



**Agreement for scientific and educational cooperation between
The Faculty of Human Sciences - Damascus University,
Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic
And
The Faculty of Arts -The University of Groningen,
The Kingdom of the Netherlands**

The Damascus University, represented by **Prof. Dr. Waell Mualla** , President of Damascus University, and the University of Groningen, represented by **Prof. Dr. Sibrand Poppema**, President, hereby enter into an agreement for scientific and educational co-operation.

This agreement is to provide for the exchange of academic staff members, scholars, students, academic information and materials in the field of media and culture and journalism studies.

The cooperation is established in the belief that the research and educational processes at both universities would be enhanced and that mutual understanding between their respective staff, scholars and students would be increased by the establishment of exchange programmes.

1. The universities agree to promote the following exchange programmes, based on their respective academic and educational needs:

1. Exchange of scholars and academic staff members.
2. Exchange of undergraduate and graduate students
3. Exchange of academic information and materials.
4. Joint research activities and publications.
5. Participation in conferences and academic meetings.
6. Other academic exchanges that both universities agree to.

2. The implementation of each exchange programme based on this agreement shall be separately negotiated and agreed upon in writing by both universities. Any such exchange programme



entered into, as outlined above, will form appendixes to this basic agreement.

3. The exchange programmes as mentioned in paragraph 2 are not intended to be legally binding documents. They are meant to describe the nature and suggest the guide lines of the exchange programme. Nothing, therefore, shall diminish the full autonomy of either institution, nor will any constraints be imposed by either upon the other carrying 2 out the agreement.
4. Both universities shall designate a programme officer to develop and co-ordinate the specific programmes agreed upon.
5. Both universities agree to promote the exchange of scholars and academic staff members mentioned in paragraph 1, section 1, under the following conditions:
 - a. Exchange of students and academic staff members is intended to offer the opportunity to attend conferences, workshops and/or to have scientific debates with colleagues.
 - b. Each side shall annually send up to 2 scholars or academic staff members and accept up to 2 scholars or academic staff members from the other side as visiting staff.
 - c. Accommodation for visiting scholars or academic staff members is provided by the host institution free of charge for the period of stay agreed in advance. Travel costs and any other costs are covered by the sending university and/or the visiting scholars or academic staff members themselves.
6. Both universities agree to promote the exchange of students mentioned in paragraph 1, section 2, under the following conditions:
 - a- The exchange of students is conducted in accordance with the educational programs of each university and is jointly financed in accordance with the applicable regulations of each university. The exchange of students must comply with the mutual treatment principle.
 - b. The duration of each student exchange shall be one month.
 - c- Each side shall annually send up to 2 students and accept up to 2 students from the other side as exchange students to do research in the fields of media and culture.
The actual number of students to be exchanged as well as the research topics shall be agreed upon in advance by both sides, in accordance with paragraph 2.
 - d- The working language of the student exchange will be English.



- e- Prior to the arrival of the visiting students of Damascus University, the University of Groningen will establish a student research team consisting of the visiting students, an equal number of students of the University of Groningen and a teacher of the University of Groningen to supervise the student researches during the student exchange. The visiting students and the students and the teacher of the University of Groningen must be fluent in English.
- f. Prior to the arrival of the visiting students of the University of Groningen, Damascus University will establish a student research team consisting of the visiting students, an equal number of students of Damascus University and a teacher of Damascus University to supervise the student researches during the student exchange. The visiting students and the students and the teacher of Damascus University must be fluent in English.
- g. Students shall remain registered as a full-time degree student at her/his home university and be registered as an exchange student at the host institution. As exchange students, they are entitled to the same facilities offered to regular students of the host university.
- h. Each home university shall assume full responsibility for its assessment and selection of qualified candidates, satisfying the admission requirements of the host university. English language proficiency must be guaranteed by the home university. The host university shall respect the home university's nomination unless extraordinary circumstances arise. The selection process shall consist of stringent evaluation of the student's previous academic record, motivation, and overall potential to succeed in an international academic environment.
- i- The host university will provide information regarding the visiting students' academic performance during their term of study at the host university. The home university shall be responsible for the award of credits based on the work undertaken and evaluated by the host university.
- j .Lodging for the visiting students will be provided by the host university free of charge during the period of stay agreed in advance. Travel costs and any other costs are covered



by the sending university and/or the students themselves.

k. Students will have access to the destination country's health services and/or local hospitals. The home universities will inform their students that all hospital and other medical expenses are the responsibility of the student, and that each student must purchase an insurance to cover medical contingencies while in the host country.

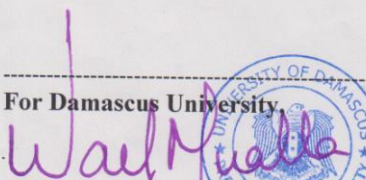
7. This agreement is drawn up in English and Arabic , and each university obtains an authentic, identical signed document. The agreement shall enter into force from the date it is authorized by the legal representatives and remain valid for a period of two 5 years.

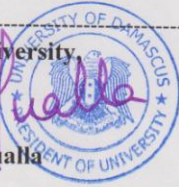
The agreement is subject to renewal after termination of this period if both sides agree.

The termination of this agreement shall not affect the implementation of the activities and programs carried out in the frame work of the agreement.

8. The terms of this agreement may be amended at any time by mutual agreement of both universities in a written appendix to this basic agreement. It is also understood that either university may terminate the agreement at any time, giving the other university no less than 6 months notice of its wish to terminate, in order to avoid any possible inconvenience to the other university.

For Damascus University


Prof. Dr. Wael Mualla
President



For the University of Groningen,



Prof. Dr. Sibrand Poppema
President

university of
 groningen

Syria,

The Netherlands,