



AGREEMENT OF CULTURAL AND ACADEMIC COOPERATION  
BETWEEN  
THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORENCE (ITALY)  
AND DAMASCUS UNIVERSITY (SYRIA)

General Provisions

- Given that cultural and scientific exchange is indispensable to academic institution to develop their educational and research activities;
- Given that, for the above-stated purpose, it is necessary to promote and encourage direct cultural agreement between institutions of higher learning in different countries;
- Having verified the mutual interest that the university of Florence (Italy) and Damascus University (Syria) share in establishing an appropriate form of exchange program in all specializations in all fields.
- Having examined the documentation submitted by the University of Florence as evidence of experience and interest in forms of cultural and scientific collaboration and in further developing relations of this kind;
- In agreement with the laws of the two countries and, as far as the Italian law is concerned, with the Ministerial Decree of November 3, 1999 n.509 concerning forms of educational autonomy of individual universities (article 3 in particular);
- In agreement with the Statute of the University of Florence (article 7 and 12) and with the University Didactical Regulation ( article 9 and 10);
- In agreement with the resolutions of the Academic Senate and of the Board of Governors of the University of Florence passed on January 14, 2004 and January 30, 2004 respectively;

THE FOLLOWING TERMS OF AGREEMENT ARE STIPULATED  
BETWEEN

The University of Florence, represented by the Rector Prof. Augusto Marinelli  
residing in Florence, Piazza San Marco, 4

And

Damascus University, represented by the Rector Prof. Wael Mualla residing in  
Damascus,

lh [Signature]





### *Art. 1 Units and Fields of Study and Research*

The two universities intend to establish an exchange program initially in all fields of science that are of common interest.

The two universities have the right to pursue, when they both deem it appropriate, other areas of cooperation. In this case, the appropriate administrative units will approve explanatory clauses to be attached to this agreement.

### *Art. 2 Purpose of the agreement and types of collaboration*

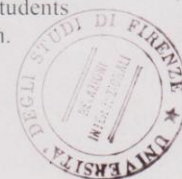
The form of cooperation specified in art.1, based on strictly observed criteria of equality and mutual interests, includes the following activities:

- 1) Exchange visits of members of teaching and research staff. Visits are intended to promote seminars, courses (according to the rules of practice), conferences, lectures, to carry out joint research project, to discuss experiences in fields of common interest, the rights and duties of these activities should be specified in additional addendum to this agreement.
- 2) Circulation of publications and information on the specific fields of study and research included in this agreement and on any other subject of relevant interest. The intellectual property of these researches must be determined.
- 3) Exchange visits of postgraduate students for periods of study and research.
- 4) Student exchange for attending courses, participating in professional training and specialization programs or other educational activities.
- 5) Exchange visits of members of technical or administrative staff when considered a profitable experience.

Promoting administrative units can specify in specific protocols the different forms to implement these exchanges (i.e. visitor's length of stay and obligations, application selection procedure, detailed explanation of the fields for which the agreement is stipulated, etc.)

The universities subscribing this agreement intend to encourage student mobility according to criteria of reciprocity. The host institution will make available to host students their didactical facilities and tutorial services.

Upon the approval of the appropriate administrative bodies, exchange students will be given academic credits for the work done at the foreign institution.





Universities participating in this exchange agree that no registration or any other fee will be imposed, except those fees required by the law of the country, in case that is included in the mutual governmental cultural agreements and executive programs.

#### *Art. 3- Supporting Activities*

Administrative bodies subscribing this agreement will exchange all relevant information – by supplying catalogues and other materials – to promote great and mutual knowledge on their institutional structure and organization.

In conformity with laws and regulations of their respective countries, subscribers of this agreement will provide to visitors from the partner institution All possible assistance and access to facilities to enable them to carry out the activities agreed upon.

#### *ART. 4- Insurance Procedure*

Visitors sent by one University to the other must have both medical and accident insurance and a proper insurance policy for damages they might cause to a third party while carrying out activities under the terms of this agreement. Either their home institution, according to its own regulations, may provide this or it may be directly set up by the interested person, through the stipulation of a policy with an insurance agency guaranteeing the above-mentioned risks. The host university will be free from any responsibility to provide to its foreign guests schemes of medical and accident insurance as well as insurance policy for damages they might cause to a third party while carrying out activities under the terms of this agreement.

#### *ART. 5- Funding*

Each of the subscribing parties commits itself, through its participating units, to search funds to carry out the activities foreseen by this agreement.

As a general rule, the institution sending its members to the foreign partner is responsible for covering their travel expenses, while room and board are covered by the host university. The administrative units of the University of Florence participating in the exchange will be in charge of covering travel expenses to their members and room and board to their foreign visitors. If institutional funds are not available for these purposes, student and staff mobility will be possible;





in this case, exchange visitors will be directly responsible to fully cover their own expenses for travel, room and board, without any charge for the two Universities.

*ART. 6- Coordinators*

The following Coordinators, appointed by each University, will promote the implementation of the activities foreseen by the agreement, initially:

University of Florence  
Prof. Carlo Alberto Garzonio  
Faculty of Architecture

University of Damascus  
Prof. Yasser AL Jabi  
Faculty of Architecture

*Art. 7 – Duration of the Agreement*

1- Should any disputes arise; the problem will be entrusted to a board of arbiters made of one member selected by each partner and one chosen by common consent, after the approval of state council in Syrian Arab republic.

2- The present agreement will become effective from the date of its ratification, and will be valid for one year; it will then be tacitly renewed from year to year, for 5 years, unless one of the two parties gives notice of termination of the agreement at least six months before expiration, and this termination should not affect the current activities and programs.

3- All the articles of this agreement should be subject to laws and regulations in force in the two countries.

This agreement is to be drawn up and signed in both Italian and English, and ARABIC.

Damascus 30/9/2008

Italy 24/NOV. 2008

Prof. Dr. Wael Mualla

Damascus University

President

Prof. Dr. Augusto Marinelli

University of Florence

President

