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INTERUNIVERSITARY COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MASTER'S LEVEL DOUBLE DEGREE PROGRAMME

between

University of Évora (hereinafter referred to as “UÉVORA”), represented by its Rector, **Professor Hermínia Vasconcelos Vilar**, Largo dos Colegiais n.º2, 7000-803 Évora, Portugal;

and

University of Sassari (hereinafter referred to as “UNISS”), represented by its Rector, **Professor Gavino Mariotti**, Piazza Università 21 - 07100 Sassari, Italy;

Collectively referred to as “the Parties” and individually as “a Party”.

Considering that

- i. It is in the interest of both Universities to establish a lasting cooperation and to develop a system of academic exchange;
- ii. In accordance with Ministerial Decree 270/04, art. 3, paragraph 10, and based on specific agreements, Italian Universities may award joint degrees, as the Double Degree with other Italian or foreign universities;
- iii. Art. 6 of the Sassari University Academic Regulations provides the possibility of issuing a Degree in collaboration with other Universities, including foreign ones, as a part of the internationalization activity included in the Strategic Plan of the University;
- iv. The University of Évora and the Department of Agriculture of the University of Sassari share a common interest in creating a double degree programme leading to award participating students with degrees from the two Partner universities, as described in this agreement.

It is agreed and stipulated as follows:

Article 1 — Objective of the Agreement

1. The Parties agree to establish a double degree programme in the field of Zootechnical Sciences (hereinafter referred to as “the Double Degree Programme” or “the Programme”), to be developed and provided by both Parties.
2. The Double Degree Programme (DDP) shall be based and developed under the requirements of the national legislative framework of Portugal and of Italy, the Bologna process regulations, and the internal regulations and procedures of both Partner universities.



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3. At UNISS, the Programme shall be a part of the second-cycle degree “Laurea Magistrale in Scienze delle produzioni zootecniche (classe LM-86)”. At UÉVORA, the Programme shall be a part of the second-cycle degree “Mestrado em Engenharia Zootécnica”.

Article 2 - Admission requirements and study program

1. The Programme shall be a two-year programme, and comprise 120 credits (ECTS). It includes mandatory international student mobility for a minimum of two semesters. The enrolment of UNISS students in the master's degree programme “Laurea Magistrale in Scienze delle produzioni zootecniche (classe LM-86)” and the enrolment of UÉVORA students in the master's degree programme “Mestrado em Engenharia Zootécnica” shall be a requirement for admission to the Double Degree Programme.
2. A student who completes the Programme shall be awarded two diplomas: one from the University of Sassari and one from the University of Évora. A diploma supplement shall refer to the double degree and shall include a list of all course units completed and grades obtained during the Programme, which contributed to the awarding of the degree.
3. According to the study plan, jointly defined and attached to this Agreement (see Annex 1), every student shall study at his/her home university, and earn relative credits, for a maximum of two semesters, the language of that university being the language of instruction, whereas every student shall study abroad, and earn relative credits, for a minimum of two semesters, the language of the partner university being the language of instruction. To ensure a reasonable flexibility of the study plan, each student must obtain a passing grade in at least 80% of the ECTS of the study plan taught at the partner university. If the student fails any course in the partner university, he/she can complete the corresponding course at the home university according to the two “Table of course correspondences” (one for students enrolled in UNISS, one for students enrolled in UÉVORA) included in the Annex 1.
4. The course units listed in Annex 1 may undergo changes in name, code or internal structure without the need for a formal revision of this Agreement, provided that their essential content and essential learning outcomes remain equivalent. The Bilateral Committee undertakes to propose to the competent bodies of each higher education institution the updating of the course correspondence table, based on an analysis of the current programmes.
5. The number of students exchanged annually shall be mutually agreed upon, in accordance with the regulations of each university, with a goal of maintaining a balanced exchange between institutions.

Article 3 - Selection of participating students

1. Each university, through its respective Programme Committee, is responsible for ranking the candidates based on the criteria outlined below and those established by the Parties, and for informing its Academic Services, which will in turn notify the Academic Services of the Partner institution.



2. The selection of DDP participants shall be based on academic performance, language proficiency, and compliance with criteria defined by the home university and agreed upon by both Parties.

A final list of selected students for the DDP, including all required documentation for enrollment at the host Institution, must be submitted within the deadlines stipulated in the bilateral mobility agreement between the two institutions.

Article 4 - Master's thesis and final examination

1. The Dissertation of the master thesis at UNISS and the Dissertation, Project work or Internship at UÉVORA shall be completed at the home university.
2. In the case of the dissertation (UNISS) and the Dissertation, Project work or Internship (UÉVORA) developed under the Double Degree Programme, each student shall have supervisors from both the home and the host universities. The home university shall set up a videoconference to allow Professor(s) from the host university to participate in the Degree Jury for the thesis defense or the final diploma examination. Students from the partner higher education institution must submit their dissertation or dissertation/project work/internship project to both institutions for the degree to be awarded by both.
3. The successful thesis defense or diploma examination at the home university allows the award of the title at the host university. The home university must inform the Academic Services of the partner university whenever a student under the DDP completes the degree, and must provide the academic transcript, examination report, a copy of the dissertation, and a copy of the diploma issued. The DDP students may then request the issuance of the respective diploma, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the host university. Students shall be responsible for covering the costs associated with diploma issuance.
4. The home university is responsible for providing the host university with all necessary documentation for the award of its own degree title in due time.

Article 5 - Use of ECTS for credits transfer and grading system

1. The Parties agree to use the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) credit units and grading system.
2. The Parties agree that the credit units (ECTS credits) successfully earned by the DDP students at the Partner university shall be fully transferable to the home university.
3. Host Partner universities shall issue a Transcript of Records for each DDP student, indicating his/her attended classes and his/her academic performance and the number of credit units (ECTS credits) obtained at the host university.
4. Grades obtained at the partner university must be notified to the home university within four weeks after the end of the mobility period.
5. The home university is responsible for the conversion to their national classification system. The conversion of marks should be done as follows:
 - a. For students enrolled at UÉVORA, conversion shall follow the formula present on the article 19, comma 3, of the "Regulamento Académico da Universidade de Évora".



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- b. For students enrolled at UNISS, conversion shall be based on the comparison between grade distribution curves over the past three academic years in the “Mestrado em Engenharia Zootécnica” and in the “Laurea Magistrale in Scienze delle Produzioni Zootecniche”, as stated in the European Commission 2015 ECTS guide (Chapters 4.3 and 4.4). UÉVORA shall provide UNISS its grade distribution data annually.
6. Students are responsible for paying any fees required to receive their diploma and qualification certificates, with no other tuition fees or charges payable to the partner institution.

Article 6 - Duties of the Parties and management of the Programme

1. Both Parties are responsible for the coordination and management of the programme. They shall consult each other whenever they deem it appropriate to guarantee the quality assurance of the programme and to address any issues connected with the correct development of the programme. Communications between the two Parties will be managed by the Student Office of the Department of Agricultural Sciences of the University of Sassari and by the Academic Services and the International Mobility Office of the University of Evora.
2. Each Party shall:
 - a. carry out recruitment for the Programme;
 - b. administer examinations and credits as provided in the curricula of courses taught at the university;
 - c. keep Programme study records;
 - d. supervise the correctness of the teaching process;
 - e. ensure highly qualified teaching staff;
 - f. ensure teaching rooms and equipped laboratories as required for the conduct of the courses;
 - g. include information about the Programme on its website and in the promotional materials of the university;
 - h. ensure that students have access to the facilities, library collections, and databases on the terms in effect at the university.
3. A Bilateral Committee composed by at least two academic representatives from each university, including members of the Programme Committees of both Master’s degrees, shall be established and will act in consultation with the Faculty/Department of both partner universities. Decisions shall be jointly taken by the representatives of the Parties in the Bilateral Committee. Meetings of the Committee may also be attended by other academics or administrative personnel of the participating Universities. The Bilateral Committee shall meet once a year as a rule: the meetings can take place also through conference calls, video conference or e-mail, etc.

Article 7 - Tuition Fees

1. This Agreement does not impose any financial obligations on either Party.
2. Students shall pay tuition only at their home university, including during the mobility period at the partner higher education institution; no additional tuition shall be charged at the host university.



3. Each Party hereto shall take necessary action in order to obtain the best possible financial support for the exchange students.
4. If the financing referred to in Paragraph 3 above is not secured, students are responsible for covering their travel and living expenses. The Parties hereto shall enter into relevant agreement for the provision of education services prior to the commencement of the Programme.

Article 8 - Programme promotion and Use of Name/Logo

1. Each of the Parties hereto authorize the use of their name and logo for the promotion of the Programme, in compliance with national legislation on intellectual property rights of both countries.
2. Both Parties agree to promote the Programme in their catalogues, websites and through other appropriate channels.

Article 9 - Quality assurance

The institutions shall cooperate to set an integrated approach to quality assurance of the joint programme. Standards and guidelines for Quality assurance in the European Higher Education Area shall be applied.

Art. 10 - Controversies

1. The resolution of any controversy which may arise from the interpretation and implementation of the present agreement, shall be dealt in an amicable way.
2. Should this manner fail, the partners refer to an arbitration board, consisting of one representative from each partner university and a third member chosen by mutual agreement. The arbitration board will carry out the activities free of charge.

Article 11 - Terms and duration of the agreement

1. This protocol shall be automatically renewed for successive one-year periods, unless and until one of the institutions proposes amendments by means of an addendum.
2. Either Party may, however, terminate this agreement, by written notice to the other Party explaining the decision, and at least 180 days in advance. However, students already enrolled in the programme shall be allowed to complete the Programme.
3. The present agreement is drawn up in English in four original copies, two for each Party.

Article 12 - Entry into force

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signature, with retroactive effect from the academic year 2024/2025.



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Date: _____

University of Sassari
Rector
Professor Gavino Mariotti

Date: _____

University of Évora
Rector
Professor Hermínia Vasconcelos Vilar



Annex 1. DOUBLE DEGREE PROGRAMME

The two years Double Degree Programme foresees 120 ECTS.

Students shall simultaneously gain two university titles:

- one is the Italian title *“Laurea Magistrale in Science e Produzioni Zootecniche (classe LM-86)”* awarded by the University of Sassari;
- the other is the Portuguese title *“Mestrado em Engenharia Zootécnica”* awarded by the University of Évora.

The master training runs over a period of four semesters.

To obtain the double degree, students will have to attend courses, pass exams and spend a minimum of two semesters abroad, according to the following scheme:

Scheme

Students enrolled at University of Sassari

First year 1 st semester	2 nd semester	Second year 3 rd semester	4 th semester
UNISS	UÉVORA	UÉVORA	UNISS

Students enrolled at University of Évora

First year 1 st semester	2 nd semester	Second year 3 rd semester	4 th semester
UÉVORA	UNISS	UNISS	UÉVORA



The study plan for the DDP students enrolled at University of Sassari is as follows:

Study plan of “Laurea Magistrale in Scienze delle produzioni zootecniche” for DDP students enrolled at University of Sassari

1 st Year			
1 st semester – UNISS			
TAF	SSD	Mandatory courses	ECTS
B	AGR/17	Genomica applicata alla selezione animale	6
B	AGR/18	Tecniche di alimentazione dei ruminanti	6
B	AGR/17	Tecniche di analisi dati per la zootecnica di precisione	6
B	AGR/15	Processi della tecnologia alimentare	6
F	L-LIN/12	Inglese tecnico	5

2 nd semester – UÉVORA			
TAF	SSD	Mandatory courses	ECTS
Mandatory	ZOO	Temáticas Atuais e Novas Perspectivas para a Produção de Carne	6
Mandatory	GES	Planeamento do Agronegócio	6
Mandatory	ZOO	Apicultura	6
Choose 2 optional courses (12 ECTS)			
Optional	GES	Marketing Agroalimentar	6
Optional	ZOO	Aquacultura Sustentável	6
Optional	ZOO	Temáticas Atuais e Novas Perspectivas para a Produção de Leite	6

2 nd Year			
3 rd semester - UÉVORA			
TAF	SSD	Mandatory courses	ECTS
Mandatory	ERU	Projetos de Instalações Pecuárias	6
Mandatory	ZOO	Estudos Avançados em Fisiologia Animal	6
Mandatory	ZOO	Análise e Modelação de Sistemas Agropecuários	6
Choose 2 optional courses (12 ECTS)			
Optional	ZOO	Informática e Electrónica em Zootecnia de Precisão	6
Optional	FIS	Instrumentação	6
Optional	ZOO	Zootecnia Tropical	6

4 th semester - UNISS			
TAF	SSD	Mandatory courses	ECTS
C	AGR/19	Equinicoltura	6
E		Prova finale	25



The study plan for the DDP students enrolled at University of Évora is as follows:

Study plan of “Mestrado em Engenharia Zootécnica” for DDP students enrolled at University of Évora

1st Year			
1st semester – UÉVORA			
TAF	SSD	Mandatory courses	ECTS
Mandatory	MAT	Delineamento Experimental	6
Mandatory	ZOO	Estudos Avançados em Fisiologia Animal	6
Mandatory	ZOO	Estudos Avançados em Nutrição Animal	6
Mandatory	ZOO	Estudos Avançados em Genética Animal	6
Mandatory	ZOO	Análise e Modelação de Sistemas Agropecuários	6

2nd semester – UNISS			
TAF	SSD	Mandatory courses	ECTS
B	AGR/19	Qualità dei prodotti di origine animale	6
B	AGR/01	Economia del settore agro-zootecnico	6
B	AGR/18	modulo Tecnica mangimistica e indicatori di efficienza alimentare	6
C	AGR/19	Equinicoltura	6
		Choose 1 optional course (6 ECTS)	
C	AGR/11	Entomologia zootecnica e allevamento di insetti	6
C	AGR/12	Patologia vegetale e difesa delle derrate	6
B	AGR/19	Etica e sostenibilità delle produzioni zootecniche	6

2nd Year			
3rd semester - UNISS			
TAF	SSD	Mandatory courses	ECTS
B	AGR/10	Progettazione degli edifici zootecnici	6
C	VET/03	Fisiopatologia generale	3
	AGR/19	Igiene zootecnica e benessere animale	3
B	AGR/15	Processi della tecnologia alimentare	6
		Choose 2 optional courses (12 ECTS)	
D	AGR/18	Nutrizione e alimentazione del cane e del gatto	6
D	AGR/19 VET/10	Gestione e tecnologie della riproduzione animale (corso integrato) modulo Gestione della riproduzione animale 3cfu modulo Tecnologie della riproduzione animale 3 cfu	6
D	AGR/01	Economia e organizzazione delle imprese agro-industriali	6

4th semester - UÉVORA			
TAF	SSD	Mandatory courses	ECTS
Mandatory		Dissertação / Trabalho de projeto / Estágio	30



The table of course correspondences for the DDP students enrolled at University of Sassari are as follows:

Table of course correspondence to obtain the “Mestrado em Engenharia Zootécnica” for DDP students enrolled in UNISS					
UNISS				UÉVORA	
			ECTS		ECTS
B	AGR/17	Tecniche di analisi dati per la zootecnica di precisione	6	Delineamento Experimental	6
B	AGR/18	Tecniche di alimentazione dei ruminanti	6	Estudos Avançados em Nutrição Animal	6
B	AGR/17	Genomica applicata alla selezione animale	6	Estudos Avançados em Genética Animal	6
B	AGR/15	Processi della tecnologia alimentare	6	Tecnologia dos Produtos de Origem Animal	6
	AGR/18	Tecnica mangimistica e indicatori di efficienza alimentare	6	Temáticas Atuais e Novas Perspectivas para a Produção de Carne	6
	AGR/01	Economia del settore agro-zootecnico	6	Planeamento do Agronegócio	6
2 optional courses (12 ECTS)					
	AGR/11	Entomologia Zootecnica e allevamento di insetti	6	Apicultura	6
		Esame a scelta dello studente/ altre attività	6	Marketing Agroalimentar	6
	AGR/19	Etica e sostenibilità delle produzioni zootecniche	6	Aquacultura Sustentável	6
	AGR/19	Qualità dei prodotti di origine animale	6	Temáticas Atuais e Novas Perspectivas para a Produção de Leite	6
	AGR/10	Progettazione edifici zootecnici	6	Projetos de Instalações Pecuárias	6
	AGR/19-VET/03	Igiene zootecnica e fisiopatologia animale	6	Estudos Avançados em Fisiologia Animal	6
	AGR/02	Progettazione e gestione agronomica di sistemi agro-pastorali	6	Análise e Modelação de Sistemas Agropecuários	6
1 optional course (6 ECTS)					
		Esame a scelta dello studente/ altre attività	6	Informática e Electrónica em Zootecnia de Precisão	6
		Esame a scelta dello studente/ altre attività	6	Instrumentação	6
		Esame a scelta dello studente/ altre attività	6	Zootecnia Tropical	6
C	AGR/19	Equinocoltura	6	Produção e Utilizações do Cavalo	6



The table of course correspondences for the DDP students enrolled at University of Évora are as follows:

Table of course correspondence to obtain the “Mestrado em Engenharia Zootécnica” for DDP students enrolled in UÉVORA					
UNISS				UÉVORA	
			ECTS		ECTS
	AGR/17	Tecniche di analisi per la zootecnica di precisione	6	Delineamento Experimental	6
	AGR/19-VET/03	Igiene zootecnica e fisiopatologia animale	6	Estudos Avançados em Fisiologia Animal	6
	AGR/18	Tecniche di alimentazione dei ruminanti	6	Estudos Avançados em Nutrição Animal	6
	AGR/17	Genomica applicata alla selezione animale		Estudos Avançados em Genética Animal	6
	AGR/02	Progettazione e gestione argonomica di sistemi agropastorali	6	Análise e Modelação de Sistemas Agropecuários	6
B	AGR/19	Qualità dei prodotti di origine animale	6	Temáticas Atuais e Novas Perspectivas para a Produção de Leite	6
B	AGR/01	Economia del settore agro-zootecnico	6	Planeamento do Agronegócio	6
	AGR/18	Tecnica mangimistica e indicatori di efficienza alimentare	6	Temáticas Atuais e Novas Perspectivas para a Produção Carne	6
C	AGR/19	Equinocoltura	6	Produção e Utilizações do Cavalo	6
1 optional course (6 ECTS)					
C	AGR/11	Entomologia zootecnica e allevamento di insetti	6	Informática e Electrónica em Zootecnia de Precisão ou Zootecnia Tropical	6
C	AGR/12	Patologia vegetale e difesa delle derrate	6		
B	AGR/19	Etica e sostenibilità delle produzioni zootecniche	6		
B	AGR/10	Progettazione degli edifici zootecnici	6	Projetos de Instalações Pecuárias	6
B	AGR/15	Processi della tecnologia alimentare	6	Tecnologia dos Produtos de Origem Animal	6
2 optional courses (12 ECTS)					
	AGR/01	Economia e organizzazione delle imprese agro-industriali	6	Projeto de Investigação	12
	AGR/18	Nutrizione e alimentazione del cane e del gatto	6		
	AGR/19 VET/10	Gestione e tecnologie della riproduzione animale	6		



The Equivalency grid, to be used at the University of Évora, for the awarding of the “Mestrado em Engenharia Zootécnica” to students enrolled at the University of Sassari, is as follows:

Course concluded	Equivalent course at the “Mestrado em Engenharia Zootécnica” study plan
Genomica applicata alla selezione animale	Estudos Avançados em Genética Animal
Tecniche di alimentazione dei ruminanti	Estudos Avançados em Nutrição Animal
Tecniche di analisi dati per la zootecnica di precisione	Delineamento Experimental
Processi della tecnologia alimentare	Tecnologia dos Produtos de Origem Animal
Temáticas Atuais e Novas Perspectivas para a Produção Carne	Temáticas Atuais e Novas Perspectivas para a Produção Carne
Planeamento do Agronegócio	Planeamento do Agronegócio
Apicultura	Apicultura
Marketing Agroalimentar Aquacultura Sustentável Temáticas Atuais e Novas Perspectivas para a Produção de Leite (2 of these 3 courses)	Projeto de Investigação
Projetos de Instalações Pecuárias	Projetos de Instalações Pecuárias
Estudos Avançados em Fisiologia Animal	Estudos Avançados em Fisiologia Animal
Análise e Modelação de Sistemas Agropecuários	Análise e Modelação de Sistemas Agropecuários
Informática e Electrónica em Zootecnia de Precisão	Informática e Electrónica em Zootecnia de Precisão
Instrumentação	Instrumentação
Zootecnia Tropical	Zootecnia Tropical
Equinicultura	Produção e Utilizações do Cavalo