



**Cooperation Agreement
between
Damascus University
and
Ghent University**

In accordance with a mutual desire to promote international academic, cultural and scientific exchange, Ghent University (Belgium) and Damascus University (Syria) enter into this Cooperation Agreement.

The Rectors of both institutions, for the purpose of furthering cooperation through both educational and academic exchanges, hereby affirm their intent to promote such exchanges as will be of mutual benefit for their respective institutions. Educational and academic exchanges are considered here to include but not be limited to:

- Development of mutually beneficial academic programs and courses.
- Exchange of academic staff and research assistants for the main purpose of teaching.
- Reciprocal assistance for visiting academic staff and students.
- Exchange of students for study and research.
- Exchange of documentation, pedagogical information and research materials.

Both parties decide by mutual consent that all the financial agreements will have to be negotiated and will depend on the availability of funds.

A. Student exchange:

Both parties hereby agree that:

1. The exchange of students and staff shall be administered through the International Relations Office at Ghent and the International Relations Office at Damascus University.



2. Each university may in principle nominate not more than two graduate or doctoral students for exchange each year.
3. However, this number may vary in any given year provided a balance of exchanges is attained over the term of the agreement.
4. While nominees will normally be accepted for exchange by the host university, the host university reserves the right to review the applications of nominees and make final decisions concerning admission. In accordance with national laws in the host university.
5. A selected student may study for a period of 3 to 12 months at the host university.
6. The traveling expenses of students could be supported by the delegating university; lodging and living expenses could be supported by the host university.
7. Exchange students will not pay examination, matriculation and tuition fees to the host institution, but shall pay these to the home institution as per the usual regulations of the home institution.
8. Any academic credit received during the course of the program at the host institution may be transferred to the home institution in accordance with the appropriate regulations of the home institution.
9. Each host institution will issue appropriate documents for each accepted nominee for the issuance of a student visa in accordance with current national laws; it is the responsibility of each individual student to obtain a student visa in their home country in a timely manner.
10. The student will provide his or her own health, accident, repatriation and civil liability insurance.



B. Staff exchange:

Both parties hereby agree that:

1. Both parties agree to support the exchange during each academic year of maximum 2 professors or members of scientific staff from each university.
2. However, this number may vary in any given year provided a balance of exchanges is attained over the term of the agreement.
3. The travel expenses of staff members of the partner universities could be supported by the home university. The expenses for accommodation and subsistence could be supported by the host University for a Maximum Pool of time equivalent to 3 months per academic year.
4. Each host institution will issue appropriate documents for each visiting staff member for the issuance of a visa, in accordance with current national laws. It is the responsibility of each individual staff member to obtain a visa in their home country in a timely manner.

For Ghent University, Prof. Roland Verhé (Faculty of Bioscience Engineering) and Prof. Guy Haegeman (Faculty of Sciences) will be the responsible academic staff members of the cooperation Agreement. For Damascus University, this will be Prof. Dr Vice-Dean for Scientific affairs, Faculty of Agriculture.

This cooperation Agreement as well as succeeding plans concerning the concrete proposals of cooperation, shall be effective after approval of the terms of the agreement by the appropriate authorities of the universities, it will remain in effect for a period of 5 years. Thereafter, it will be reviewed and can be amended or renewed as agreed by both parties.

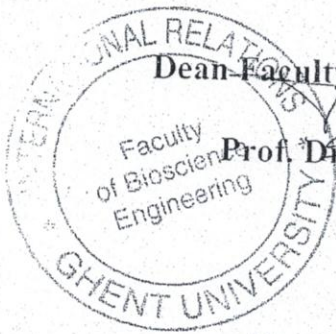
All correspondence related to this agreement will be in English language.



Each partner can terminate the agreement through a formal request submitted in writing with at least six months notice. On going activities should not be affected.

This agreement is writing in four original copies two in Arabic and two in English. with equal validity for all.

Damascus 18/ 8 /2008.



Dean Faculty of bioscience Engineering

Prof. Dr. H. Van Langenhove

Dean Faculty of Agriculture

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For Ghent university



Prof. Dr. Paul Van Cauwenberge
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17/09/2008

For Damascus University

prof. Dr. Wael Mualla
Rector

