



## FRAMEWORK COOPERATION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE UNIVERSITY OF MESSINA (ITALY)

AND

THE LEBANESE UNIVERSITY (LEBANON)

The University of Messina - Italy, legally represented by the **Rector, Prof. Salvatore Cuzzocrea**,  
and

The Lebanese University- Lebanon, legally represented by the **President, Prof. Fouad Ayoub**  
hereby "the Parties";

Considering the interest of the Parties to establish a cultural scientific and didactic cooperation in fields of mutual scientific interest;

Considering cultural diversity an incentive, rather than an obstacle, to innovation and international cooperation;

Agree under the following conditions:

### 1st Article

The Parties are committed to promote joint didactic, research and cultural activities as well as scientific exchanges in the areas of mutual interest; to maintain the highest standards of teaching and research; to keep up with academic trends and to share innovations.

### 2nd Article

The cooperation between the Parties may consist in cultural and scientific activities such as:

- Mobility of academics, researchers, technical-administrative staff and students;
- Mobility of Ph.D. students for thesis co-tutorship whose terms and conditions will be defined in specific agreements
- Joint research projects in areas of common interest;
- Exchange of information, scientific works and other scientific and didactic materials of mutual interest;
- Joint initiatives such as seminars, lectures, symposia, etc.;
- Access to IT and research equipments and other facilities of both Institutions.



### 3rd Article

Scientific aims, implementation procedures as well as expected results of each specific cooperation activity will be defined in specific protocols annex to the present framework cooperation agreement.

Within the limits of rules and regulations in force in each country, the Parties are engaged to find the necessary financial means to implement each specific cooperation activity.

### 4th Article

The present framework agreement shall be in force for a period of 5 years from the date of the last signature. Any amendment shall be made in written by the Parties.

The present agreement abrogates and substitutes the agreement in force between the parties signed on 22/09/2016.

At the end of the period of 5 years, the framework cooperation agreement may be renewed in written, unless 6 months before the expiry date one of the Parties notifies to the other Party the decision not to renew it.

Each university may terminate this agreement by giving the other at least a six-month advance written notice of its intention to terminate. The termination shall be without penalty.

### 5th Article

The present framework agreement, is written in English language, in three original copies.

Date

Date

Prof. Salvatore CUZZOCREA

Prof. Fouad AYOUB

  
Rector of the University of Messina,  
Italy

  
President of the Lebanese University,  
Lebanon





**STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMME AGREEMENT**  
**Annex to the Framework Cooperation Agreement**

**BETWEEN**  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF MESSINA (ITALY)**  
**AND**  
**THE LEBANESE UNIVERSITY (LEBANON)**

The **UNIVERSITY OF MESSINA**, legally represented by the **Rector, Prof. Salvatore Cuzzocrea** established under the laws of Italy, official address Piazza S.Pugliatti, n.1 - 98122 Messina, Italy (hereinafter referred to as "**UniME**" or "**Host Institution**");

**AND**

The **LEBANESE UNIVERSITY (LU) - Lebanon**, legally represented by the **President, Prof. Fouad Ayoub** established under the laws of Lebanon, located at the Museum Street – Central Administration – Beirut, Lebanon, B.P: 14/6573 (hereinafter referred to as "**LU**" or "**Home Institution**");

Hereinafter referred as "the Parties"

having signed a Memorandum of Understanding on September 22, 2016, to establish a cultural scientific and didactic cooperation in fields of mutual scientific interest, and under the umbrella of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) Joint Task Force Lebanon – Sector West - currently based on Italian Mechanized "Aosta" Brigade - under the control of the SW Commander, Brigadier General Bruno PISCIOTTA, wish to implement a student exchange scheme [hereinafter referred to as the "**Exchange Programme**"]. The Programme's terms and conditions are set by this Student Exchange Programme Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the "**Agreement**"), taking into account the general interests of the Parties, with a specific focus on students enrolled in the degree courses established in the **LU of Tyre and Bint Jbeil** located in the Sector West under the UNIFIL Area of Operation. This Programme will contribute to support cultural development in this region, strengthen the relations between Italy and Lebanon, and guarantee equal access rights to opportunities and education for the students.

**Art. 1 Scope of the Agreement**

UniME commits to host, on an annual basis, each year 4 students selected and nominated by the LU amongst students enrolled in Degree Courses set in the **Tyre (2 students) and Bint Jbeil (2 students) branches, for a total of 20 students over the period of the Agreement (5 years)**. Selected students can either enrol at UniME Degree courses (hereinafter referred to as "Enrolled students") or take part in a 1-year mobility period at UniME (hereinafter referred to as "Mobility students").

All applications will be agreed in advance between the Parties. The Parties will yearly review and adjust the number of students over the duration of this Agreement. Any variation may only be allowed upon mutual agreement in writing by the Parties.

### **Art. 2 Academic Status of Exchange students and Facilities**

**Enrolled students** will be subject to the same rules and regulations as local students. Each enrolled student will be exempted from the payment of tuition fees at UniME and will be granted free lodging at UniME Halls of Residence for the whole regular duration of the degree program. Any additional benefit may be provided by mutual written agreement between the Parties.

**Mobility students** will remain enrolled as LU students. All mobility students will be subject to the same rules and regulations as UniME enrolled students. A fee waiver policy will be applied, each mobility student will be exempted from the payment of any fee at UniME and will pay his/her regular fees for tuition, registration, admission and any other fees payable to the LU and will receive any benefit from the Host Institution that are available for exchange students. Mobility students will be granted free lodging at UniME Halls of Residence. Any additional benefit may be provided by mutual written agreement between the Parties.

Both Enrolled and Mobility students shall be responsible for their own costs and expenses at UniME including residence permit fee, health insurance, travel expenses, meals and other administrative fees during their study programme.

### **Art. 3 Students Selection**

LU will be in charge of the selection of Students under this agreement, in the frame of a selection procedure agreed with the UniME. Equal opportunities and non discrimination criteria will be guaranteed in the selection procedure. LU will strive to designate only well-qualified students for participation in this Exchange Programme and that the academic background of each exchange student will be coherent with the selected Degree Course at UniME. It is also understood that exchange students must meet language proficiency requirements and any other academic requirements established by UniME.

### **Enrolled Students**

Students willing to enrol at UniME must follow the procedure explained in the "Admission to UNiME" section of UniME International website: <https://international.unime.it/studywith-us/admission-to-unime/>

UniME reserves the right to determine the final selection and admission of each student nominated by LU.

The exchange students must satisfy all admission requirements set by the Italian Law, as well as specific conditions set by UniME, including language proficiency requirement. Enrolled students are required a minimum level of B2, in the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR), of Italian or English depending on the teaching language of the selected Degree course.

Nominations for Enrolled students must be communicated by LU to UniME no later than May, 30

### **Mobility students**

Nominations for mobility students must be communicated by LU to UniME by June, 30 (for the first semester) and November, 30 (for the second semester).

A complete set of application papers for mobility students will normally consist of:

- application forms;
- official copy of applicant's academic transcript;
- Learning Agreement (only for mobility students);
- other supporting letters and academic background materials relevant to specific course selections, as requested during the application process.

Mobility students are required a minimum B1 CEFR level of Italian or English depending on the teaching language of the selected Degree course.

### **Art. 4 Insurance, Entry and Visa requirement**

Each exchange student should purchase his or her own health and accident insurance. Proof of adequate insurance coverage must be submitted to the administrative body of the Host Institution. Neither Party will assume responsibility for expenditure derived from the student illnesses or accidents.

Each exchange student shall ensure that all entry and visa requirements are complied with. Both Parties agree to provide the exchange student with information regarding the pertinent legal provisions of the host country.

### **Art.5 Academic staff mobility**

Both Parties may receive academic staff the other University to carry out joint didactic and/or research activities.

Personal details, date of arrival, didactic and/or research plan of activities are to be communicated to the Host Institution no later than two months before the date scheduled for the beginning of the mobility.

Hosting Institution will assist people taking part to the mobility programme in all necessary ways to carry out their didactic and/or research activities.

#### **Art. 6 Effective Date and Termination of Agreement**

This Agreement shall be effective on and after the date of its signing by the authorized representatives of both Parties and remain in force for a period of five (5) years. Thereafter this Agreement shall be renewed for a further period to be mutually agreed upon in writing by the Parties.

Either Party may terminate this Agreement at any time by serving a written notice to the other Party at least three (3) months before the date of such termination. Notwithstanding such termination, each Party agrees to carry out any negotiations and responsibilities assumed prior to the termination date.

#### **Art.7 Implementation**

Implementation of this Agreement is subject to sufficient funding being procured as appropriate by each Party.

#### **Art. 8 Amendments or Modifications**

No amendments, modifications, supplements, termination or waiver of any provision of this Agreement will be effective unless made in writing and duly signed by both Parties.

#### **Art. 9 Notices**

The Parties designate the following coordinators to facilitate implementation of the exchange programme.

For UniME, the Exchange Programme will be coordinated by:

Prof. Antonino GERMANA', E-mail: [agermana@unime.it](mailto:agermana@unime.it),

For the LU, the Exchange Programme will be coordinated by:

Prof. Zeinab Saad, the General Coordinator of the International Relations Office

E-mail [dri@ul.edu.lb](mailto:dri@ul.edu.lb)

**Art. 10 Confidentiality**

The Parties agree and undertake to keep confidential at all times any information or data that may be exchange, acquired or shared in connection with any programme or activity conducted pursuant to this agreement save where the same is already in public domain.

**Governing Law and Dispute Resolution**

This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Italy.

Dispute, controversy or claim arising out or relating to this Agreement, or the termination of invalidity thereto shall be solved amicably by both parties, failing which either party may take the dispute, controversy or claim to any competent court of law in Italy.

For and on behalf of the  
University of Messina

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Prof. Salvatore CUZZOCREA  
The Rector

\_\_\_\_\_, date: \_\_\_\_\_

For and on behalf of the  
Lebanese University

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Prof. Fouad AYOUB  
President of the Lebanese University



\_\_\_\_\_, date: \_\_\_\_\_