



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
FIRENZE



University
of Economics
in Katowice

**COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR THE MASTER DOUBLE DEGREE PROGRAM
BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORENCE, ITALY
AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS IN KATOWICE, POLAND.**

University of Florence (hereinafter called UNIFI”), represented by its Rector –
Prof.ssa Alessandra Petrucci, residing in Rettorato, Piazza S. Marco, 4, Firenze, Italy.

AND

University of Economics in Katowice (hereinafter called “UEK”), represented by its
Rector – Prof. Celina M. Olszak, Ph.D., D.Sc. residing in Katowice 40-287, ul. 1 Maja
50, Poland.

Preamble

In the spirit of prolific University of Economics in Katowice wish to further strengthen
their ties in accordance with their mutual interests in delivering programs of academic
excellence and cultural diversity. Hence, UNIFI and UEK have decided to enter into this
cooperation agreement for the joint establishment and operation of a double degree
program in the area of finance (hereinafter referred to as the “agreement”).

The agreement shall facilitate auspicious opportunities for the highly qualified students
from both institutions and further enhance their competence, language, cultural and
social skills. The double degree program shall serve as a cornerstone in the study
program portfolios of the 2 partner institutions, positioned as a unique opportunity for
students to study in the area of finance from a truly European perspective.

In this agreement “home institution” refers to the institution at which a student is initially enrolled. “Host institution” denotes the institution, which has agreed to receive a double degree candidate from the home institution.

I. Objectives

This agreement delineates the legal and organizational framework for the double degree program in the area of finance. The double degree program will provide the opportunity to graduate students from both institutions to simultaneously pursue the Master degree from UNIFI and UEK.

Upon successful completion of the double degree program the following degrees shall be awarded by the partner institutions:

- UNIFI: Dottore Magistrale in Finance and Risk Management (LM-16)
- UEK: Magister

II. Admission and Selection of Students

Candidates for the double degree program will be selected by their home institution according to selection criteria jointly defined and agreed upon by UNIFI and UEK. Due to the higher workload compared to the ordinary Master study tracks at the partner institutions, only highly qualified students shall be selected for the double degree program. Each institution has the right to admit up to 5 students per year to the double degree program, unless this number is varied by mutual and written attachment to this agreement.

The host institution shall be granted access to any written application documents and protocols of selection procedures for the double degree program. The host institution has the right to send a representative with advisory status to selection interviews of the home institution for the double degree program. Joint selection interviews by the home institution and the host institution are encouraged.

The double degree candidates must satisfy all admission requirements of the double degree, including language proficiency requirements and good knowledge on Bachelor level of Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Mathematics and Statistics. All double degree candidates must provide evidence of a satisfactory level of English language proficiency Level B2 according to the requirements of the Common European Framework (CEF).

Each institution reserves the right to require double degree candidates to complete the standard enrolment documents and to provide the results of any required entrance examinations. The host institution has the right to not accept a double degree candidate from the home institution for academic rationales or any other substantial reasons.

III. Structure of the Study Program

The intended period of study for the double degree program shall be two years (4 semesters). Double degree students will spend their first year at home institution, the second year at host institution. Mobility students will acquire at the partner University at least 60 ECTS. Full information should be provided to the host institution on the courses that participants have taken at their home institution and vice versa.

Double degree students shall have access to courses and enjoy the same rights and privileges and be subject to the same rules and regulations as the regular graduate students in the corresponding Master study track of the host institution. They shall be registered at the host institution only for the parts of the study program that will be carried out under the responsibility of the host institution. Students admitted for the double degree program shall complete study plan of the programme presented in the Annexes 1 and 2.

IV. Master Thesis

In addition to the mandatory coursework at both institutions, as set forth in the agreement, the double degree student is required to write a Master thesis. The Master thesis is worth 18 ECTS at UNIFI and the “Seminar” is worth 18 ECTS at UEK . The

partner institutions assure the legal and organizational preconditions required for enabling the double degree students to start with the Master thesis in their second study year.

The Master thesis shall be supervised by the faculty member from the university at which the student writes the thesis and reviewed by a faculty member from the partner university, without expenses by the partner universities. UEK students write Master thesis at UNIFI; UNIFI students write Master thesis at UEK. The language of the Master thesis is English. Part of the completion of the Master thesis at UEK and UNIFI is a defence of the thesis. The defence will be conducted in English.

The management process of the preparation of the Master thesis should meet all the legal and academic constraints of the institution at which student writes and defends the Master thesis.

V. Conditions for Obtaining the Double Degree

The double degree shall only be awarded after the student has completed the program by fulfilling the following requirements:

- a. the award of at least 60 ECTS credit points during the 1st year of studies at UNIFI or UEK equivalent to the regulations constituted in this agreement,
- b. the award of at least 60 ECTS (42 ECTS +18 ECTS Seminar for Master Thesis in the case of UNIFI students) during the 2nd year at UEK for the program “Quantitative Asset and Risk Management”, equivalent to the regulations constituted in this agreement,
- c. the award of at least 60 ECTS (42 ECTS +18 ECTS Master Thesis in the case of UEK students) during the 2nd year at UNIFI for the Major “Finance and Risk Management”, equivalent to the regulations constituted in this agreement.

The double degree shall award both the academic degree of the home institution and the corresponding academic degree of the host institution.

Upon completion of the double degree the student shall receive diploma certificates, grade transcripts and diploma supplements in accordance with national regulations.

Each institution shall issue only the certificate and corresponding transcripts of grades for the part of the double degree it is accountable for.

The conversion of grades between both institutions is presented in Annex3.

VI. Program Management

Both parties agree to provide the necessary means, resources and prerequisites to implement and operate the double degree programme as set forth in this agreement.

Each institution ensures that the double degree program proceeds according to a reasonable schematic plan, and that the terms of this agreement are carried out. The partner institutions shall provide support services assisting the incoming double degree students in academic, administrative, organisational and social-cultural issues.

VII. Financial

All students must register and pay tuition and other required fees at their home institution. For UEK students, the regional tax will be paid by the University of Florence.

The host institution will provide incoming double degree students with tuition fee waivers. The students are responsible for paying any other pertinent fees required for regular degree students at each institution, including the administrative fees at UEK and UNIFI.

The institutions are strongly encouraged to acquire third party funding, in particular for providing scholarships to the double degree candidates.

VIII. Insurance

Students will be responsible for arranging and paying the costs for health and travel insurance, and other expenses arising out of the participation in the programme. The

host institution will not have any requirement to provide health or personal damages insurance for the hosted students.

Participants to this exchange programme must be insured, whilst engaging in the activities provided by the present agreement for: accident, third party, public liability, with the host institution being relieved of any such liability. Insurance cover for this risk will be obtained independently by the participants themselves. For health insurance cover, participants will have to pay on their own account according to the laws of the host country. For sundry other eventualities relating to insurance cover, appropriate separate agreements can be stipulated.

IX. Duration, Amendment, Review and Termination of Agreement

This agreement shall be in force from the academic year 2024/2025 and be binding upon the parties for a period of 5 years until the academic year 2028/2029 inclusive. It might be subject to revision and eventually modification or renewal by mutual written agreement after two years.

This agreement may be terminated at the request of either institution, provided such request is made in writing at least 12 months before termination is to become effective. Any termination or non-renewal of the agreement must take into account the rights of students already participating or admitted to the double degree program to complete the parts of the study program, which will be carried out under the responsibility of the host institution.

An evaluation of this agreement will be initiated by both institutions at least 12 months prior to its expiration. The agreement is based on longterm strategic cooperation interests from both institutions. UEK and UNIFI will support and work towards the renewal and extension of this agreement to ascertain the continuation of the double degree program.

This agreement is signed in English (the reference language for the contracting parties).

In witness thereof, the parties below have offered their signatures:

For and on behalf of
UNIVERSITY OF FLORENCE

For and on behalf of
**UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS IN
KATOWICE**

Date: _____

Date: _____

Signature:

Signature:

Prof.ssa Alessandra Petrucci,
Rector

Prof. Celina M. Olszak, Ph.D., D.Sc.
Rector,