

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MESSINA	
PROT. N.	70603
DEL	01/06/2022
TIT./CL.	III/14 - PARTENZA
CONTRATTI N.	629/2022



Università  
degli Studi di  
Messina



جامعة السلطان قابوس  
Sultan Qaboos University

**LETTER OF AGREEMENT**  
**BETWEEN**  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF MESSINA**  
**ITALY**  
**AND**  
**SULTAN QABOOS UNIVERSITY**  
**SULTANATE OF OMAN**



Università  
degli Studi di  
Messina



جامعة السلطان قابوس  
Sultan Qaboos University

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

*and*

Sultan Qaboos University, legally represented by the Vice Chancellor, HH. Sayyid Dr. Fahad Al-Said

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:

### **1<sup>st</sup> 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.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Article**

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

- mobility of academics, researchers, technical and administrative staff;
- exchange of BSc & MSc 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, research equipment, and other facilities of both Institutions.



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Article

The following are terms to implement the program of student exchange:

1. Each university may send graduate or undergraduate students for up to 2 semesters each year. This number may vary according to demand. The exchange is based on reciprocity, i.e. an equal number of students from each university will be exchanged during the term stipulated by the agreement.
2. The duration of the stay at the host university is limited to one academic year or one semester. Sultan Qaboos University will accept students from University of Messina for one semester or one academic year starting in September and/or January. The University of Messina will accept students from Sultan Qaboos University for one semester or one academic year starting in September and/or February or beginning of March (depending on the Department).
3. The designated (BSc's students) must have completed at least four semesters (two academic years), where the designated (MSc's students) must have completed at least two semesters (one academic year) before beginning the exchange period and have demonstrated superior academic achievement and fluency in the language of instruction. While students nominated by the home university will generally be accepted by the host university, the latter reserves itself the right of final decision concerning the admission of applicants. BSc' applicants from both parties should achieve 2.5 out of 4 Grade Point Average – or equivalent, where the MSc' applicants should achieve 3 out of 4 Grade Point Average – or equivalent.
4. The University of Messina will forward a list of the students nominated for the exchange program including the documents required by Sultan Qaboos University each year by June 30 (for the Fall Semester), November 30 (for the Spring Semester). Sultan Qaboos University will inform the University of Messina of the final decision concerning the admission as soon as possible.
5. Sultan Qaboos University will forward a list of the students nominated for the exchange program including the documents required by the University of Messina each year by April 15 (for the Fall Semester), October 15 (for the Spring Semester). The University of Messina will inform Sultan Qaboos University of the final decision concerning the admission as soon as possible.





6. Each host institution will ensure that students receive the necessary documents for visa purposes. It is the responsibility of the individual student to apply for a visa in time.
7. Any academic credit that the student receives from the host institution is transferable to the home institution in accordance with procedures determined by the home institution.
8. Each exchange student will have to pay tuition fees at their home institution, thus exempting the exchange student from the payment of tuition fees +books, and all other fees related to the study at the host institution.
9. Exchange students enrolled at University of Messina must have comprehensive health insurance valid in Oman for enrolment as a full-time student and for obtaining a residence permit. Exchange students enrolled at Sultan Qaboos University must have comprehensive health insurance valid in Italy for the enrollment period as a full-time student and for obtaining a residence permit.
10. Both universities will assist exchange students in all practical and academic matters, especially those concerning accommodation and academic integration. However, both universities can also provide free accommodation for the host students upon agreement in writing.
11. Each institution reserves the right to dismiss an exchange student at any time if academic or personal misconduct has become apparent. The dismissal of a student shall not abrogate the Letter of Understanding regarding other participants.
12. Upon completion of their studies at the host university, the exchange students must return to their home university. No extension of the stay as exchange student will be authorized unless otherwise agreed upon by the home university.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> 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 Letter of 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.



### 5<sup>th</sup> Article

The present Letter of Agreement shall be in force for a period of **5 years** from the date of the last signature. The Parties shall make any amendment in writing. At the end of the period of 5 years, the Letter of Agreement may be renewed in writing, unless 6 months before the expiry date one of the Parties notifies to the other Party the decision not to renew it.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Article

The Parties shall, in good faith and with a spirit of cooperation, use all reasonable efforts to settle amicably any dispute and/or difference arising out of or in connection with this Letter of Agreement through constructive discussions and negotiations. Any dispute in connection with a particular Exchange Student or Exchange of Academic or Administrative Staff shall be settled in accordance with the Laws of the host country.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Article

The present Letter of Agreement includes two equivalent texts in English language.

Date:

**Prof. Salvatore Cuzzocrea**

  
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**Rector of the University of Messina,  
Italy**

Date: **22/05/22**

**HH. Dr. Fahad Al-Said**

  
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**Vice Chancellor of the Sultan Qaboos University,  
Sultanate of Oman**



