

# INTERUNIVERSITY COOPERATION AGREEMENT

## Between

Université libre de Bruxelles, hereafter ULB  
represented by Prof. Philippe VINCKE, Rector  
Avenue FD Roosevelt, 50 – CP 130, B-1050, Bruxelles, Belgium

## and

Tomsk State University, hereafter TSU  
Represented by Prof. Georgy V. MAYER, Rector  
Lenin Prospekt 36, 634050 Tomsk, Russia

## Preamble

Taking into account the cooperation agreement signed between ULB and TSU on March 16, 2006 concerning educational and scientific cooperation between the two institutions;

Taking into account the common interest of the two institutions to deepen their cooperation in the field of teaching European Union Studies;

Taking into account their respective involvement in education/research international networks, participation into TEMPUS projects and networks, enhancement of PhD training in EU studies, as well as ULB's involvement into EU-funded Network of Excellence GARNET;

ULB and TSU decide to establish and to realize an educational programme of Double Master Degree in European Studies.

## Art. 1 – Objective of the Agreement

The agreement envisages that TSU and ULB establish and implement a Double Master Degree in European Studies (DMDEUS) which aims to deliver two diplomas to students:

- Diploma of Tomsk State University “Магистр в области международных отношений” (specialization “Европейские исследования”);
- Diploma of the Université libre de Bruxelles “Master en Études européennes” (finalité Politique ou Histoire et Cultures de l'Europe).

The 2-year DMDEUS is organised in such a way that Year 1 is taught at TSU (according to the programme of the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the MA in International Relations) and Year 2 is taught at ULB (according to the choice of the student within the programme of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the MA in European Studies, either “finalité Histoire et Cultures de l'Europe” or “finalité Politique”).

The two institutions agree that the academic organization of the DMDEUS programme will be in accordance with national regulations and mutual recognition of academic practices.

Curricula are attached to the present agreement. They can be updated annually, according to art. 8 of the present agreement.

## **Art. 2 – Administration of the Agreement**

The parties, on mutual consent, establish a joint management committee, on the basis of parity, for the implementation of the agreement. At ULB, the relevant academic body is the Institut d'études européennes (IEE). At TSU, the relevant academic body is the Department of World Politics of the Faculty of History.

Each university appoints an academic coordinator for the cooperation agreement, as well as an administrative coordinator.

## **Art. 3– Selection of candidates for the DMDEUS programme**

Selection of candidates is made in accordance with the entrance rules of each university.

The applicants for the DMDEUS programme should have a BA or a Specialist (“Специалист”) academic degree in Social Sciences.

The applicants for the DMDEUS shall be proficient in the French, English and Russian languages and they are normally expected to have a solid background in European history or International Relations.

A specific language test is administered by TSU, before the beginning of the DMDEUS, in order to prove proficiency in French and English languages as a pre-condition to be made eligible for the DMDEUS.

For the selection of the candidates to the DMDEUS, a joint selection Committee is set up and is composed of no less than 4 people on a basis of parity. The students are selected on the following criteria: academic excellence, language proficiency, and BA or Specialist thesis grade. The number of students selected for the DMDEUS programme is defined on a basis of mutual agreement.

At the end of the first year, no later than the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, the joint selection Committee decides the definitive list of students who will pursue their studies in Brussels, for the DMDEUS 2<sup>nd</sup> year.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> year DMDEUS students are studying at the ULB according to the curriculum in force there and are subject to all duties and rules of that institution. ULB and TSU shall produce a short Handbook on studying at the ULB for DMDEUS students to be provided during their first year.

## **Art. 4 – Tuition Fees**

Tuition policies of the respective institutions are defined according to national regulations. The two institutions commit themselves to inform each other about the tuition policies in place.

The ULB commits itself to waive complementary tuition fees for 3 TSU students each year (they have to pay only the legal fees, equivalent to Belgian students). Other DMDEUS students will be asked to pay the fees applicable to their status (legal fees plus complementary fees according to the nationality of the student). TSU commits itself to welcome each year an equal number of exchange Students from ULB, in the framework of the cooperation agreement between the two institutions, signed on March 16, 2006 and mentioned in the preamble.

ULB is committed to help DMDEUS students to find accommodation in Brussels.

TSU and ULB will support student applications for individual grants and are expected to contribute to the establishment of a joint fund for student mobility.



## **Art 5 – Academic Rules**

All teaching and assessment methods, academic rules, attestation, deliberations of grades and dissertation marking are organized jointly by ULB and TSU (either through mutual recognition or through joint procedures). Both signatories recognise each other's relevant academic bodies (jury for ULB) as responsible for academic decisions.

ULB and TSU use the same scale system for grading DMDEUS students (see annex 2).

If needed, ULB offers the possibility of additional French language courses to DMDEUS students, as well as related ECTS credits.

At ULB, students benefit from the possibility to take a second-chance exam in August/September (second session) if they have failed earlier during the academic year.

## **Art. 6 – Master's Dissertation**

DMDEUS students shall choose an area of research for their MA dissertation according to the selected specialization at ULB. At the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup>-semester of the first year of the DMDEUS, each student proposes a topic of research for the MA dissertation to the relevant TSU academic body. TSU forwards this proposal to the relevant ULB jury at IEE. The topic of dissertation shall be approved jointly by the ULB and TSU academic coordinators. Approval of dissertation topics and appointment of co-supervisors have to be decided jointly by ULB and TSU academic coordinators no later than 31<sup>st</sup> of May of the first year.

Evaluation of the dissertation is done once by a jury composed of 2 ULB professors (including the ULB co-supervisor) and the TSU co-supervisor of the dissertation. The composition of the jury can be increased on a basis of mutual agreement.

The DMDEUS dissertation can be written in French or in English, with the agreement of the co-supervisors. The Dissertation defence may be held in the form of a videoconference. For serious personal reasons and on the recommendation of the DMDEUS co-supervisors a dissertation defence can be moved to the following academic year.

## **Art. 7 - Degree**

On both sides, the diploma supplement gives the list of courses and results and all other legal mentions required. The diploma supplements follow respective national rules.

The two institutions provide the two diplomas as soon as possible in accordance with national regulations. If the student has to take second-chance exams at ULB, the diploma can be delivered only after September 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **Art. 8 – Evaluation, Quality assurance and Revision of the program**

The two partner Universities consult each other when appropriate, but at least once a year, in order to evaluate the program development and quality assurance, to draw up a report about the ongoing initiatives and to provide information about changes in the curricula.

This mechanism of interaction can be revised according to the external and internal conditions of cooperation. TSU and ULB academic coordinators of the DMDEUS shall inform each other of all changes no later than May 31<sup>st</sup> of each academic year. The revisions come into force on agreement of the Parties at the beginning of the following academic year.

ULB and TSU shall endeavour to attract other internationally recognized EU universities for their cooperation, including through participation in an international quality assurance.

#### Art. 9 – Other academic cooperation

ULB and TSU will envisage other types of strengthened academic cooperation, especially through mutual support to their respective 2-year MA degree in International relations and/or European studies.

#### Art. 10 – Controversies

The resolution of any controversy regarding the interpretation and the performance of the present agreement shall be devolved to an arbitration board comprising a member appointed by each university and a third member chosen by mutual consent.

#### Art. 11 – Duration

The present agreement becomes effective on the date of its signature and is valid for a three-year period. Following the initial three-year term, the agreement automatically renews for an additional three-year period, unless one of the parties objects upon written notice. In any case, each party may decide unilaterally to terminate this agreement with one-year prior written notice. Any modification or termination of the agreement shall be carried out without damage against the students already enrolled.

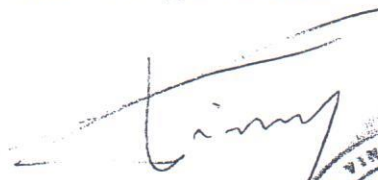
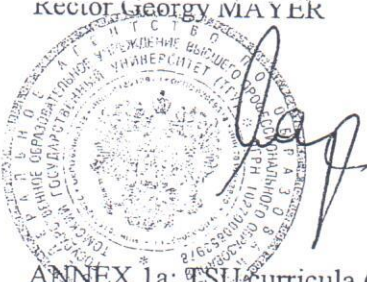
Done in Tomsk and Bruxelles, on May 14 2008 in two originals.

For the Tomsk State University

For the Université Libre de Bruxelles

Ректор Георгий МАЙЕК

Rector Philippe VINCKE



ANNEX 1a: TSU curricula (Master's in International Relations)

ANNEX 1b: ULB curricula (Master en études européennes à finalité histoire et cultures de l'Europe)

ANNEX 1c: ULB curricula (Master en études européennes à finalité politique)

ANNEX 2: Scale of academic grade conversion

ANNEX 3: Cooperation agreement of March 16, 2006