



## **AGREEMENT ON DUAL AWARD MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM**

between

**UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI**

and

**UNIVERSITY OF TRENTO**

### **Purpose**

This Agreement records the understanding between the University of Cincinnati (UC) College of Engineering & Applied Science (CEAS) and the University of Trento (UniTrento), Civil, Environmental and Mechanical Engineering Department (DICAM), the Parties, for the development and delivery of a collaborative (hereafter referred to as an "articulation agreement") program allowing for credit transfers between UC and UniTrento contributing to the award of a Master of Science (MSc) degree from UniTrento (either in Civil Engineering or in Environmental and Land Engineering) and the Master of Engineering (MEng) degree from CEAS.

The Parties agree on the terms and conditions stated below:

### **1. The Parties**

1.1 The University of Cincinnati (UC), College of Engineering & Applied Science, hereinafter referred to as CEAS.

1.2 The University of Trento, Department of Civil, Environmental and Mechanical Engineering, hereinafter referred to as UniTrento-DICAM

### **2. Objectives**

2.1 The primary objective of this Articulation Agreement is to develop programs that benefit both UniTrento-DICAM and CEAS. The Dual Award Master's Program will provide UniTrento-DICAM students the opportunity to earn both a Master of Science degree from UniTrento and the Master of Engineering degree, at the University of Cincinnati CEAS.

Development of this program is anticipated to facilitate further collaborations between UniTrento and UC.

2.2 The Parties seek to establish a Dual Award Master's Program whereby students from UniTrento-DICAM will be admitted to the graduate program both at UniTrento-DICAM and in CEAS.

### **3. Program Overview**

#### *3.1 Dual Award Master's Program*

UC's Master of Engineering degree requires a minimum of 30 credit hours of course work (including capstone described below); a thesis is not required for the degree. Likewise, UniTrento Master of Science degree requires a minimum of 60 US credit hours (equivalent to 120 ECTS); a thesis is required. Both programs are designed to provide students with advanced knowledge and experience in their fields of interest along with courses covering new developments in the respective disciplines.

Capstone Project – A key component of the Master of Engineering program is a capstone project that is a three credit hour course. The capstone project can be a written paper, project with an advisor, or a curricular practical training (internship) in the student's field of study. The project can be performed at the University (UC or UniTrento), business workplace, industry, or a government institution. The capstone project provides a mechanism to demonstrate a synthesis of knowledge and application of concepts to a specific problem. Faculty or professionals in the workplace will oversee the capstone experience. The capstone project will include a written report and a presentation.

For the award of the Master's degree from CEAS, up to 15 credit hours of coursework from the MSc degree at UniTrento-DICAM can be credit-transferred toward the MEng degree at CEAS. Thesis hours performed at UniTrento-DICAM do not count toward the MEng at CEAS, only coursework hours. Most students in the concurrent enrollment program will take 5 subjects (15 credits) from UniTrento-DICAM and 5 subjects (15 credits) including the capstone (3 credits) from CEAS. In order for credits from UniTrento-DICAM to count towards the Master of Engineering degree at CEAS, students originally registered at UniTrento-DICAM must earn a B grade or above (equivalent to "good", meaning at least 24/30 in the Italian grading system) in a subject that has an appropriate CEAS counterpart. These subjects will be agreed upon by both universities. Similarly, a maximum of 15 credits earned from CEAS at a B grade or above can be counted towards the MSc graduation requirements at UniTrento.

The structure of the program is such that typical students (originally registered at UniTrento) will complete their first year at UniTrento to earn 15 or more credits from UniTrento (with each of the 5 subjects achieving grade B or above). Students then enroll in UC courses for 15 or more credit hours. Students will be awarded the Degree of Master of Engineering from UC if the total recognized credits earned from UniTrento-DICAM and CEAS are no less than 30 credits. The minimum of 15 credits of the MEng degree at CEAS must be completed as a matriculated CEAS student. These students can also be awarded the MSc degree either in Civil Engineering or Environmental and Land Engineering from UniTrento once they satisfy the degree

award requirements at UniTrento if their subjects studied at CEAS are credit-transferred back to UniTrento.

#### **4. Admission Standards**

##### *4.1 Dual Award Master's Program*

Students must have a bachelor's degree in a corresponding program recognized as high quality by UC, and graduate with a minimum GPA of 3.0 or QPA of 75 or equivalent.

English proficiency is required of all applicants whose native language is not English. Students can demonstrate proficiency in a number of ways at the graduate level. Most students fulfill the English requirement by taking the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the International English Testing System (IELTS), or the Pearson Test of English (PTE). CEAS has established the following minimum requirements: for IELTS an overall band score of 6.5, for Pearson a score of 59 is sufficient, for the (internet-based) TOEFL a score of 85 is sufficient.

Students will apply to the CEAS Master of Engineering program during their 1<sup>st</sup> year of master's degree at UniTrento. While enrolled during the first year at UniTrento-DICAM, administrators at UniTrento will screen individuals interested in the dual award program. Those individuals who demonstrate appropriate academic potential (primarily appropriate grades in relevant coursework, English proficiency, and interest in the US education system) will be recommended for continuing in the dual award program. These students do not need to submit GRE scores for admission to the CEAS Master of Engineering program. UniTrento coordinators will send qualified student transcript for CEAS coordinator to review to confirm student UC application eligibility.

UniTrento students must have earned all the credits of the 1st year of the Master's degree before the mobility to Cincinnati takes place.

While studying at both Universities, students will be required to comply with all the regulations and requirements of each institution and be subject to any authorized changes to those regulations such as fees adjustments, etc. Notwithstanding this provision, both UC CEAS and UniTrento will recognize their continuing commitment to students within the joint program from their time of admission to the partner institution.

Students participating in the Program are responsible for complying with all visa requirements and regulations of the hosting country; while the host Institution may assist with the acquisition of visas, it bears no responsibility for those who fail to maintain compliance with visa laws and regulations.

#### **5. Responsibilities of the Parties**

**5. UniTrento agrees to** the following responsibilities and obligations:

5.1.1 To ensure program approval from the relevant decision-making bodies in UniTrento.

5.1.2 To promote the Programs and recruit students.

5.1.3 To collaborate with UC CEAS in selecting potential students for the Dual Award Master's Program.

5.1.4 UniTrento shall forward completed application forms to the Admissions Office of the University of Cincinnati by the posted application deadlines.

5.1.5 To provide students with English language training, tutorial, and courses taught in English at UniTrento to ensure student quality.

5.1.6 UniTrento is responsible for accepting returning students who cannot, for academic or other reasons, continue their study at CEAS.

5.1.7 For students who return to their country having completed degree requirements at CEAS, UniTrento will assess successfully completed CEAS courses for possible credit transfer, so that these courses count toward the eventual degree completion at the partner institution.

5.1.8 For students who return to their country having not completed degree requirements at CEAS, UniTrento will assess successfully completed CEAS courses for possible credit transfer, so that these courses count toward the eventual degree completion at UniTrento.

**5.2 CEAS agrees to** the following responsibilities and obligations:

5.2.1 To ensure program approval from the relevant decision-making bodies in UC.

5.2.2 To provide recruiting materials, to promote the Programs via live or web-based presentations and participate in recruiting activities as mutually agreed upon.

5.2.3 Provide instruction to UniTrento students regarding the documents necessary to be issued a certificate of eligibility from UC for a student visa and to provide guidance on applying for a student visa at the U.S. Consulate/Embassy.

5.2.4 To provide students with information about accommodation on campus and in the area. Note that information that is provided is not an endorsement of the housing.

5.2.5 CEAS will accept credits for successfully completed courses from UniTrento for credit transfer so that these courses count toward the eventual degree completion at CEAS.

## **6. Finances**

6.1 Unless otherwise specified and agreed in written form by the Parties, each Party will meet the financial costs associated with delivering the academic components of the Programs in their respective countries.

6.2 Students in the Dual Award Master's Program will be charged UniTrento tuition and fees during the entire period of enrollment at UniTrento and registered for courses there and UC CEAS out-of-state tuition and fees while they are at UC and registered for courses there. While registered as full-time students at UC, students in the dual award master's program will be eligible for the same scholarships as traditional Master of Engineering students.

6.3 Both parties reserve the right to change their tuition and fees for any component of the program. Students already progressing through the program may experience a change of fees in line with changes affecting all other students at their respective universities.

6.4 UniTrento students, while at UC, are responsible for tuition and fees, room and meal costs, travel, health and accident insurance, books and supplies, and incidental expenses.

6.5. All students while at UC must purchase UC health insurance. The cost of that coverage is added to the student's bill.

6.6. For students who apply for on-campus housing, the UC Office of Housing and Food Services requires payment of a deposit at the time a student applies for housing and a dining plan. Application for housing and dining and payment of the deposit should take place well in advance of arrival at UC. The cost of housing and dining plan depends upon options selected by each student. Payment of the deposit can be made by credit card or by check. The UC Office of Housing and Food Services will submit an invoice to each student prior to the start of the quarter. Payment is due in full when classes begin. Payments for housing and dining are to be made directly to the University of Cincinnati. On-campus housing cannot be guaranteed. Early application is critical.