academic staff members from the Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University and four academic staff members from Università degli Studi dell’Aquila shall be established. This committee shall be in charge of: i) supervising the implementation of the bi-national program of Double-Degree studies at each Institution; ii) preparing and updating the Technical Schedule; iii) controlling and approving the study program of each single student; iv) monitoring and evaluating the bi-national program of Double-Degree studies for the Laurea Magistrale / Masters’ degree, considering different criteria and, in particular, the satisfaction degree of the students involved.

Art. 9

In order to fulfil the goals hereunder, both Institutions shall provide the required funds, complying with the laws and rules in force in their respective countries. The funds, as previously agreed with the partner Institution, shall be used for the single university structure involved in the program, if no other specific funds are available. The mobility costs shall not be covered by the single Institution which, however, shall promote the funding of recruitments by other agencies: ERASMUS+, national, European and regional funding agencies, in order to assist their students in academic mobility. Both partners shall provide assistance to their academic staff and students participating in the bi-national program of Double-degree studies as far as the logistic/organization issues are concerned.

Art. 10

This Agreement shall be valid for five years from the date of having been signed by the Rectors of the two partner Institutions. The validity period shall commence from the later signature date on this document. Every change to this Agreement shall be approved and signed by both Institutions. The partners may renew this Agreement by signing a letter of intent, three months before the expiration date hereof at the latest.

Art. 11

This Agreement, in English, Italian and Georgian shall be signed in four original copies, two of which to be kept in each partner Institution.

Signed in L’Aquila  
06.04.18

For Università degli Studi dell’Aquila  
Prof. Paola Inverardi  
The Rector

Signed in Tbilisi  
06.03.18

For the Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University  
Prof. George Sharvashidze  
The Rector