

**Memorandum of Understanding for a  
Dual Master's Degree Program (DMDP)  
Between  
Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham (AMRITA)  
And  
The University of Louisiana at Lafayette (UL LAFAYETTE)**

*AMRITA VISHWA VIDYAPEETHAM (AMRITA UNIVERSITY) and the UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE (UL LAFAYETTE) agree to establish a Dual Master's Degree Program (DMDP) whereby students of the two universities may earn two Masters' degrees, one from the School of Engineering in AMRITA and one from the Center for Advanced Computer Studies (CACCS) at UL Lafayette, by transferring course credits between the two universities.*

For good and valuable consideration, and intending to be legally bound hereby, the parties agree as follows:

### **Clause 1: Objective**

The objectives of the program are:

- (1) To encourage collaborative research and intellectual interaction between AMRITA and UL LAFAYETTE through the activities of the participating students and their advisors; and
- (2) To enhance human-resource development at both institutions through sharing the strengths and resources available to both universities.

### **Clause 2: Administrative Structure**

- (1) DMDP will be administered by the Dean of Graduate School at UL LAFAYETTE and Dean of Post Graduate Program (PGP) at AMRITA.
- (2) The two Deans will be assisted by a permanent, Joint Management Committee (JMC), consisting of participating faculty from the each of the universities. The size and composition of the JMC will be determined by the two Deans.

### **Clause 3: Participating Degrees**

This agreement pertains to the following degrees from the respective universities:

#### **AMRITA**

- (1) M.Tech degrees in various specialization offered by the School of Engineering at AMRITA; a sixty-four (64) credit degree program, including a twenty-two (22) credit thesis.
- (2) M.S. by Research degrees in various specialization offered by the School of Engineering at AMRITA; a forty (40) credit degree program, including a ten (10) credit thesis.

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## **UL LAFAYETTE**

- (1) M.S. in Computer Science or M.S. in Computer Engineering offered by the Center for Advanced Computer Studies (CACCS) at UL LAFAYETTE; a thirty (30) credit program, including a six (6) credit thesis.
- (2) CACS also offers MS degrees without thesis. The non-thesis MS degrees are not included in the DMDP.

### **Clause 4: Student Status**

- (1) Students who participate in DMDP must be registered at their respective home university on a full-time basis and must complete a minimum number of credit hours before they may apply to the partner university (see details below).
- (2) Students applying to the partner university must apply as international students and must be admitted under the normal academic requirements, financial standards, application deadlines, and language requirements established for international students at each respective university and within each College or Department.
- (3) Students applying to the partner university shall abide by the immigration regulations of the country of the host university, and will be subject to the laws of the national, state, and local jurisdictions of the host university.
- (4) Students applying to the partner university shall be responsible for their own tuition at that university, and will have the same options of applying for graduate assistantships or financial assistance, as do resident graduate students, subject to applicable laws and policies governing the partner university.
- (5) Students applying to the partner university shall be responsible for any special course, recreation, or lab fees at the partner university.
- (6) Students applying to the partner university shall be responsible for necessary health insurance and medical costs.
- (7) Students applying to the partner university shall be responsible for their own living, travel, and personal expenses.
- (8) Students seeking award of a Masters degree must meet or be in compliance with all of the generally applicable rules and regulations for degree recipients of each institution, in addition to the program-specific requirements.

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### **Clause 5: Dual Masters Degree Program**

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This clause establishes the special credit transfer program between AMRITA and UL LAFAYETTE pursuant to which a student may earn two Master's degrees – one from each institution – by transferring credits from one institution to another. GRADUATE SCHOOL

- (1) To earn an M. Tech from AMRITA, which requires sixty-four (64) credits, a student:
  - a. Must perform at least forty-four (44) credits of work at AMRITA, and
  - b. Transfer up to twenty (20) credits from UL LAFAYETTE.
- (2) To earn an M.S. from UL LAFAYETTE, which requires thirty (30) credits, a student:
  - a. Must perform at least twenty (20) credits of work at UL LAFAYETTE, and

- b. Transfer up to ten (10) credits from AMRITA.
- (3) Within the above credit requirement, the student must complete either a MS Thesis at UL LAFAYETTE or a Dissertation at AMRITA.

## **Clause 6: Application/Transfer of Credit**

This clause defines regulations that apply to the application or transfer of credits toward a Master's degree. The institution where the course was taken is termed the "originating institution" and the institution to which the credits are transferred is termed the "receiving institution."

- (1) Course must have carried graduate credit at the originating institution.
- (2) Courses may also be transferred from other accredited institutions; and in such case, the acceptance of those credits should meet the requirements of the receiving institution.
- (3) Student must have obtained a grade of "B" or better in order to transfer its credit.
- (4) Course must be approved by the graduate unit /PGP Committee of the respective Universities.
- (5) Course must be listed on Application for Candidacy form of originating institution and be accepted towards the applicable degree of the institution.
- (6) All credit transfers must have final approval from the Dean of Graduate Studies/PGP Committee of the respective University.
- (7) The six (6) credits Thesis at UL LAFAYETTE and sixteen (16) credits Dissertation at AMRITA are the minimum credit requirements for these research courses. These courses require that a student produce a professionally edited scholarly document. To complete the requirement it may become necessary for the student to take extra Thesis or Project credits beyond the six (6) or ten (10) credits required. These extra credits will not be counted towards the minimum credits required for completing the degree requirement.

## **Clause 7: Thesis/Dissertation Committee**

This clause describes the requirements for the composition of the committee to examine Thesis at UL LAFAYETTE and Dissertation at AMRITA.

- (1) The Thesis/Dissertation committee membership and size will be determined by the institution where the Thesis/Dissertation work is conducted.
- (2) The committee in (1) may have one examiner from the other institution. This examiner must satisfy the credentialing requirements of the institution at which the Thesis/Dissertation is conducted.

## **Clause 8: Credit-hour Equivalence**

- (1) For coursework completed at either University, one (1) credit hour at UL LAFAYETTE is equivalent to one (1) credit hour at AMRITA.

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- (2) For thesis/project work completed at either University, six (6) credits of Thesis and six (6) credits of Independent study awarded at UL LAFAYETTE will be considered equivalent to twenty-two (22) credits of Dissertation at AMRITA.

### **Clause 9: Program Administration**

- (1) This program will be administered by a permanent, joint management committee whose members are selected from the participating faculty from UL LAFAYETTE and AMRITA.
- (2) The members of this committee will be appointed by the heads of the respective units – CACS at UL LAFAYETTE and School of Engineering at AMRITA.
- (3) The members of this committee will develop detailed program guidelines that will include, amongst other things, a mapping of courses between the two participating units and additional requirements, if any, for their respective degrees (beyond the minimum credit requirement).

### **Clause 10: Program Review**

UL LAFAYETTE and AMRITA agree to review the progress of this joint program and suggest modifications to this agreement (if needed) two (2) years from the date of signing this agreement. Such review shall be repeated periodically every two (2) years thereafter. Any changes shall be approved by the relevant college dean, the Graduate Council/Dean, and the Provost at UL LAFAYETTE and by the Vice Chancellor at AMRITA.

### **Clause 11: Additional Terms**

- (1) This agreement shall be signed in duplicate. Each Department will keep a copy of the document.
- (2) This agreement, which shall come into effect as of the date of its signing by the legal representatives of the two institutions, will be valid for a period of five (5) years and can be renewed or modified in writing upon mutual consent at any time.
- (3) This agreement may be terminated by either party upon sixty (60) days written notice. However, students already admitted to the partner university will not be affected and will be allowed to complete their studies, subject to applicable institutional policies governing the time period for degree completion.
- (4) Nothing in this agreement, express or implied, is intended to confer any rights, remedies, claims or interests upon a person not a party to this agreement.

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Both institutions declare the following addresses and contact persons for the purposes of the present agreement:


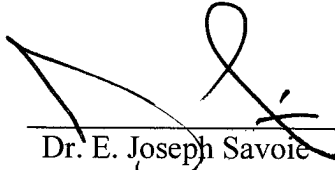
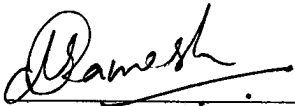
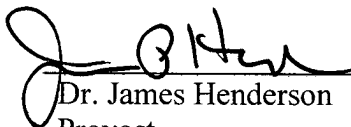

**FOR AMRITA UNIVERSITY**

Office of the Vice  
Chancellor  
**Address:** Ettimadai, Coimbatore,  
Tamilnadu 641105, India  
**Person:** Dr. Venkat Rangan  
**Tel:** +91(422)-2685888  
**Fax:** +91(422)268502  
**Email:** [vcoffice@amrita.edu](mailto:vcoffice@amrita.edu)  
**Web:** <http://www.amrita.edu>

**FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA  
AT LAFAYETTE**

Office of President  
**Address:** 104 University Circle, Lafayette,  
LA 70503, USA  
**Person:** Dr. E. Joseph Savoie  
**Tel:** 337-482-6203  
**Fax:** 337-482-5914  
**Email:** [president@louisiana.edu](mailto:president@louisiana.edu)  
**Web:** <http://www.louisiana.edu>

In accordance, we sign two (2) copies of this Agreement, all contents being identical and equally valid. Both parties shall retain one copy of each.

 Date: 5/05/2015	 Date: _____
Dr. Venkat P. Rangan Vice Chancellor Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham	Dr. E. Joseph Savoie President University of Louisiana at Lafayette
 Date: 13/5/15	 Date: 4/1/15
Dr. Maneesha V. Ramesh Director, Amrita Center for International Programs	Dr. James Henderson Provost University of Louisiana at Lafayette
	 Date: 4/1/15
	Dr. Mary Farmer-Kaiser Dean, Graduate School University of Louisiana at Lafayette

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