ARISTOTLE
UNIVERSITY OF
THESSALONIKI

SISU
1949

AGREEMENT ON COOPERATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM

between
ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI, Greece
and
SHANGHAI INTERNATIONAL STUDIES UNIVERSITY, China

Within the framework of the General Cooperation Agreement already established between the two parties (initially signed on 12.6.2013), the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, hereafter referred to as AUTh, and the Shanghai International Studies University – China, hereafter referred to as SISU, agree to the implementation of the present specific agreement regarding cooperative education program, in accordance with the legislation in force in the countries of either contracting party.

ARTICLE 1

1.1. Title

It is hereby established a cooperative program entitled "**Shanghai – Thessaloniki Educational Programme in Political Sciences" (STEP in Political Sciences)**

1.2. General objectives

The objective of the **STEP in Political Sciences** is to establish an international partnership to provide study opportunities in AUTh to bachelor students legally enrolled in SISU through joint efforts of both parties and to make a more significant contribution to the future development of China and the development of business relations and cultural exchanges between China and Greece. The program also aims to provide students with a comprehensive education in political sciences and prepare them for careers in academia, government, or international organizations.

1.3. Specific Objectives

The Program provides that SISU undergraduate students in "Greek Studies" may choose to study for the first three years at SISU and for the last academic year at AUTh; after their successful graduation they will receive a BA in Greek Studies from SISU. Following the reception of their BA, they will be able to study for another 18 months* at AUTh to obtain a master's degree from the School of Political Sciences (AUTh).

1.4. Description of the program

SISU students who participate in the Program will complete their courses of higher education in "Greek Studies" for the first three years at SISU, followed by one additional year studying at the School of Political Sciences at AUTh. Upon successful completion of all courses, receipt of a minimum number of credits of 20 ECTS, and meeting requirements for academic degrees, SISU will grant these students a bachelor's degree in "Greek Studies". The students who pass the relevant entry exams are admitted to the MA Programs of the School of Political Science at AUTh to continue their studies for 18 months*. After completing the MA requirements, AUTh will grant the students a Master's degree in the relevant MA of the School.

1.5. Majors or academic fields involved

a. Students participating in the program shall spend the first six semesters of their studies in the Department of Greek Studies at SISU.

b. During the 6th semester of their studies, SISU students who are interested in pursuing studies in political sciences with AUTh may have introductory courses in the field of political sciences (in Shanghai) from professors from AUTh (of short duration but sufficiently frequent) for specific thematic areas– to be agreed upon by both sides. SISU shall cover the incurring costs (travel, accommodation, and allowances) for professors from AUTh.

c. During the 7th and the 8th semesters of their studies, the above mentioned SISU students shall come to AUTh as exchange students and pursue their BA studies in the School of Political Sciences attending specific courses to be determined by the two sides. These courses shall include a compulsory set of courses (20 ECTS) and provide optional courses for students (up to 20 ECTS). When they return to SISU, these students will have these studies recognized by the SISU BA degree.

d. SISU students who have followed the above preparatory courses, have graduated from SISU and wish to further pursue their studies in the School of Political Sciences can apply for one of the MAs offered in this School:

i. Political Analysis
ii. Political Theory
iii. Political History
iv. Governance and Public Administration
v. European studies (offered in English) *

as well as any other MA to be established by the School.

e. Students who sit and pass the relevant entry exams are admitted to the School of Political Sciences at AUTh to continue their studies in one of the School's MAs for 18 months, consisting of two semesters of courses and one semester for the thesis preparation*. After completing the MA requirements, AUTh will issue for the students a degree in the corresponding MA.

*. The MA in European Studies is a double degree offered by AUTh and the University of Turin (Italy). Students attending this MA will spend one year in Thessaloniki and one year in Turin. They may be eligible for Erasmus grants as any other MA student.

1.6. Requirements for admission

Policy 1: SISU students applying to participate in the Program must sit and pass exams and receive credits for courses taken during semesters 7 and 8 in AUTh.

Policy 2: SISU students applying for the Greek-language MA programs in the School of Political Sciences must have at least a B2 level in Greek. Students applying for the English-language MA program have at least a C1 level in English.

Policy 3: All SISU applicants must successfully pass the relevant entry examination procedure before being admitted to the School of Political Sciences at AUTh to pursue a master's degree.

1.7. Number of Students

For the purposes of this Program, the School of Political Sciences shall accept,per year, a maximum of 10 SISU students who succeed in the relevant entry exams to its MA Programs. No single MA concerned shall receive more than 5 students.

1.8. Responsibilities for AUTh and SISU

1.8.1. Responsibilities of AUTh

A. Assistance in admissions and visa application

AUTh will assist SISU students in their admission to this program and their visa application.

B. Assistance in credit transfer

AUTh will provide SISU students with advice and guidelines in the process of credit transfer. AUTh will issue transcripts for these students within one month after the end of the exams of each semester to assist in transferring credits to SISU.

C. Program fee

Each SISU student of the Program who enrolls in one MA of the School of Political Sciences in Greek language as per above, will be charged a program fee of 1000 euros for the duration of his/her studies in the School of Political Sciences. The Program cost will be paid to AUTh and will be the property of this latter. The Program fee will exclusively cover the cost of the program coordination, instructors, venues. Other expenses incurred, such as SISU participants' accommodation, meals, health coverage, transportation from and to the airport, health and civil liability insurance etc. are excluded and it is the participants' own responsibility.

The students of SISU who wish to attend the MA in European Studies will be charged the tuition fees of the program, that are applicable to all MA students.

1.8.2. Responsibilities of SISU

A. Recruitment of bachelor students

SISU students who wish to participate in this Program must take China's National College

Entrance Examination with scores that qualify for bachelor's programs in the province where their permanent residency is.

B. Curricula of the majors involved

SISU is responsible for designing the curricula and teaching the courses in "Greek Studies" for the Program in China. The courses involved will be taught in a serious manner and respect quality standards. The set of the courses that will be offered to undergraduate S students in AUTh will be decided by common agreement by the two parties, following a relevant proposal from the School of Political Sciences.

C. Collection of tuition and fees

SISU will collect tuition and fees from undergraduate SISU students involved in accordance with the standards set up by Chinese educational or political authorities. The tuition fees collected in China are SISU's property. When participating in the Program covered by this agreement, undergraduate SISU students will still need to pay SISU tuition and fees.

ARTICLE 2

Resources for implementing this Agreement may come from either party, depending on budgetary availability. Neither party is obliged to expend any resources in connection with this agreement unless expressly stated otherwise in a specific agreement. Both institutions will undertake all the necessary common actions with the respective national and international authorities to seek financial support for the joint activities under the present agreement.

ARTICLE 3

Force-Majeure Circumstances

A. None of the Parties will be held responsible for not fulfilling the obligations of this Agreement, when such situation is caused by force-majeure circumstances.
B. The following events are considered by this Agreement as force-majeure circumstances: war, acts of terrorism, military operations, revolts, mobilization, strikes at SISU or AUTh enterprises, epidemics, fires, explosions, transport accidents and natural disasters, actions of Government bodies that affect the fulfillment of the Agreement's obligations, and all other events and circumstances that competent jurisdiction admits and declares as force-majeure circumstances.

ARTICLE 4

Both universities may at any time review this Agreement and the actions taken under it and, by mutual agreement, make any necessary modifications to it. Any changes will be

subject to further approval by the relevant university authorities.

A joint committee composed of representatives from both universities will oversee the implementation of the program and resolve any disputes that may arise. The universities will maintain regular communication to ensure the smooth operation of the program.

This Agreement shall enter into force upon signature by representatives of both institutions for a duration of six years. Either institution may terminate this Agreement as of the end of any academic year by giving at least six months' notice. SISU students who will be studying in AUTh at that time will be allowed to complete their studies and the effects of this Agreement will not cease for them as long as allowed by their MA. This Agreement may be extended by consent of both institutions for a further, to be specified, period subject to the further approval of each University's relevant authorities.

Any disputes that may arise in connection with this Agreement will be subject to the jurisdiction of the country in which they arise, and shall be governed by and construed in accordance with laws of the place where the Agreement is performed.

The contracting parties declare that they have read the present document and agreed on all terms and conditions. The agreement issued in two (2) copies in English is signed by both contracting parties.

For the
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

The Rector

Professor Haralambos N. Feidas

Date: March 13, 2025

For the
Shanghai International Studies University

The President

Professor Li Yansong

Date: 02/04/2025