



SPECIFIC AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNIVERSIDAD DE CUENCA AND THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO FOR THE PROGRAM OF DOCTORAL STUDIES

We hereby submit the present Specific Agreement for the implementation of the Program of Doctoral Studies, which will be referred to as the “*UC/UNM PROGRAM*,” the Universidad de Cuenca – Ecuador, hereinafter referred to as “UC”, represented by its Rector, Ing. Fabián Carrasco Castro, and the Regents of the University of New Mexico – USA, on behalf of its Latin American and Iberian Institute, hereinafter referred to as “UNM”, represented by its Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Chaouki T. Abdallah, in accordance with the following antecedents and clauses:

ANTECEDENTS

- A. That in accordance with the terms of the Agreement of Cultural and Academic Cooperation between the Universidad de Cuenca and the Regents of the University of New Mexico, both parties wish to define the basis of the present Specific Agreement for the UC/UNM Program.
- B. Therefore, both parties wish to execute the present Specific Agreement for the UC/UNM Program.

CLAUSES

The Latin American and Iberian Institute (LAI) agrees to:

- 1.1 Work with the Office of the Provost, Graduate Studies, the Global Education Office (GEO), International Admissions, the Center for English Language and American Culture (CELAC), participating departments, and faculty to make sure that the necessary changes and exceptions are in place to facilitate the successful admission of UC candidates, and to ensure the success of the UC faculty admitted to UNM doctoral programs. In particular, UC faculty will be physically present at UNM for a minimum of 2 years, after which they will return to UC to continue their studies from abroad. The distance education strategies may include online courses, and/or visits of UNM faculty to teach courses at the UC.
- 1.2 Communicate with UC candidates to answer their questions and to assist in the application process to UNM.



- 1.3 Provide advisement and support services to the UC candidates. This will include welcoming them at the airport, helping them find housing, navigating UNM processes, and directing them to all the services and support structures UNM offers to maximize the probability of their successful completion of doctoral studies.
- 1.4 Cover additional course compensation for UNM faculty teaching courses created for UC faculty both in New Mexico and in Cuenca. In the event that UNM faculty travel to Cuenca, UNM will pay their roundtrip airfare from Albuquerque to Cuenca.
- 1.5 Provide additional compensation for UNM faculty that serve as PhD advisors to UC students, at the time they agree to advise the student, as well as at the time the student successfully defends their dissertation.
- 1.6 Provide additional financial support to UNM deans, departments, and faculty that participate in the UC/UNM Program.
- 1.7 Support faculty hires across UNM, and hire and maintain adequate LAII administrative staff so as to ensure ideal capacity and the success of the UC/UNM Program.

The Universidad de Cuenca agrees to:

- 2.1 Provide UC faculty with the facilities to study English when they so require in order to apply to doctoral programs at UNM.
- 2.2 Provide support to UC faculty who are enrolled as doctoral students at UNM during their entire PhD program at UNM, according to the table of economic assistance to faculty who are studying a doctoral degree, which has been approved by the University Council: To date, the table includes: 1) leave with remuneration during their period of presence away from the university; 2) 60% of the cost of their educational expenses at UNM, which include tuition, course fees, books & supplies, and mandatory health insurance¹; 3) Economic assistance in the amount of a one-time payment of \$3,000 when they leave the country to participate in the program; and 4) Upon their return to U Cuenca, they will be allotted a certain number of hours toward the development of their dissertation, currently set at 15 hours per week, during the entire time they are working on their dissertation. Modifications to the standards regarding leave and remunerations are exclusively the jurisdiction of the University Council of U Cuenca.

¹ Health insurance is mandatory only during the period of presence at UNM.



- 2.3 Provide support services to UNM faculty who travel to UC, and cover per diem while they are in Ecuador (UNM will pay their additional salaries and roundtrip airfare from Albuquerque to Cuenca).

FINANCING

- 3.1 UC recognizes that the cost of tuition and fees is dictated by the UNM Board of Regents, and that such costs (including any discount(s) thereof) are subject to change.
- 3.2 Table 1 represents the estimated costs each semester, based on the costs established for academic year 2015-2016², for a full-time PhD student to attend the University of New Mexico while pursuing their general requirements (the first 2-3 years). This calculation is based on 12-18 credit hours per semester (4-6 courses), which is considered full-time. After satisfying the general requirements the student becomes a PhD Candidate. Tuition & fees for a PhD candidate (taking only dissertation hours), is currently at \$594 per semester. The total estimated cost of studies, taking into consideration 2 years of tuition, fees, books & supplies, and insurance, plus 3 years of dissertation, will equal \$53, 472.16.

Table 1: Estimated Costs per Semester - Period of Presence	
Tuition	\$10,301.04
Fees	\$825.00
Books & Supplies	\$500.00
Health Insurance	\$851.00
Total	\$12,477.04

- 3.3 Each semester the University of New Mexico will submit one invoice directly to UC, which shall reflect 60% of the tuition, fees, books & supplies, and health insurance incurred by all UC faculty enrolled at UNM during any given semester.
- 3.4 The Universidad de Cuenca will pay the invoice directly to the UNM bursar, within 30 working days of issue.

² The cost of tuition and fees can be found here: <http://bursar.unm.edu/tuition-info/tuition-and-fee-rates.html>.



TERMS OF AGREEMENT

- 4.1 UC faculty will apply to UNM as international graduate students (unless they are US citizens or permanent residents) and must be admitted to each faculty or department under the academic requirements, financial rules, deadlines, immigration requirements, and language requirements established for international students. UC faculty shall be responsible for any special course fees, recreational fees, or special laboratory fees at UNM.
- 4.2 UC faculty who are admitted to doctoral programs at UNM will enroll in classes while they are physically present at UNM for 2 years, including summer semesters, and according to the requirements established by each academic department. Some programs may require additional periods of presence at UNM, especially if it is necessary to perform research in laboratories and/or using specialized machinery that is housed at UNM.

In general a doctorate consists of 2-3 years of general requirements, comprised of approximately 16 courses plus comprehensive exams. Academic departments may approve transfer of credits from courses taken at the Masters level depending on the topics covered, the level of the course, the grade received, and how recently the course was taken. In such cases, time and costs can be shortened considerably.

After satisfying the general requirements, the student becomes a PhD candidate and then spends 2-5 years doing research culminating in a return visit to UNM to defend their dissertation.

- 4.3 This agreement will become effective upon signing by both parties and shall automatically renew for successive terms of five (5) years each, unless terminated in writing as provided for in this agreement.
- 4.4 This agreement may be terminated at any time by either institution, provided that the institution wishing to terminate the agreement provides notice in writing of its intention at least six (6) months prior to the termination date.
- 4.5 The parties shall sign four (4) duplicate copies of this Specific Agreement, two (2) in English and two (2) in Spanish, all contents being identical and equally valid. Both parties shall retain one fully executed original of the agreement in each language.
- 4.6 All notices shall be in writing and shall be directed to the following individuals, who are the coordinators for the Program:



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FOR THE UNIVERSIDAD DE CUENCA:

Fabián Carrasco Castro
Rector

Date: October 12th / 2015

FOR THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO:

Dr. Chaouki T. Abdallah
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Date: 11/24/2015

David W. Harris
Executive Vice President for Administration
COO & CFO

Date: 11/29/15