

MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

between



Universiteit Gent

Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 25, 9000 Gent (Belgium)

Represented by Rector
Prof. dr. Rik Van de Walle

[Implementing Institution: Faculty of Economics and Business Administration]

and



Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg

Sanderring 2, 97070 Würzburg, Germany,

Represented by Vice-President
Prof. Dr. Phuoc Tran-Gia

[Implementing Institution: Faculty of Business Management and Economics]

In respect of
a Double Degree Programme at Master level

PREAMBLE

This Agreement is entered into by and between Universiteit Gent (hereinafter UGent) and Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg (hereinafter JMU).

The Parties to this Agreement,

Attaching great importance to institutional autonomy, to academic freedom of research and teaching, and conscious of the need to uphold and protect these principles;

Having regard to national higher education laws and university bylaws,

in specific for UGent the Higher Education Code, dated October 11th, 2013, ratified by the Flemish Decree dated December 20th, 2013 in due compliance with article II.172. §2;

in specific for JMU Bayerisches Hochschulgesetz (BayHSchG) from May 23rd, 2006, in the currently valid version; General Study and Examination Regulations for the Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programs (ASPO) at the JMU from July 1st, 2015, in the currently valid version; Subject-specific regulations for the Master International Economic Policy with the degree Master of Science (acquisition of 120 ECTS credits) at the JMU from January 13th, 2016, in the currently valid version;

Having also regard to the “Lisbon Convention on the recognition of qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region” signed 1997 and its corresponding national laws;

United in the aim of promoting a double degree programme in International Economic Policy/ Economics between JMU and UGent;

Have agreed as follows:

AGREEMENT

Part I – General Provisions

1. The parties to this Agreement and fields of cooperation

This Memorandum of Cooperation sets out the agreement of the exchange programme to establish a formal joint effort of JMU and UGent to allow students to be awarded academic degrees by both universities after having successfully completed all modules as defined, leading to the degrees of:

M.Sc. in International Economic Policy

(JMU, 120 ECTS credits, language of instruction: English)

and

M.Sc. in Economics

(UGent, 60 ECTS credits, language of instruction: English)

2. Terms and Definitions

For the purposes of this Agreement, the below mentioned terms shall have the following meaning:

- “Student” is defined as any student admitted to either the programme Master of Science (M.Sc.) in International Economic Policy of JMU or the programme MSc in Economics of UGent and the resulting double degree programme.
- “Home institution” is defined as the institution in which a student is originally enrolled and admitted.
- “Host institution” is defined as the institution, which is not a student’s home institution, to which he/she is attached by enrolment.
- “Double Degree Programme” is defined as the jointly agreed upon curriculum in a a two-year, post-graduate programme comprising of 120 ECTS, which includes periods at the home institution and periods abroad at the host institution and can lead to the award of the double degree.
- “Staff member” is defined as any person who is attached to a partner institution by appointment or labour contract.

3. Non-Discrimination and Human Rights

The parties to this Agreement subscribe to a policy of equal opportunity and will neither discriminate against nor harass a person for whatever reason.

This agreement may be terminated by any of the parties in case of clear and convincing evidence that the partner institution is involved in a serious violation of human rights. The party wishing to terminate the agreement will give notice of this intention to the partner institution, allowing the partner institution due time to respond to the allegations. In the absence of a satisfactory reply or in the absence of a reply in due time, the party seeking to terminate the agreement will reiterate its intention of doing so. The agreement will cease to have any effects between the parties from the moment that such second notice is given.

4. Responsibilities for both Parties to this Agreement

4.1. The parties recognise that under their separate regional and/or national laws, regulations and administrative controls each party is responsible for:

- overseeing and maintaining the academic standards of the double degree programme in respect of its own award;
- satisfying the separate regional and/or national authorities in respect of approval, administration, operation, monitoring, reporting upon and review of the double degree programme and any changes required in consequence.

4.2. To promote the ease of operation of the double degree programme, the parties have further agreed that each institution is independently and self-sufficiently responsible for:

- providing the resources necessary for the successful operation of the double degree programme within the country in which the party normally operates;
- informing the partner institution of any significant changes in the double degree programme or in available resources.

4.3. The parties recognise that they must jointly contribute to the academic direction, development and quality of the double degree programme. The partner institutions agree to assist each other in meeting the requirements of their respective authorities, and in maintaining the compatibility of content, teaching and assessment approaches of their programmes in order to ensure mutual recognition of credit to facilitate students' progress to the two awards.

4.4. Both parties shall be responsible for quality assurance in the degree programme within the context of the university-wide quality management systems. Compliance with national guidelines regarding Bologna-compatible quality assurance shall thus be deemed to be ensured. The results of the quality assurance processes of the two parties to the agreement shall serve as a basis for the joint further development of the double degree programme.

Part II – Admission and Enrolment

5. Admission to the double degree programme

5.1. Admission to the double degree programme shall start for the academic year 2018/19 at both partner institutions.

5.2. Each party to this Agreement admits up to five (5) candidates to this programme per academic year.

5.3. Candidates must meet the general admission requirements for the Master's programme at both partner universities and be officially admitted. Candidates to join this programme must be officially admitted to either:

- JMU's programme: "Master of Science (M.Sc.) in International Economic Policy" (120 ECTS)
- UGent's programme: "M.Sc. in Economics" (60 ECTS)

5.4. Once admitted to either JMU's or UGent's programme, successful candidates must demonstrate further admission requirements to be admitted to the double degree programme:

- All Students must demonstrate intermediate language skills in English and German; in English equivalent to level B2, in German equivalent to level A2, each according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.
- Each sending university will verify for its own students the specific language requirements for participation in the double degree programme.

5.5. Admission is under sole responsibility of the home institution, unless agreed otherwise in writing.

6. Nomination

6.1. Once students have been admitted to the double degree programme the home institution provides to the host institution information on respective students (name and contact details). This information will be used to prepare enrolment at the host institution, and must meet national data protection standards.

- JMU will inform UGent by July 1st each year.
- UGent will inform JMU by July 1st each year.

6.2. The right to revoke nominations lies with the home institution. The host institution will normally accept nominations unless compelling legal, academic or institutional reasons conflict. To evaluate nominations the host institution will investigate the general, academic requirements and the authenticity of the provided documents (which include a copy of the diploma). In case of diplomas awarded in a country which has ratified the Lisbon Recognition Convention (LRC) an electronic dossier will be provided by the home institution. For students who have been awarded a diploma in a country that has not ratified the LRC, a hard copy of the admission documents will be provided to the host institution in order to investigate whether the submitted file is complete and the prospective student can be accepted.

7. Enrolment

7.1. Students shall be enrolled at both institutions in the corresponding programmes. The additional enrolment at the host institution is free from tuition fee (cf. art. 15) and shall be done at the latest when starting the double degree programme at the host institution, and must be upheld until graduation or termination.

7.2. Students enrolled in the programme will have the same rights and status as other at the respective institution.

Part III – Academic Standards and Quality Assurance

8. Duration of the Programme

8.1. The overall duration of the double degree programme is four semesters. The overall work load comprises of 120 ECTS. Students who have been admitted may thus after successful completion receive both degrees within a two year period of study.

8.2. JMU and UGent agree upon an academic curriculum scheme, further outlined in Annex B. Credits earned for the degree at one institution shall count towards the degree of the other.

8.3. Students spend one academic year, starting in winter term, at the host university.

9. Recognition of credits/Examinations

9.1. Each party shall recognise courses completed at the other partner institution in conformity with this Agreement, institutional standards and the Convention on the recognition of qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region (Lisbon-Convention).

9.2. All courses (including examination, content, credits and workload) are the responsibility of the partner institution which offers them unless the parties to this Agreement agree on a joint responsibility. Courses shall be organised in modules according to the Qualifications Framework of the European Higher Education Area.

9.3. If a student fails a course at the host institution, he/she is entitled to re-sit the examination on-campus of the home institution. This repeat examination will be carried out according to the standards and under sole responsibility of the host institution. Repeat examinations can be taken when there is an examination in the standard curriculum of the host institution. The home institution shall only provide additional services to facilitate the supervision of the examinee. The request to re-sit an examination is excluded if either a re-sit of this specific course is excluded or the student had already failed the final attempt of this examination prior to his/her request.

10. Master thesis

10.1. After successful completion of the course work (90 ECTS in total, of which 60 ECTS are completed at UGent), students complete the master thesis in conformity with applicable rules and regulations of both institutions; the master thesis comprises of 30 ECTS and must be submitted at JMU.

10.2. The master thesis is supervised and finally graded by authorised academic staff of JMU. Academic staff from UGent are invited to attend the Master thesis colloquia as external examiner.

11. Award of the Degree

11.1. Upon successful completion of the double degree programme UGent awards the degree “Master of Science in Economics” according to its own deliberation rules.

11.2. Upon successful completion of the double degree programme JMU awards the degree “International Economic Policy (Master of Science)” following its own deliberation rules.

11.3. A decision by one partner institution not to award the degree does not preclude the other from awarding the degree.

12. Degree Certificate/Diploma Supplement

12.1. Each institution shall issue degree certificates in compliance with its standard corporate identity and layout in the national language and in English.

12.2. Both parties agree that each institution uses its standard diploma supplement.

13. Failure to Successfully Complete the Degree Programme at the Partner University

If a student is not able to successfully complete the degree programme at the partner university, he/she shall be allowed to continue with the Master's programme without the international exchange programme at the home university; credits achieved at the partner university shall be recognised. Periods of study abroad shall only be accredited insofar as credits achieved during these periods are also recognised.

Part IV – Responsibilities of Students

14. Students' obligation

14.1. Student enrolled in the programme are held responsible for:

- their own cost of living,
- accommodation,
- fees eventually applicable,
- costs for mobility between host and home university,
- health and other insurances according to national legal obligations.

The parties to this Agreement do not assume any liability for students towards each other or any third party.

14.2. The home institution shall inform the students at the earliest opportunity on their obligations under this Agreement.

15. Fees

15.1. While at the home institution, students are subject to regular tuition and other fee regulations at the home institution.

15.2. Both parties to this Agreement waive applicable tuition fees for students from the partner institution in mutual agreement. Other fees, such as, but not limited to, administrative or membership fees, may apply.

15.3. While enrolled at the host institution, students are required to pay following fees for students:

- For JMU: No tuition fees, but Semester contribution, including free local and regional public transport for six months, reduced prices for meals in cafeterias, and for dormitories run by the Federal Organization for Student Services – “Studentenwerk” (currently € 123,80)
- For UGent: none

15.4. Each partner institution shall inform the other partner one (1) month prior to nomination on the amount of fees applicable for the respective semester at the partner institution.

15.5. Neither institution has any liability or responsibility to provide any financial support for its students participating in this programme.

16. Code of Conduct for students

Students under this Agreement are subject to policies, procedures and the laws of both home and host institutions and the respective country. The students will be disciplined or expelled for violations in the same manner as other students at the home and host institutions.

Part V – Management of the programme

17. Liaison and contact

Each partner institution shall appoint at least one member of academic staff responsible for liaison between the partner institutions and responsible for the curriculum. Normally, at least one member of the academic staff of each institution will visit the other institution in each academic year. Each partner institution shall appoint at least one member of staff responsible for administration and management of the programme, including nomination of students to the partner institution and all other non-academic matters. The currently designated contact persons are listed in Annex A.

18. Marketing, public relations and recruitment

18.1. Each party shall promote the programme within the country in which the party normally operates without prior consent of the partner institution.

18.2. Any use of the name or logo of the partner institution in promotional print or digital material must be confirmed by the partner institution.

19. Travel and other Expenses

All expenses, e.g. travel and accommodation costs, incurred to staff members of the partner institutions may eventually be covered by the home institution of this specific member of staff if budgetary resources are available unless agreed otherwise by the parties to this Agreement.

Part VI- Final Provisions

20. Dispute resolution

The parties shall attempt to resolve any dispute arising out of this Agreement through negotiations between the academic liaison persons (Annex A).

21. Liability

21.1. In the event of a breach of fundamental contractual obligations, i. e. obligations that are a prerequisite for the proper implementation of the agreement and on the fulfilment of which the other party to the agreement may regularly rely, the parties to the agreement shall be held liable for wilful misconduct and any act of negligence; in the event of simple negligence, liability shall, however, be limited to typical, foreseeable damages with comparable matters of this kind.

21.2. In addition, the parties to the agreement shall only be held liable for damages caused to the other party insofar as these resulted from wilful misconduct or gross negligence.

21.3. The parties to the agreement shall not be held liable pursuant to Subsection 2 for consequential damage or consequential loss resulting from gross negligence.

21.4. The limitation or exclusion of liability described hereinbefore shall not apply in the event of personal injury, disease or death.

22. Severability

If any provision of the present agreement shall be held to be invalid, the validity of the remaining provisions shall not in any way be affected or impaired thereby. The partners to the agreement shall undertake to replace the invalid provision with an appropriate provision which allows all students to graduate from the degree programme in accordance with the regulations in force.

23. Duration, Modifications and Termination

23.1. This agreement will be effective from the date of signature for an initial period of five years. It can be renewed after assessment by both academic authorities of both institutions for the same period.

23.2. Any amendments or additions to the present agreement shall be laid down in writing. This shall also apply to the requirement of the written form itself.

23.3. Any of the parties to this Agreement may terminate the collaboration without reason, giving at least one year's notice in writing. Immediately following the decision to terminate, recruitment to the joint programme will cease. In this case, the two universities shall provide students already enrolled in the degree programme with an opportunity to finish the programme in accordance with the contents of this provision within a reasonable period of time.

23.4. Both parties to this Agreement may propose revisions to it at any time. Revisions must be agreed in writing by both parties. Amendments to the curriculum (Annex B) must be made in writing and must be authorised by the academic liaison persons of both parties (Annex A).

24. Coming into effect

The present agreement shall come into effect upon signature.

In witness thereof the undersigned representatives, being duly authorised, have signed this Agreement. Done in four copies, whereof two copies shall be for each signing party.

Universiteit Gent

**Julius-Maximilians-Universität
Würzburg**

Koninkrijk België/Belgium

Deutschland/Germany

The Rector
Prof. dr. Rik Van de Walle

The Vice-President
Prof. Dr. Phuoc Tran-Gia

Place & Date :

Place & Date :

Dean
Faculty of Economics and Business
Administration
Prof. dr. Patrick Van Kenhove

Dean
Faculty of Business Management and
Economics
Prof. Dr. Richard Pibernik

Place & Date :

Place & Date :

Academic Liaison Person
Prof. dr. Gerdie Everaert

Academic Liaison Person
Prof. Dr. Johann Fehr

Place & Date :

Place & Date :

ANNEX A – CONTACT

CONTACT DETAILS

The actual designated contact persons, responsible for ensuring that the agreement is kept current and report annually to either institution on the cooperation are for the **Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg/Germany:**

Academic Liaison Person	E-Mail
Chair of Public Finance Faculty of Business Management and Economics Prof. Dr. Johann Fehr	hans.fehr@uni-wuerzburg.de
	Correspondence Address
	Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg Wirtschaftswissenschaftliche Fakultät Sanderring 2 D-97070 Würzburg
	Phone
	Phone. +49 931 31 82972
Administrative Liaison Person	E-Mail
Exchange Coordinator Faculty of Business Management and Economics Michaela Briglmeir	ausland@wiwi.uni-wuerzburg.de
	Correspondence Address
	Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg Wirtschaftswissenschaftliche Fakultät Sanderring 2 D-97070 Würzburg
	Phone
	Phone. +49 931 31 89969

ANNEX A – CONTACT

The actual designated contact persons, responsible for ensuring that the agreement is kept current and report annually to either institution on the cooperation are for the **Gent University/Belgium**:

Academic Liaison Person Prof. dr. Gerdie Everaert International Relations Coordinator Economics Faculty of Economics and Business Administration	E-Mail Gerdie.Everaert@UGent.be Correspondence Address Universiteit Gent Sint-Pietersplein 6 9000 Gent Phone/Fax Phone +32 9 264 78 78
Administrative Liaison Person International Relations Liaison Officer Nick Provoost Faculty of Economics and Business Administration	E-Mail int.feb@ugent.be Correspondence Address Twekerkenstraat 2 9000 Gent Phone +32 9 264 3304

ANNEX B – Curriculum

COURSES AND CREDITS

To be awarded the degrees Master of Science (M.Sc.) in International Economic Policy and Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Economics all successful candidates have to complete 120 ECTS according to the following curriculum.

JMU students spend semesters 1 (summerterm) and 4 (winterterm) at JMU and semesters 2 (winterterm) and 3 (summerterm) at UGent. UGent students spend semesters 1 and 2 at UGent (starting in winterterm) and semesters 3 and 4 at JMU (starting in winterterm).

In semester 4, students write the master thesis which equals 30 ECTS (Table 6). The master thesis is graded by academic staff of JMU. Students have to present their work in a Master thesis colloquium. Here, academic staff from UGent are invited to attend the Master thesis colloquia as external examiner.

JMU- students have to accomplish:

semester 1	JMU	Core Electives	30 ECTS	Table1
semester 2/3	UGent	Core Courses	18 ECTS	Table 2
semester 2/3	UGent	Majors	18 ECTS	Table 3
semester 2/3	UGent	Electives	12 ECTS	Table 4
semester 2/3	UGent	Research Seminar	12 ECTS	Table 5
semester 4	JMU	Master Thesis	30 ECTS	Table 6

UGent – students have to accomplish:

semester 1/2	UGent	Core Courses	18 ECTS	Table 2
semester 1/2	UGent	Majors	18 ECTS	Table 3
semester 1/2	UGent	Electives	12 ECTS	Table 4
semester 1/2	UGent	Research Seminar	12 ECTS	Table 5
semester 3	JMU	Core Electives	30 ECTS	Table1
semester 4	JMU	Master Thesis	30 ECTS	Table 6

Table 1: Core Electives

30 ECTS to choose from:

Finanzmarktökonomie [DE], 12-M-FMO, 5 ECTS

Mikroökonomie [DE], 12-M-AM, 5 ECTS

Market Research and Demand Analysis [EN], 12-M-EIO, 5 ECTS

Dynamische Monetäre Makroökonomie [DE], 12-M-DMM, 5 ECTS

Advanced Computational Economics [EN], 12-M-NGM, 5 ECTS

Steuerpolitik [DE], 12-M-FI, 5 ECTS

Europäische Finanzpolitik [DE], 12-M-EFP, 5 ECTS

ANNEX B – Curriculum

Topics in Human Capital Development [EN], 12-M-THC, 5 ECTS
Topics in Migration [EN], 12-M-THC, 5 ECTS
Applied Industrial Organization [EN], 12-M-TI2, 5 ECTS
European Competition Policy [EN], 12-M-WPE, 5 ECTS
Economic Geography [EN], 12-M-EG, 5 ECTS
European Macroeconomic Policy [EN], 12-M-EMP, 5 ECTS
Handelspolitik und Welthandelsordnung [DE], 12-M-TP, 5 ECTS
Geldpolitik, Devisenmärkte und internationales Finanzsystem [DE], 12-M-EG2, 5 ECTS
Design of Field Experiments and Studies [EN], 12-M-DFES, 5 ECTS
Programming Survey and Experiments [EN], 12-M-PSE, 5 ECTS

Table 2: Core Courses

18 ECTS to choose:

Microeconomics: Decision Theory [EN], 6 ECTS

Macroeconomics: Business Cycles, Innovation and Growth [EN], 6 ECTS

Econometrics: Time Series Analysis [EN], 6 ECTS

Table 3: Majors

18 ECTS to choose from one of the two Majors:

Major “Financial Institutions and Markets”:

Economics of Banking [EN], 6 ECTS

Economics of Financial Markets [EN], 6 ECTS

Investment Analysis [EN], 6 ECTS

Institutional Economics [EN], 6 ECTS

Monetary Policy [EN], 6 ECTS

Major “Economic Policy”:

Public Economics [EN], 6 ECTS

Fiscal Policy [EN], 6 ECTS

Environmental and Energy Policy [EN], 6 ECTS

Trade & Migration Policy [EN], 6 ECTS

Monetary Policy [EN], 6 ECTS

Institutional Economics [EN], 6 ECTS

Social Policy [EN], 6 ECTS

ANNEX B – Curriculum

* Restriction on study plan

When choosing courses in Majors or Electives at UGent, students have to choose at least 2 courses out of the courses which are marked with *. These two courses are equivalent to courses offered in JMU (and hence cannot be taken at both institutions).

UGent	ECTS	Recognition of moduls in JMU	ECTS
Public Economics [EN]	6	Optimal Tax Theory [EN]	5
Fiscal Policy [EN]	6	Staatsverschuldung [DE]	5
Trade & Migration Policy [EN]	6	International Trade and the Multinational Firm [EN]	5
Social Policy [EN]	6	Theorie der Sozialversicherung [DE]	5
Economics of Financial Markets [EN]	6	Geldpolitik und Finanzsystem [DE]	5
Monetary Policy [EN]	6	Geldpolitik, Devisenmärkte und internationales Währungssystem [DE]	5

Table 4: Electives

12 ECTS to choose from:

Trade & Migration Policy [EN], 6 ECTS
Environmental and Energy Policy [EN], 6 ECTS
Economics of Banking [EN], 6 ECTS
Economics of Financial Markets [EN], 6 ECTS
Investment Analysis [EN], 6 ECTS
Public Economics [EN], 6 ECTS
Fiscal Policy [EN], 6 ECTS
Social Policy [EN], 6 ECTS
Grand Strategy and the Multipolar World [NL], 6 ECTS
Strategic Management and Policy [NL] , 6 ECTS
Bayesian Statistics [EN], 6 ECTS
Agricultural and Food Economics [NL] , 6 ECTS
Labour Law and Social Security Law [NL], 6 ECTS
Environmental Law [NL], 6 ECTS
Urban and Regional Economy [NL], 6 ECTS
Insurances [NL], 6 ECTS
Competition and Regulatory Policy [NL], 6 ECTS
Transport Economics [NL], 6 ECTS
Introduction to European Union Law [NL], 6 ECTS
Economics and Ethics [NL], 6 ECTS
Internship [EN, NL], 6 ECTS
Economics of Development [EN], 6 ECTS

ANNEX B – Curriculum

<u>Table 5:</u> Research Seminar

12 ECTS

Research Seminar [EN], 12 ECTS

<u>Table 6:</u> Master Thesis

30 ECTS

The responsibility for grading the master's thesis rests with two supervisors of the JMU. Academic staff from UGent are invited to attend the related Master thesis colloquia as external examiner.

ANNEX B – Curriculum

Recognition of moduls in JMU:

Master IEP in Würzburg	ECTS
Core	20
Core Electives	40
Electives	20
Seminar	10
Thesis	30
	120

Modules in JMU/UGent	ECTS	Recognition of moduls in JMU		ECTS
Semester 1 in JMU				
Module of Core Electives	5		Core Electives	5
Module of Core Electives	5		Core Electives	5
Module of Core Electives	5		Core Electives	5
Module of Core Electives	5		Core Electives	5
Module of Core Electives	5		Core Electives	5
Module of Core Electives	5		Core Electives	5
Semester 2/3 in UGent				
Microeconomics: Decision Theory	6	Advanced Microeconomics	Core	5
Macroeconomics: Business Cycles, Innovation and Growth	6	Advanced Macroeconomics	Core	5
Econometrics: Time Series	6	Policy Evaluation Methods	Core	5
		Econometrics 1	Core	5
Module of Majors	6	Core Electives (Äquivalenz)	Core Electives	5
Module of Majors	6	Core Electives (Äquivalenz)	Core Electives	5
Module of Majors	6	Module of Electives (Platzhalter)	Electives	5
Module of Electives	6	Module of Electives (Platzhalter)	Electives	5
Module of Electives	6	Module of Electives (Platzhalter)	Electives	5
		Module of Electives (Platzhalter)	Electives	5
Research seminar	12	Seminar	Seminar	10
Semester 4 in JMU				
Master-Thesis	30			30
				120