



## **AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION CONCERNING A DOUBLE DEGREE**

in the subject area of physics

**BETWEEN**

**ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE  
(l'X - France)**

**and**

**UNIVERSITÀ DI PISA  
(UniPi - Italy)**

### **Introduction**

The signatory institutions,

École Polytechnique, herein referred to as “l'X”, with legal domicile in Route de Saclay, 91128 Palaiseau (France), represented by its President, Mr Jacques BIOT,

And

Università di Pisa, herein referred to as “UniPi”, located in Lungarno Pacinotti 43, Pisa (Italy), represented by the Rector Prof. Massimo Augello,

Considering:

- That according to the Italian Ministerial Decree 270/04, art. 3, and on the basis of specific agreements, Italian Universities can issue a Degree in conjunction with other Italian or foreign Universities;
- That art. 3 of the Academic Regulations of UniPi provides the possibility of issuing a Degree in collaboration with other Universities, including foreign ones;

agree on a student exchange programme for attainment of a double degree of l'X and UniPi in the subject area of physics.

The parties hereby agree as follows:

### **Article 1 – Objectives**

The Department of Physics (Dipartimento di Fisica) at Università di Pisa (DF-UniPi) and l'X offer their students the opportunity to join a Double Degree Programme.

The double degree programme enables students from l'X, enrolled into the “Ingénieur polytechnicien” programme curriculum and those from DF-UniPi enrolled in the combined curricula of “Laurea Triennale” (LT) and “Laurea Magistrale” (LM) in Fisica to graduate from both institutions after having successfully completed their studies within this exchange programme.

### **Article 2 – Scope of the Agreement**

The Agreement concerns students from l'X enrolled in the “Ingénieur polytechnicien” programme curriculum and students from DF-UniPi enrolled in the “Laurea Triennale” in Fisica and next proceeding with the “Laurea Magistrale” in Fisica.

The parties will inform both students from DF-UniPi and l'X about the application rules and the obligations of the double degree programme.

After successful participation in the double degree programme, the students from l'X will in addition be awarded the "Laurea Magistrale in Fisica (DF-UniPi)" Degree, whereas the DF-UniPi students will in addition be awarded the "Diplôme d'ingénieur – Ingénieur Polytechnicien" degree and the "Diplôme de l'École polytechnique" degree (the last one is delivered only after successful completion of the whole Double Degree Programme curriculum).

### **Article 3 – Selection and Admission of Students**

The selection is carried out in collaboration between the two institutions. Admission of students is always at the discretion of the receiving institution. The selection will be based on the principles of equal opportunities.

Students are selected and admitted to the exchange programme based on their academic results and motivation. Applications must include curriculum vitae, a transcript of the student's records, including courses and marks, a letter of motivation/intent from the student, and a letter of confirmation from the sending institution stating that the candidate has been nominated for this particular exchange programme.

Students from l'X must submit their application to DF-UniPi by the end of November of their third year in the "Ingénieur polytechnicien" programme. DF-UniPi will inform the students from l'X about their admission at latest by January 15<sup>th</sup> of the following year. If necessary, an interview using electronic devices (e.g. skype) can be asked to candidates from l'X.

Knowledge of the Italian language is not required to apply for admission as the application process and the examination can be conducted in English. However, as most of the courses at the Physics Department in Pisa are taught in Italian, the student must acquire in due course sufficient proficiency in the Italian language to follow the courses as a regular student. Thus, before the starting date of the courses at DF-UniPi, the student will be required to have a sufficient knowledge of Italian either by means of a B1 certificate or by an oral test at DF-UniPi using electronic devices by the DF-UniPi commission.

DF-UniPi candidates for l'X shall proceed through the entrance examination for international students ("concours voie 2" or "concours filière universitaire : candidats internationaux"). DF-UniPi students during their second year or at the beginning of their third year are entitled to apply in the Spring or in the Fall session, respectively. The DF-UniPi students must first be selected for this particular exchange programme by DF-UniPi on the basis of the rules approved by the DF-UniPi "Corso di Laurea" (CdL). l'X will provide DF-UniPi with information relevant for the preparation and exact deadlines for the entrance examination. Acceptance letters will be mailed to the students at the latest one month before the beginning of the term.

Knowledge of the French language is not required to apply for admission as the application process and the examinations can be conducted in English. However, as most of the courses at l'X are taught in French, the student must acquire in due course sufficient proficiency in the French language to follow the courses as a regular student. Thus, after completing the preparatory training for international students at l'X (including intensive French language course), the student will be required to pass the official TCF test before the beginning of the common Core Curriculum in April and obtain the minimum score officially fixed each year (generally equivalent to a B1 level).

### **Article 4- Number of Students**

In each academic year, each institution may send up to 5 students under this agreement. More students can be accepted on a case-to-case basis. The number of students to be admitted for the coming academic year under this agreement may at any time be negotiated by the responsible authorities at both institutions prior to the deadline for submitting student applications for the coming academic year to the host institution.

### **Article 5 – Students from l'X**

After attending two years in the preparatory classes (or in University) and passing the nationwide competitive examination for admission (concours), the students from l'X are admitted in the "Ingénieur polytechnicien" curriculum, according to the rules of l'X.

The students, having passed the selection procedure at l'X and at DF-UniPi, having successfully completed the first three years of the 4-year "Ingénieur polytechnicien" programme of l'X and having received the "Diplôme d'ingénieur - Ingénieur Polytechnicien" title (master level diploma), will join the Laurea Magistrale in Fisica curriculum of DF-UniPi. Admission will be decided by DF-UniPi on the basis of the applicant's record of studies. If needed, an interview using electronic devices (e.g. skype) can be asked to candidates from l'X.

If admitted to the DF-UniPi Laurea Magistrale in Fisica, the student from l'X will attend its courses and take its exams, and will complete his/her Master thesis at DF-UniPi according to the Learning Agreement between l'X and DF-UniPi. Upon defence and approval of this thesis the student will be awarded both the titles of "Laurea Magistrale in Fisica" from DF-UniPi and of "Diplôme de l'École polytechnique" from l'X.

Both signatory institutions must approve a *Learning Agreement* (general study programme), to be attended by each exchange student, and the student him/herself must sign it in order to certify his/her acceptance of it. For what concerns the Laurea Magistrale at DF-UniPi, the student must present each year its own study programme that must be approved by the DF-UniPi commission.

Visiting students from l'X will have the same rights and responsibilities as their colleagues of DF-UniPi, and they will follow the norms and regulations of it. DF-UniPi will assist the visiting students from l'X and offer personal and academic support prior to and during the mobility period.

## **Article 6 – Students from DF-UniPi**

After successfully completing 5 semesters of their Bachelor degree (Laurea triennale in Fisica) at DF-UniPi, students selected by DF-UniPi and having successfully passed the entrance examination to the "Ingénieur polytechnicien" curriculum of l'X for international students, will attend the preparatory training for international students (from February to March) and then the core curriculum of the first year of the "Ingénieur polytechnicien" curriculum of l'X, followed by the second year and the third year according to the Learning Agreement between l'X and DF-UniPi, under the same conditions as regular students of l'X.

In addition to regular students of l'X, DF-UniPi students will have to present a study programme, respecting the Learning Agreement between l'X and DF-UniPi (in annex of this agreement). The Learning Agreement has to be approved by both institutions and attended by each exchange student. The student him/herself must sign it in order to certify his/her acceptance of it.

During the second year at l'X, the DF-UniPi student will have to propose to DF-UniPi a scientific project which, after validation by DF-UniPi, will result in the Bachelor's final project (tesi di laurea triennale). This scientific project could be carried out in the framework of the activities that are part of the second year of the "Ingénieur polytechnicien" curriculum at l'X. This work will lead to a written report approved by a teacher/researcher of DF-UniPi ("tutor di tesi") that will be graded according to the DF-UniPi customs and rules. After being awarded the Bachelor's degree in Physics (Laurea in Fisica) from DF-UniPi, the student will have to enrol in the Laurea Magistrale in Fisica of DF-UniPi; the first year of Laurea Magistrale will be done at l'X during the third year of "Ingénieur polytechnicien" curriculum (X3).

Upon successful completion of X3, the student will be awarded the title of "Diplôme d'ingénieur – Ingénieur Polytechnicien" at l'X and will return to DF-UniPi for the second year of the corresponding Master Programme (Laurea Magistrale in Fisica) and complete the Master Thesis at DF-UniPi under the joint responsibility of both institutions (see Learning Agreement for details). Upon defence and approval of the Master thesis, the student will be awarded the title of "Laurea Magistrale in Fisica" from DF-UniPi and the title "Diplôme de l'École polytechnique" from l'X. There is no deadline to complete the route for this double Diplome.

The visiting DF-UniPi students will have the same rights and responsibilities as their colleagues of l'X, and they will follow the norms and regulations of it. l'X will assist the visiting DF-UniPi students and offer personal and academic support prior to and during the mobility period.

## **Article 7 – Master Thesis**

The subject of the Master's thesis must be approved in advance in writing from a Faculty member of the home as well as of the host institution. Only one Master's thesis will be required and will upon successful completion be granted credit from both institutions.

The Master's thesis must be carried out under the supervision of a Faculty member of the institution responsible for the arrangements of the topic and subject area of the thesis. The co-supervision of Master thesis by members of the two partner institutions is allowed and particularly welcome.

The Master's thesis results in a report written in English, according to the rules of DF-UniPi. The work will be scrutinized and graded according to the customs and rules of DF-UniPi. Upon successful completion of the Master's thesis the student will be granted the equivalence of 45 ECTS from DF-UniPi.

## **Article 8 – Control of Results**

L'X and DF-UniPi will employ an official *Transcript of Records* and use the ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) systems of grades, in order to guarantee full recognition of the studies carried abroad. Each student is responsible for communicating his/her study results using the Learning Agreement and the Transcription of Records to his/her home institution. This shall be done at regular intervals, preferably after each semester. The student's career will be evaluated and approved each year by both institutions. In case of problems, any change in a Learning Agreement previously established, must be discussed and approved by representatives of both institutions.

## **Article 9 – Tuition Fees and Costs**

The host institution undertakes to facilitate the arrival of the students and to put at their disposal all services and study grants that may exist. All costs of travel and accommodation will be met by the students. Before the students depart, they must guarantee that they possess all insurances required. For the whole duration of the double degree curriculum, the students will pay tuition fees to their home institution. The host institution will waive fees for entrance examinations admission and tuition for the students from the other institution with the exception of the equipment and uniform fees due to l'X.

## **Article 10 – Terms for the Students**

### **Article 10.1 – Conditions during Study Period**

Students participating under this agreement will be subject to the rules and regulations of the Host Institution. They will also have the rights and privileges enjoyed by other students enrolled at the Host Institution.

### **Article 10.2 - Delivery of the Academic Degrees**

Each institution decides, according to its own criteria, if the student is entitled to receive a degree. Each institution grants the student credit transfer from the other institution according to the applicable rules, laws and regulations of that institution.

## **Article 11 - Academic Representatives**

Each institution will nominate its own academic representative, and this representative will be responsible that measures are taken in accordance with this Agreement. The representatives will organize advisory and other academic services for students participating under this Agreement.

The persons responsible in each of the institutions signing and involved in the programme will communicate on a regular basis in order to:

- Verify the efficiency of the teaching programmes in both institutions.
- Report on the cooperation and the academic results of the students.
- Propose new initiatives.

## **Article 12 - Amendments or Changes**

Amendments or changes to this Agreement shall be made in writing and signed by the duly authorized representatives of the institutions.

## **Article 13 – Handling of Disagreements**

The two parties agree to find an amicable solution to any disagreement which may arise from interpreting the present Agreement.

In the case where no agreement can be found, an arbitral commission, composed of one member chosen by each of the parties and of one member chosen by mutual agreement, will be set up.

## **Article 14 – Financial Commitment**

The signing of this Agreement does not imply any financial commitment for the institutions.

**Article 15 - Terms of the Agreement**

This Agreement shall come into effect on the day of signature by both institutions and is valid for five years. Renewal for further periods of five years is possible if agreed upon by both institutions. Either institution may terminate this Agreement provided that written notice of the intent is given at least six months prior to termination. Commitments already in progress shall be fulfilled.

The present agreement shall be prepared in two copies. Both of them shall have equal validity.

Palaiseau,  
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Pisa,  
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For École Polytechnique  
President Mr. Jacques Biot

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For Università di Pisa  
Rector Prof. Massimo Augello