

AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION

BETWEEN

**ESCUELA POLITÉCNICA NACIONAL
(Quito, Ecuador)**

AND

**THE UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
(Saskatchewan, Canada)**

ARTICLE I: PREAMBLE

- 1.1 Consistent with the cordial and cooperative bilateral relationship between Canada and Ecuador, and, recognizing the mutual benefits to be gained through academic co-operation and international understanding, the Escuela Politécnica Nacional, (hereinafter referred to as “EPN”) and the University of Saskatchewan enter this Agreement and agree to the following:

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

- 2.1 The purpose of this Agreement is to facilitate and promote co-operation between EPN and the University of Saskatchewan, to provide graduate training and funding support to EPN faculty as they pursue their graduate studies at the University of Saskatchewan.
- 2.2 It is agreed that successful students will contribute to their occupations and communities in Ecuador, and, to a greater understanding and cooperation between the University of Saskatchewan and EPN.
- 2.3 The negotiation of the terms of this agreement and its implementation shall be coordinated through the office of Oficina de Programas y Servicios Internacionales at EPN and through the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (hereinafter referred to as “CGPS”) at the University of Saskatchewan.

ARTICLE III: AREAS OF COLLABORATION

- 3.1 This Agreement covers the recruitment, admission and funding of EPN faculty and staff who will be undertaking their graduate programs at the University of Saskatchewan.
- 3.13.2 Other areas of collaboration and opportunities to cooperate in various academic, research and scholarly endeavors may be identified in the course of consultations between EPN and the CGPS. The specific details of these activities will be articulated and agreed to in separate collaboration agreement(s).
- 3.23.3 EPN students who successfully complete the requirements of their respective graduate programs will be conferred degrees by the University of Saskatchewan.

ARTICLE IV: CANDIDATE SELECTION AND ADMISSION

- 4.1 EPN will be responsible for recommending students from their institution to apply for the appropriate graduate programs at the University of Saskatchewan.
- 4.2 EPN Fellows applying to the University of Saskatchewan under this Agreement must be citizens of Ecuador.
- 4.3 EPN will provide the University of Saskatchewan with their nominees, eligible to apply to the University of Saskatchewan under this Agreement, along with each nominee's supporting documents, nine (9) months in advance of the student's anticipated start date. The supporting documents will include curriculum vitae, official transcripts, most recent English proficiency test and a statement of research interest, along with the field of study to which the student wishes to apply.
- 4.4 It is the right of any faculty member at the University of Saskatchewan to select specific students to supervise. Therefore the CGPS cannot guarantee the admission of any applicant in advance.
- 4.5 The CGPS at the University of Saskatchewan will be responsible for the final selection of EPN Fellows into the graduate programs, in accordance with its standard admission requirements for the relevant program(s).
- 4.6 EPN Fellow applicants must contact the CGPS office responsible for administering this agreement as identified in Article 6.1 and advise that they are applying to the University of Saskatchewan under this Agreement. They will be provided with support, a facilitated referral to a prospective faculty supervisor and guidance in the application process.
- 4.7 EPN Fellow applicants must follow all regular application requirements and admission policies outlined on the University of Saskatchewan's website at <http://www.usask.ca/>, as amended from time to time.
- 4.8 EPN Fellows will meet the normal selection criteria including academic performance and English language requirements of the relevant programs as defined by the University of Saskatchewan.
- 4.9 The CGPS at the University of Saskatchewan may consider a conditional acceptance for an EPN Fellow whose language score does not meet the minimum requirements. In this case, the student will be required to either:
 - 4.9.1 Provide proof of English proficiency, in accordance with CGPS admission policies prior to the date specified in their letter of offer of admission, or
 - 4.9.2 Take the appropriate English courses at the University of Saskatchewan, successfully completing University Preparation II with a 75% prior to starting in their first term of study.
- 4.10 The University of Saskatchewan will use reasonable efforts to ensure that applications to the graduate programs from EPN Fellows will be processed in a timely fashion so that the students will have sufficient time to apply for the appropriate visa documentation.
- 4.11 The CGPS at the University of Saskatchewan will provide all admitted EPN Fellows with a letter of admission and other documents required to assist in obtaining appropriate visa approval.

ARTICLE V: FUNDING MODEL FOR EPN-uSask Partnership

5.1 Funding provided by the University of Saskatchewan

For successful applicants, the University of Saskatchewan will give to EPN Fellows the following support:

- 5.1.1 The University of Saskatchewan will provide a graduate tuition bursary for EPN Fellows entering full-time studies in a Ph.D. degree program. The number of bursaries awarded each year will be dependent upon available funding, and, will be awarded on a competitive basis. Consideration will be given to academic and research merit, as well as the availability of a suitable faculty supervisor.
- 5.1.2 Each Ph.D. tuition bursary will be for up to a maximum of four years.
- 5.1.3 Funding in the second, and if applicable subsequent years, depends on the recipient maintaining continuous registration, and, making satisfactory progress in their graduate program.

5.2 Language support provided by the University of Saskatchewan

For successful applicants, the University of Saskatchewan will give to selected EPN Fellows the following support:

- 5.2.1 All EPN Fellows shall register and attend the GSR 981: Canadian Academic Acculturation and Literacy for International Graduate Students course, and they will be provided with a tuition bursary for the cost of this program.

5.3 Other Student Supports Available

- 5.3.1 EPN Fellows shall be members of the Graduate Students Association and through this membership, they will have access to the supports and services provided by the Association.
- 5.3.2 All EPN Fellows shall complete the GSR 960: Introduction to Ethics and Integrity course at no extra cost.
- 5.3.3 All EPN Fellows who are registered in a Ph.D. program and who have been awarded the uSask-EPN Scholarship shall have access to mentored experiential learning opportunities for developing their professional skills in teaching, research, and other areas.
- 5.3.4 All EPN Fellows will have access to the same supports and student services accorded other uSask graduate students, including but not limited to International Student and Study Abroad Centre, Graduate skills training in writing and teaching and peer mentor program.

5.4 Funding provided by EPN

EPN will provide funding in support of EPN Fellows accepted into the University of Saskatchewan graduate degree programs in accordance with its established funding regulations. The EPN Fellows must use their EPN funding, or other personal resources, to cover the costs of their participation in the program, including:

- 5.4.1 An amount for living expenses and other costs to EPN Fellows registered and attending a Ph.D. program for the full duration of the student's Ph.D. degree program up to a maximum of four (4) years, or

- 5.4.2 The cost of return airfare to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.
- 5.4.3 The Fellow's membership in the Graduate Students Association, including the fees necessary for the extended Health and Dental benefits and the U-Pass, which is a universal bus pass for the Saskatoon Transit System.

ARTICLE VI: ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

- 6.1 Each institution will designate a Program Coordinator for general program administration, which will be outlined in Appendix A of this agreement, and agrees to provide the other with timely notice if a new Program Coordinator is designated to administer the program. The Program Coordinators will be in regular contact with one another, especially in regard to exchange of the details necessary to implement this agreement.
- 6.2 Through this Agreement, EPN recognizes the University of Saskatchewan as a special partner. As such, and in order to advertise this agreement, EPN will provide preferential publicity for the University of Saskatchewan on the EPN website and in other promotional materials. This will include having EPN set links in its website that connect directly to the CGPS's home page at the University of Saskatchewan website. In addition, the CGPS at the University of Saskatchewan will provide a web link to EPN's website on the CGPS's website. Each partner shall refrain from references or descriptions of the program or the partners, which the other identifies as objectionable.
- 6.3 The University of Saskatchewan will provide EPN with printed and electronic information about the university and its programs for use in attracting students to study at the University of Saskatchewan.
- 6.4 Each of EPN and the University of Saskatchewan acknowledge and agree that, for the purpose of fulfilling their respective obligations pursuant to this Agreement, it may be necessary to share personal information of the students taking part in this Agreement. EPN and the University of Saskatchewan mutually covenant and agree that they will treat any such personal information in strict compliance with their local law in that respect, in all ways as if it were the personal information of their own faculty and students.
- 6.5 The Parties recognize that any activity arising from this Agreement that involves running processes of research, training, implementation and evaluation of projects, etc. may involve intellectual property. In such cases, intellectual property rights will be negotiated separately, and in a manner that recognizes the participation and contribution of both parties, as well as the respective policies and regulations in place at each jurisdiction.
- 6.6 Where a problem or dispute arises between the parties they will first seek to resolve that dispute between themselves and will use their best endeavors to settle the problem or dispute by direct negotiation. Where the problem or dispute continues the parties may elect a third party by mutual consent, who shall examine the problem or dispute and provide a recommendation. All expenses incurred in appointing the elected third party shall be shared equally by the parties.

ARTICLE VII: TERM OF THE AGREEMENT

- 7.1 This Agreement shall commence on the date of signing and shall continue for a period of five (5) years. At this time, those students with programs in progress will continue to receive support for

the time periods stipulated in Article V, however no new students will be accepted under this agreement unless the agreement has been extended by mutual consent as per Article 7.5.

- 7.2 Neither Party will incur any financial obligations resulting from the actions of the other Party without a prior agreement in writing to accept specific financial obligations. Any additional agreement pertaining to financial matters will be negotiated separately and will be based upon the availability of funds for each Party.
- 7.3 If the performance of the party's obligations under this Agreement is prevented because of war, natural disasters, strikes, lockouts, blockades or other similar circumstances over which the party could not prevail, and could not reasonably have avoided or overcome, the party which is unable to meet their obligations may be exempt from these as long as the obstacle exists.
- 7.4 Either party may terminate this Agreement with six months written notice. Should this Agreement be terminated, students admitted under the agreement, with programs in progress, will continue to receive support for the time periods stipulated in Article V.
- 7.5 The parties agree to review this Memorandum six months prior to the date of the last signature signed below. This Agreement may be extended by mutual written consent of both parties.

In witness hereof, the duly authorized representatives of each institution agree to the provisions of this agreement

On behalf of Escuela Politécnica Nacional

On behalf of the University of Saskatchewan

Title
Name

Dr. Tony Vannelli
Provost and Vice-President Academic

Date: _____

Date: _____

Name
Title
Date: _____

Dr. Beth Bilson
Interim University Secretary
Date: _____