

Double Degree Agreement

Between

Tongji University and University of Florence

**UNIFI-TONGJI DOUBLE MASTER DEGREE
PROGRAM IN ARCHITECTURE**

The Università degli Studi di Firenze, hereinafter referred to as UNIFI, represented by Prof. Luigi Dei, Rector, and the Tongji University, hereinafter referred to as TJU, represented by Prof. Chen Jie, President.

Agree on the following terms regarding a **DOUBLE DEGREE PROGRAM** denominated **UNIFI-TONGJI DOUBLE MASTER DEGREE PROGRAM IN ARCHITECTURE**

1. PURPOSE OF THE AGREEMENT

The aim of this agreement is to establish a double degree program with regard to these master level university degrees:

- a) Master in Architectural Design (according to the Italian current norms defined as “Laurea Magistrale in Architettura” (LM4 CDL B076), currently offered at UNIFI;
- b) Master of Architecture (code: 085100 shuo shi degree), currently offered at TJU

By means of this agreement, students enrolled in one of these programs could be awarded with both degrees, providing that they fulfil the conditions and requirements established in the following clauses.

2. MUTUAL CREDIT RECOGNITION UNDER THIS AGREEMENT

Students taking part in this double degree program will have to get 120 ECTS credits for the Italian ones, and 36 for the Chinese ones to be awarded with both degrees. Part of those total credits must be earned at the student's home institution and other part at the other university involved in this double degree program.

All the credits and grades awarded by one university to students taking part in this double degree program will be fully recognized by the other institution, according to the terms and conditions established in the Annex to this agreement.

3. DOUBLE DEGREE STUDY PROGRAM

Students participating in the double degree program must follow the study program set out in this agreement's Annex in order to be awarded with both degrees.

The administrative procedure to obtain each official degree after having completed the study program is defined and managed by the issuing institution.

A new edition of the double degree program will take place every academic year, only provided that both titles are officially implemented during that year at the partner institutions.

It is agreed and understood that each University has the right and responsibility to make changes to its curricula to meet accreditation standards. Any change that affects the Double Degree program shall be promptly and duly communicated to the other University with an official written document.

4. NUMBER OF STUDENTS

Every year a maximum number of 4 students from each party will take part in this double degree program. Each partner institution will reserve the necessary places for these students in the programs affected by this agreement.

This number may be increased by mutual written consent.

5. ENROLMENT CONDITIONS

Both institutions will set up a proper internal procedure to select the students that will take part in the double degree among those enrolled in the degrees affected by this agreement. Each institution will stipulate the conditions of access to the double degree. The host institution retains the right to accept the students selected by the home institution.

A) BACHELOR IN ARCHITECTURE

TJU students in mobility to UNIFI must hold a Bachelor (xue shi) degree (Bachelor of Architecture or Bachelor of Engineering in Architecture).

UNIFI students in mobility to TJU must have successfully completed a Bachelor degree in Architecture. UNIFI students with Chinese, Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan citizenship will not be admitted to the program.

B) LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

TJU students in mobility to UNIFI must hold an internationally recognised certificate of English (TOEFL 72, IELTS 5.5) or an equivalent language proficiency recognized by TJU.

UNIFI students in mobility to TJU must have an internationally recognised certificate of English with the score of B2 or an equivalent certificate issued by the Linguistic Centre of the Home University.

C) REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

Each partner will communicate to the other partner by April 30th a list with the name, passport and other relevant data of all the students taking part in the double degree programme each year. All the students included in this list that fulfil the masters' requirements will be registered as ordinary degree seeking students.

In case candidate students from TJU need acceptance letter to facilitate the application of Chinese Scholarship Council's funding, UNIFI is expected to issue a preliminary acceptance letter to the candidate students from TJU as early as March 1.

The dates established in the previous paragraphs could vary. Each institution will give notice to its partner of any change regarding those dates as soon as they occur.

D) TUITION FEES

Students enrolled in the double degree program will pay only their regular tuition fees and taxes at the home institution. The host institution, except for the following, will charge no further tuition costs:

At TJU, students from UNIFI will have to pay an insurance of 300RMB per semester for possible accidental injury and medical treatments in hospitalization. Students without medical insurance will be rejected for registration.

At UNIFI students from TJU will have to pay an analogous insurance for possible accidental injury and medical treatments in hospitalization. Students without medical insurances will be rejected for registration.

At UNIFI, students from TJU will have to pay a stamp duty for enrolment, at present of 16.00 euro. This tax cannot be waived according to Italian internal regulations. Another stamp duty of double value, i.e. of 32 euro, should be paid to obtain the Italian Master's Degree.

6. MANDATORY STUDENT MOBILITY

Mobility in accordance to this agreement's clauses is mandatory for every student taking part in the double degree program. Teaching staff mobility could be eventually agreed upon as well.

6.1. Duration of student exchanges

The exchange period shall not exceed the provisions of the learning program included in the Annex. The exchange will be in the second year of the Master program.

6.2. Exchange conditions

- a) Exchange students will conform to the requirements established in this agreement and will be subject to all the rules and procedures of the home and the host institutions.
- b) Exchange students will be enrolled as regular degree seeking students in the program of the host institution. During the exchange period all of them will be registered and attend the courses and activities established in the learning program included in the Annex.
- c) Exchange students will be provided with the same academic resources and supporting services as normally provided to regular students at the host institution of the same academic level.
- d) Exchange students are requested to subscribe by themselves appropriate health, life and non-life insurance.
- e) Both institutions undertake to award official transcripts of academic records to the students. These transcripts shall be communicated to the other party in order to get the full academic recognition established in Annex.
- f) The host institution will help exchange students in the search of accommodation by providing all the available information.

6.3 Financial Responsibilities

The students participating in this program must pay by themselves for all the expenses including but not limited to travel costs, accommodation, meals, visa, etc. Each institution will determine each year the amount of any financial support to their students.

7. FACULTY EXCHANGES

Both parties agree on the possibility of exchanging Faculty. The details of such arrangements will be negotiated at the appropriate time, according to the academic needs of the double degree program and the available funding.

8. ACADEMIC COMMISSION

In order to ensure the good development of the double degree program, the coordinators of both degrees will form a joint Academic Commission. This Academic Commission will be responsible to examine the efficiency of the learning program and the academic results achieved by the students, as well as the resources supplied by both institutions.

The Academic Commission will also be in charge of suggesting modifications suitable to improve the program quality. The members of this Commission will meet, either personally or on-line, at least once a year.

9. PROCEDURE FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The parties agree to resolve any dispute arising from the interpretation or performance of the present agreement by common consent. In case that the dispute could not be solved that way, it will be resolved by arbitration of a technical commission formed by three members. Each party will designate a member of the arbitration commission and both parties will agree upon the third member.

10. ENTRY IN FORCE AND DURATION OF THE AGREEMENT

The present agreement shall entry in force after being signed by both parties.

The agreement is valid for a period of 5 years and it may be renewed for identical periods with the express written consent of the two parties.

In witness whereof, the present agreement is signed in duplicate by the official representatives of both institutions.