



AMRITA
VISHWA VIDYAPEETHAM
UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN AMRITA VISHWA VIDYAPEETHAM (AMRITA UNIVERSITY), INDIA, AND THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO (UNM), USA, THROUGH ITS DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING (ECE)

AMRITA VISHWA VIDYAPEETHAM (AMRITA UNIVERSITY), represented by its Vice Chancellor, Dr. Venkat P. Rangan, and THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO (UNM), represented by its Provost – Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Chaouki T. Abdallah, through the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE), agree to establish **collaborative graduate-degree programs** as described in the present document through the following clauses and conditions:

AMRITA VISHWA VIDYAPEETHAM (AMRITA UNIVERSITY) and the Regents of the University of New Mexico (UNM) through the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) agree to establish **collaborative graduate-degree programs** as described in the present document through the following clauses and conditions:

Clause 1: Objective

The purpose of this agreement is to establish **collaborative Masters and PhD Programs** that facilitate students that are registered on a full-time basis at UNM in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering or at AMRITA in the School of Engineering to pursue dual Masters or PhD degrees. The objectives of the program are:

- (1) To encourage collaborative research and intellectual interaction between AMRITA and UNM 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: Student Status

- (1) Students who participate in the Joint International Program must be registered at their home universities 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.
- (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. Students who meet the qualification requirements for the AMIGO International Scholarship and who apply, obtain, and maintain the scholarship, based on merit and academic achievement, may be eligible to pay in-state tuition at UNM, provided they meet all requirements.
- (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 or PhD 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.

Clause 3: Masters Degree Program

The Masters degree program at the ECE department of UNM and at the School of Engineering at AMRITA are offered as part of the collaborative graduate program between UNM and AMRITA.

Academic Requirements for the Joint Masters Program

The following set of specific requirements apply for a student wishing to pursue an engineering Masters degree at UNM and at AMRITA:

Joint Masters Degree Categories:

A. AMRITA Student - Earns an MTech from AMRITA and an MS from UNM:

- (1) An MTech from AMRITA requires 64 credits comprising of:
32 credits (AMRITA), 4 credits (Minor Project), 10 credits (Project), and 18 credits transferred from UNM.
- (2) An MS from UNM requires 30 credits comprising of:
12 credits (UNM), 6 credits (Thesis) and 12 credits transferred from AMRITA.

B. UNM Student - Earns an MS from AMRITA and an MS from UNM

- (1) An MS from UNM requires 30 credits comprising of:
12 credits (UNM), 6 credits (Thesis), and 12 credits transferred from AMRITA.
- (2) MS from AMRITA requires 40 credits comprising of :
12 credits (AMRITA), 10 credits (Project), and 18 credits transferred from UNM.

Clause 4: PhD Degree Program

PhD-degree programs at ECE and at AMRITA are offered as part of the **collaborative graduate-degree programs** between UNM and AMRITA.

Academic Requirements for the Joint PhD Program

All students applying to the Joint PhD program are required to have a Masters Degree. Each student, who completes all the requirements of the joint PhD program will be given the following option with regard to the award of the PhD degree: the student may choose to receive the degree from either UNM or Amrita.

The following two sets of specific requirements apply for a student wishing to pursue PhD degrees at UNM or at AMRITA:

Entry to the Joint PhD Program

- (1) All PhD degree requirements by respective institutions must be fulfilled (according to UNM's handbook and UNM-ECE's graduate handbook, as well as AMRITA's PhD degree guidelines.) These requirements include but are not limited to the following:
 - a. Students must possess a Masters degree in Electrical Engineering, Electronics Engineering, Computer Engineering or Computer Science, or an acceptably related field, from an institution of higher education that is

- accredited by the relevant accrediting body and recognized by both UNM and AMRITA.
- b. This program is a separate program from the Joint Masters Program at UNM and AMRITA.
 - c. Students may register either at AMRITA or at UNM but may transfer between the two institutions at times specified later in this document.
 - d. Passing the PhD qualifying exams taken at UNM and the PhD entry exams taken at AMRITA. (The student must pass both exams.)
 - e. Completion of a PhD. dissertation (including dissertation defense).
 - f. Students from UNM and AMRITA will write their dissertations in English.

PhD Degree Program Categories:

A. AMRITA Students (registered at AMRITA) transfers to UNM

Students can transfer to UNM after completion of courses and Comprehensive Exams, but before Qualifying Exam.

B. UNM Students (registered at UNM) transfers to AMRITA

Students can transfer to AMRITA after completion of requirements but prior to Qualifying Exam.

Notes and clarifications:

- a. A student's dissertation committee must include at least one faculty member from UNM and at least one faculty member from AMRITA.
- b. Each student must fulfill the TOEFL and GRE requirements mandated by the UNM Admissions Office and the appropriate UNM department, respectively.
- c. Each student admitted to this joint-degree program is subjected to the usual financial-support requirements by each institution. Moreover, each department may elect, upon request by the student, to offer financial aid to an admitted student on a case-by-case basis and according to each department's selection criteria for offering financial aid.
- d. If the student is registered at one location and decides to obtain his/her PhD at the alternate university, the original advisor is required to be on the final defense committee and the balance of courses credits /Qualifying Exam/ Comprehensive Exam requirements (if any) need to be completed. The final Thesis will be submitted at the university from which the final degree is sought.

Clause 5: Application/Transfer of Credit

The following regulations apply to the application or transfer of credits toward a doctoral degree:

- (1) Course must have carried graduate credit.
- (2) Course work must be from an accredited institution.
- (3) Student must have obtained a grade of "B" or better.
- (4) Course must be approved by the doctoral Committee of Studies and the graduate unit /PGP Committee of the respective Universities.
- (5) Course must be listed on Application for Candidacy form.
- (6) All courses must have final approval from the Dean of Graduate Studies/PGP Committee of the respective University.
- (7) A student who was admitted by both UNM and AMRITA UNIVERSITY becomes a JOINT-DEGREE candidate. They will be eligible for a PhD degree from their choice of one of the two universities or they may be eligible for a joint PhD Degree from both universities, subject to the approval of the competent accreditation agencies (in India the competent accreditation agency is UGC, New Delhi.)

Clause 6: Credit-hour equivalence

For coursework completed at either University, one credit hour at UNM is equivalent to one credit hour at AMRITA.

For thesis/project work completed, six credit units awarded at UNM will be considered equivalent to ten credit units at AMRITA.

Clause 7: Program Administration.

This program will be administered by a permanent, joint management committee whose members are selected from the participating faculty from UNM and AMRITA.

Clause 8: Program Review

UNM 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 Faculty Senate Graduate Committee, and the Provost at UNM and by the Vice Chancellor at AMRITA.

Clause 9: 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.
- (3) This agreement may be terminated by either party upon 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.

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

FOR AMRITA UNIVERSITY

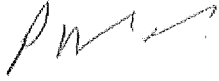
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FOR THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

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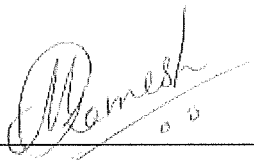
In accordance, we sign two (2) copies of this Agreement, all contents being identical and equally valid. Both parties shall retain one copy of each.

FOR AMRITA UNIVERSITY



Dr. Venkat P. Rangan
Vice Chancellor

Date: 4/5/12



Dr. Maneesha Sudheer
Director, Amrita Center for International
Committee

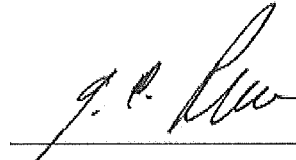
Date: 4/5/12

**FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEW MEXICO**



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

Date: July 5/2012



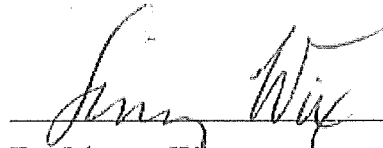
Professor Gruia-Catalin Roman
Dean, UNM School of Engineering
Programs

Date: 10 Aug. 2012



Dr. Luke Lester
Chair, Electrical and Computer
Engineering

Date: Aug. 13, 2012



Dr. Linney Wix
Chair, Faculty Senate Graduate
Committee

Date: September 6/2012

