

AGREEMENT ON A DOUBLE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME ON ECOLOGY

between

Vytautas Magnus University (Kaunas, Lithuania),
represented by Professor Julija Kirlyienė, Vice-Rector
(K. Donelaičio g. 58, LT-44248, Kaunas, Lithuania),
and

Vasyl' Stus Donetsk National University (Vinnitsia, Ukraine),
represented by Professor Grinuyk Roman Fedorovich, Rector
(21021, 600-richchya 21, Vinnitsia, Ukraine)

1. PREAMBLE

In the spirit of prolific international relations and academic cooperation, Vytautas Magnus University (hereinafter referred to as "VMU") and the Vasyl' Stus Donetsk National University (hereinafter referred to as "Vasyl' Stus DonNU") wish to strengthen their ties further, in accordance with their mutual interests in delivering programmes of academic excellence and cultural diversity. Hence, Vasyl' Stus DonNU and VMU have decided to conclude this Agreement on a Double Diploma Programme (hereinafter the "DDP") that allows students to obtain two degrees at the graduate level.

This Agreement has been entered into between VMU and Vasyl' Stus DonNU to facilitate credit transfer and provide a smooth transition of students from Vasyl' Stus DonNU to VMU in order for them to obtain VMU Master's degree in Environmental Science and Vasyl' Stus DonNU Master's degree in Ecology and Environment Protection. The Agreement is in compliance with both, the Law on Higher Education and Research of Republic of the Lithuania and the Law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Ukraine.

2. SCOPE OF COOPERATION

This Agreement delineates the legal and organizational framework for the DDP. The programme will provide the opportunity to graduate students from Vasyl' Stus DonNU to simultaneously pursue the Master's degree in Environmental Science from VMU and Master's degree in Ecology and Environment Protection from Vasyl' Stus DonNU, fulfilling the requirements necessary to obtain the Master's degree in Ecology and Environment Protection and Environmental Science, and in accordance with the transfer chart provided in Appendix 2. The aim is to enable Vasyl' Stus DonNU students of Ecology and Environment Protection to receive degrees from both Universities.

Upon the successful completion of the DDP, the following degrees shall be awarded by the partner institutions:

Vasyl' Stus DonNU

- *Master in Ecology and Environment Protection (Programme in Ecology and Environment Protection)*

VMU:

- *Master in Environmental Science (Programme in Environmental Management)*

3. PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

- 3.1 Both Parties agree to provide all necessary means and resources to implement and operate the Double Degree Programme in accordance with the conditions set forth in this Agreement.
- 3.2 VMU shall assist the incoming Double Degree students when dealing with academic, administrative, organisational and social-cultural issues.
- 3.3 Each institution will nominate a programme coordinator who will ensure that the DDP proceeds in accordance with a mutually agreed academic plan, and that this Agreement is executed in full.
- 3.4 The programme coordinators assigned in both institutions shall be obliged to do the following:
- a) identify the target number of students to study in the DDP each year; the number will be negotiated and determined well in advance prior to the deadline for submitting applications, being regulated on a yearly basis, depending on the availability of places.
 - b) guarantee the monitoring of the study program and its compliance with regulations on both the institutional and the national level;
 - c) discuss and approve changes in the programme, including the number of credits, teaching load, co-independent work by the student, etc.;
 - d) approve the final study plans of the student (Learning Agreement);
 - e) monitor, control and implement the quality assurance plan;
 - f) manage administrative and academic issues.

4. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS, SELECTION AND STUDY PROGRAMME

- 4.1 The candidates to enter the programme shall be selected by Vasyl` Stus DonNU in accordance with the selection criteria jointly defined and agreed upon by Vasyl` Stus DonNU and VMU. The selection of the participants in the DDP will be based on:
- Transcript of student's records with his/her courses and grades;
 - Letter of confirmation from the sending institution;
 - Language proficiency certificate;
 - Other requirements set between the partner institutions;
 - For students from DonNU as the sending institution, the required English level is B1¹ or higher, alternative - 4,5 or higher grade of IELTS exam.
- 4.2 Selected students will be reviewed by VMU upon completing a formal application to the degree programme within the deadlines imposed by the partner institution.
- 4.3 VMU has the right to reject candidates proposed by the Vasyl` Stus DonNU for academic rationales or any other substantial reason that has occurred during the joint selection process, but is obliged to motivate this rejection.
- 4.4 Both VMU and Vasyl` Stus DonNU shall be granted access to all written application documents and protocols of selection procedures for the programme. Both universities reserve the right to

¹ According to CEF, B1 level refers to a threshold or intermediate level.

send a representative with an advisory capacity to the interviews conducted by Vasyl` Stus DonNU to select the candidates. Joint selection interviews by Vasyl` Stus DonNU and VMU are encouraged.

- 4.5 The courses shall be taught in English in VMU during the study years.
- 4.6 Within the programme, the degrees of Vasyl` Stus DonNU and of VMU shall be managed separately. This means that once selected for the programme, the students shall regularly and separately enrol into the Master's programme at VMU or Vasyl` Stus DonNU. The separate management of two degrees also enables the student to quit the Double Degree Programme and continue his/ her studies in the Vasyl` Stus DonNU programme only.
- 4.7 This Agreement provides the selected students with the guarantee that the credit transfer and recognition mechanisms shall be implemented. VMU shall also send the transcripts of records (ECTS model) to Vasyl` Stus DonNU as soon as they are available and vice versa. At the end of two years, each student shall be subjected to a procedure designed to examine whether he/she has fulfilled all the requirements necessary to receive the degree from both institutions. This procedure shall be jointly monitored by the academic coordinators managing the Double Degree Programme in both institutions.
- 4.8 According to the rules prevailing in each institution, students may receive an honourable mention, if they fulfil the requirements.
- 4.9 The diploma awarded by Vasyl` Stus DonNU shall be issued in Ukrainian and English language, refer to this Agreement and acknowledge the existence of the other diploma awarded on the basis of this Agreement. The diploma awarded by VMU shall be issued in English. This diploma shall refer to this Agreement and acknowledge the existence of the other diploma awarded in accordance with this Agreement. The Diploma Supplement or other respective documents shall refer to a document comprising the information that is usually presented in the Diploma Supplements of the two universities. The Diploma Supplement will be issued by VMU and Vasyl` Stus DonNU.

5. STRUCTURE OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME

- 5.1 The structure of the Double Degree Master's Programme both at Vasyl` Stus DonNU and VMU is provided in Appendix 1 of this Agreement.
- 5.2 The equivalent courses of the Double Diploma Master's Programme both at Vasyl` Stus DonNU and VMU are provided in Appendix 2 of this Agreement.
- 5.3 The intended period of study for the DDP shall be two (2) years (four semesters). The first semester shall be taught in Vasyl` Stus DonNU, for the second semester studies students shall come to VMU. The third semester shall be taught in Vasyl` Stus DonNU. In order to meet requirements for Double Degree the students are required to complete fourth semester in VMU and complete their master thesis.
- 5.4 Students enrolled in the programme shall have access to courses and enjoy the same rights and privileges and be subjected to the same rules and regulations as the regular students in both institutions.

6. FINAL THESIS

- 6.1 As it has been already established in the Agreement, in addition to the term papers at both institutions, the students enrolled in the programme shall be required to write the final thesis.
- 6.2 The final thesis written during the DDP shall be jointly supervised by both institutions. Consequently, the students shall choose the main and the second supervisor, appointed jointly by both institutions.
- 6.3 The outcome of the master thesis at VMU might take the form of a written academic paper in English. The thesis must always include a brief summary of at least 1 page as an abstract in English. The thesis should be defended in English and in accordance with the regulations prevailing at VMU.
- 6.4 Students from Vasyl` Stus DonNU who are coming for the fourth semester to VMU to complete their DDP, must be completed their master of Ecology and Environment Protection program at Vasyl` Stus DonNU.

7. FINANCIAL ISSUES

- 7.1 Students shall be responsible for covering their travel costs to the receiving institution and living costs throughout their stay, including accommodation (VMU shall render assistance to the incoming students in finding appropriate accommodation), books, equipment, consumables, health insurance, a student union fee (if applicable) and other expenses arising out of the exchange.
- 7.2 The students shall cover the tuition fees for the study period in the sending institution (Vasyl` Stus DonNU) according to the study costs and regulations of Vasyl` Stus DonNU.
- 7.3 Students shall pay the study fee in VMU for the period studied here.
- 7.4 The tuition fee for one (1) semester at VMU is 1850 EUR.
- 7.5 Additional agreements regarding the tuition fees at VMU can be negotiated on a yearly basis, taking into consideration a number and/or academic achievements of the candidates and other aspects.

8. DURATION, AMENDMENT, REVIEW AND TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT

- 8.1 This Agreement shall come into effect on the day of signature by both institutions and shall be valid for five years. Both institutions may terminate this Agreement, provided that the written notice of the intent is issued at least six months prior to termination. Commitments already in progress shall be fulfilled.
- 8.2 Evaluation of this Agreement will be initiated by both institutions at least six months prior to its expiration. The Agreement is based on long-term strategic cooperation interests of both institutions. Vasyl` Stus DonNU and VMU shall support and work towards the renewal and extension of this Agreement to ascertain the continuation of the DDP.
- 8.3 Violation of both Universities' rules and other institutional regulations regarding academic and ethical behaviour and the non-observance of the study requirements may result in the immediate withdrawal of the Programme.

- 8.4 Amendments or changes to this Agreement shall be made in writing and signed by the duly authorised representatives of the institutions.
- 8.5 The Parties agree to solve any dispute arising from the interpretation of this Agreement in a friendly manner.
- 8.6 In case the dispute cannot be resolved, the claim shall be submitted for arbitration; each Party shall appoint a member of the arbitration panel and one member shall be chosen by mutual consent.
- 8.7 This Agreement has been signed in two identical originals in English; each institution shall keep one original.

In witness thereof, the parties below have offered their signatures:

For and on behalf of

For and on behalf of

Vasyl` Stus Donetsk National University,
Vinnytsia, Ukraine

Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania

Date:

Date:

Signature:

Signature:

Prof. Ogorodnyk Roman,
Rector Vasyl` Stus Donetsk National University

Prof. Julija Kiršienė,
Vice-Rector Vytautas Magnus University



APPENDIX 1

1. Courses followed at Vasył Stus DonNU and VMU.

All courses amounting to least 60 ECTS credits from two selected specialization areas must be pursued. The remaining courses required to reach the total of 120 ECTS credits shall be selected at VMU.

Courses at Vasył Stus DonNU and VMU are enlisted in the following tables.

Courses in Vasył Stus DonNU		
Course title	Code	ECTS
1st Semester		
Labour Protection (Profession-oriented Study) and Civil Defence		3
Strategy of Sustainable Development		3
Systematic Analysis of Environmental Quality.		
Geoinformational Systems in Ecology		5
Ecological Management and Audit		7
Pan-European Network		5
Methodology of Teaching of Biology and Ecology in Higher School / Modern Methods of Teaching Ecology		7
		30
2nd Semester		
Intellectual Property		3
Methodology and Organization of Research		3
Modelling of Ecological Processes		5
<i>Bioethics</i> and Biosafety		3
<i>Phytosozology</i>		3
Phytooptimization of Technogenic Ecosystems / Populations Ecology		8
Plant Protection and Quarantine / Phytoquarantine control in Ukraine		5
		30
3rd Semester		
Practical Training		4,5
Fulfillment of Master's Work		15
Scientific Research Training		4,5
State Attestation		6
		30
Total ECTS		90

Courses in VMU			
No.	Study subject	Study subject code	Credits (ECTS)
1st Semester			
1.	Sustainable Development	APL 5006	6
2.	Environmental research methodology	APL 5012	6
3.	Urban environments and its management	APL 6009	6
4.	Geoinformatics for Environmental Sciences	APL 6002	6
	Total per semester		24
2nd Semester			

1.	Experimental Ecotoxicology	APL 5010	6
2.	Environmental Impact Assessment	APL 5001	6
3.	Environmental Management	APL 5003	6
4.	Green Economy and policy	APL 5013	6
5.	Research paper 1	APL 5008	6
	Total per semester		30
	3rd Semester		
1.	Statistical analysis of Environmental Data	APL 6010	
2.	Landscape Management	APL 5007	6
3.	Environmental epidemiology and health risk management	APL 6011	6
4.	Research project 2	APL 5009	6
5.	Scientific – Professional Practice	APL 6003	6
6.	Optional Courses (1)		
	Lithuanian and EU environmental Law	APL 5011	6
	Molecular Ecology	BIO 6006	6
	Special course	APL 5014	6
	Total per semester		36
	4th Semester		
1.	Master Thesis		30
	Total per semester		30
	Total for the Programme::		120

After the completion of both Vasyl' Stus DonNU and VMU programmes, students must have earned no less than 120 ECTS credits.

APPENDIX 2

Curriculum of the Double Degree Programme and credit transfer mechanism between Vasyi' Stus DonNU and VMU

Equivalences between Vasyi' Stus DonNU and VMU courses		Course at VMU	
	Course at Vasyi' Stus DonNU	ECTS	Title
I semester	Labour Protection (Profession-oriented Study) and Civil Defence	3	Sustainable Development
	Strategy of Sustainable Development	3	Environmental research methodology
	Systematic Analysis of Environmental Quality.	5	Urban environments and its management
	Geoinformational Systems in Ecology	7	Geoinformatics for Environmental Sciences
	Ecological Management and Audit	5	
	Pan-European Network		
	Methodology of Teaching of Biology and Ecology in Higher School / Modern Methods of Teaching Ecology	7	
Total		30	
II semester	Intellectual Property	3	Experimental Ecotoxicology
	Methodology and Organization of Research	3	Environmental Impact Assessment
	Modelling of Ecological Processes	5	Environmental Management
	Bioethics and Biosafety	3	Green Economy and policy
	Phytosozology	3	Research paper 1
	Phytooptimization of Technogenic Ecosystems / Populations Ecology	8	
	Plant Protection and Quarantine / Phytoquarantine control in Ukraine	5	
Total		30	
III semester	Practical Training	4,5	Statistical analysis of Environmental Data
	Fulfillment of Master's Work	15	Landscape Management
	Scientific Research Training	4,5	Environmental epidemiology and health risk management
	State Attestation	6	Research project 2
			Scientific – Professional Practice
			Optional Courses (1)

VMU Vasyli' Stus DonNU Double diploma agreement

		Lithuanian and EU environmental Law Molecular Ecology Special course	6 6 6
Total	30		36
IV semester		Master Thesis	30
Total			30
Total in institution	90		120