



ARISTOTLE
UNIVERSITY OF
THESSALONIKI



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

Birzeit University [Palestine] [BZU]

AND

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH)

1. Purpose of Memorandum

The purpose of this MOU is to set forth the understandings and intentions of the Parties with regard to these shared and complementary goals. The Parties are entering into this MOU while wishing to maintain their own separate and unique missions and mandates, and their own accountabilities. Nothing in this MOU shall be construed as superseding or interfering in any way with other agreements or contracts entered into between the parties, either prior to or subsequent to the signing of the MOU. The parties further specifically acknowledge that this MOU is not an obligation of funds, nor does it constitute a legally binding commitment by either party.

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is to establish the framework for a collaborative partnership on mutually agreed activities.

It therefore sets out matters of agreed principle and policy, reflecting the spirit of co-operation between BZU and AUTH, The Memorandum will remain current from the date of its signing for a period of five years, unless BZU and AUTH agree to an early termination.

2. Objectives

The objectives of this collaborative partnership resulting from this MOU include:

- Development of a collaborative working relationship between the Parties
- Provision for the exchange of graduate and undergraduate students and/or faculty, and personnel, for the purposes of advanced training and outreach
- Stimulation of cooperative activities, research, and information exchange.
- Collaboration in the development of modules, programmes, award courses, models of accreditation, endorsement of programmes, and/or short training programs, and Quality Assurance activities
- Joint bid writing for research and developmental funding and capacity building

3. Program Focus

The MOU is intended as a broad vehicle to promote programmatic interaction in the form of joint collaboration between BZU and AUTH researchers, faculty as well as joint development of projects that are aligned with the respective missions of the Parties and with benefit to both institutions.

The collaboration may include the following:

- **Joint exchange programs:** These exchanges would include internships, research opportunities, and shadowing opportunities for BZU undergraduate and graduate students. Faculty and senior staff of the Parties will be encouraged to participate in joint research and training interactions, which may include short or long-term exchanges of staff.
- **Joint research programs:** Joint research programs may be formed by researchers from the respective institutions with mutual complementary interests in certain areas.
- **Joint training activities:** Training activities arising from complementary interests may be jointly developed by the Parties.
- **Joint dissemination of information and outreach:** The Parties may disseminate information and enhance the visibility of the work of the collaboration through mutually agreed vehicles including training activities, meetings, and symposia.
- **Joint research projects** for development of evaluative tools that will facilitate development of educational tools.
- **Joint course design,** module development as at point 4 section 2

4. Finances and Resources

The Parties agree that this MOU does not commit either to make specific levels of financial or personnel support or to provide specific office or laboratory space for the programs, and that the provision of such support will be based on available resources and provided in accordance with the policies, rules, regulations, and laws under which the Parties operate. However, the Parties will work jointly and individually to solicit funding for the activities prescribed in this MOU.

5. Principles of Joint Developments

BZU and AUTH agree to:

- ensure that strategic planning for all activities takes place within the annual higher education planning cycle, and at an appropriately senior level within each institution, so enabling the parties to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort;
- ensure that all activity is conducted in an orderly manner, reflects the strengths of the parties, and where possible is complementary, drawing on their respective missions and corporate plans;
- take part in activities that are cost effective and efficient in development and implementation, assure standards and quality, and provide complete, accurate and reliable information to students and stakeholders.

6. Designated Points of Contract

BZU and AUTH will each nominate a senior contact who will be responsible in practice for ensuring effective liaison between them; preserving the underpinning principles outlined here; and maintaining an overall perspective on developments initiated through this Memorandum.

7. Other Parties

- Other parties may be invited at any time to join this informal partnership, participating in a separate Memorandum, by agreement between BZU, AUTH and then current parties.
- This Memorandum does not preclude the parties from entering into other arrangements with different parties for the joint provision of higher education or otherwise, and whether or not legally binding.



8. Effective Date, Duration, Amendments, and Termination

This MOU shall be effective when signed by both Parties. The initial duration of this MOU is established at 5 years from signing. However, the duration may be extended beyond this period if both Parties agree in writing. In addition, this MOU may be amended if both Parties agree in writing. Either party may terminate this MOU at any time upon advance written notice to the other Party with such termination becoming effective upon the date set forth in such written notice.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties, each acting through their duly authorized representatives, have caused this MOU to be signed in their names.

Birzeit University

By:


(Signature)


Name: Prof. Abdullatif Abu Hileh
Title: President

Date: Feb. 1, 2016

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

By:


(Signature)


Name: Prof. Pericles A. Mirkas
Title: Rector

Date: 1-2-2016