

**Agreement**

**Double Degree Master's Program  
in  
International Relations**

**Between**

**Federal State Educational Budgetary Institution of Higher  
Professional Education "Moscow State Institute of International  
Relations (University) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the  
Russian Federation"  
(MGIMO-University)**

**And**

**Freie Universität Berlin (FUB)  
Humboldt University of Berlin (HUB)  
University of Potsdam (UP)**

**concluded**

**in Moscow  
October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

## **I. Preamble**

Federal State Educational Budgetary Institution of Higher Professional Education "Moscow State Institute of International Relations (University) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation" (MGIMO-University) on the one hand and Freie Universität Berlin (FUB), Humboldt University of Berlin (HUB), and University of Potsdam (UP) conclude an updated version of the agreement on the Dual Degree Master's Program in International Relations, based on the MA program «World Politics» at MGIMO-University and on the joint MA program «International Relations» at FUB, HUB, and UP.

The participating universities believe that accelerated globalization leads to profound changes in International Relations. Preparing students for the global job market is a key challenge for contemporary systems of higher education.

Germany and Russia, home countries of the participating universities, both participate in the Bologna Process, a European Union initiative aimed at encouraging international education, exchange programs and hence the mobility of students and teaching staff within a European space of higher education.

MGIMO-University, FUB, HUB, and UP therefore agreed to establish a Double Degree MA Program in International Relations.

## II. The Double Degree MA Program

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### § 1 Scope, Distribution of Competences and General Provisions

- (1.1) This agreement stipulates aim, structure and content of the Double Degree Master's Program in International Relations (PROGRAM) within the framework of the cooperation between Federal State Educational Budgetary Institution of Higher Professional Education "Moscow State Institute of International Relations (University) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation" (MGIMO-University) (RUSSIAN PARTY), Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt University of Berlin, and University of Potsdam (GERMAN PARTY).
- (1.2) The PROGRAM is based on the MA Program «World Politics» at MGIMO-University and on the joint MA Program in «International Relations» at FUB, HUB, and UP.
- (1.3) Both PARTIES have to incorporate this agreement into their respective regulations.
- (1.4) The expression "term" refers to the German and/or Russian academic term ("semester") as applicable.

## **§ 2 Aim of the Program**

The aim of the PROGRAM is to enrich the already existing Master's programs with integrated exchange components and other additional elements, so as to provide

- students with profound knowledge of methods, theories, and empiricism to analyze International Relations from different perspectives and to provide tools, which enable them to conduct selective research,
- an environment advancing international communication skills to students who are entering the increasingly complex sphere of World Politics,
- students with excellent knowledge in three world languages (Russian, German, and English).

## **§ 3 Program Management**

- (3.1) On executive level, both PARTIES appoint one professor per side who is responsible for the monitoring and the implementation of the PROGRAM (academic DIRECTOR).
- (3.2) On working level, both PARTIES appoint one person per side who is responsible for the administration and organization of the PROGRAM (COORDINATOR).
- (3.3) DIRECTORS and COORDINATORS are members of the joint body (DIRECTORATE). The DIRECTORATE is entitled to the monitoring and developing of joint study programs and projects, including MAIR. For details, see the agreement on the DIRECTORATE.

## **§ 4 Student Exchange**

- (4.1) Up to four (4) students proposed by the Russian PARTY and up to four (4) students proposed by the German PARTY are admitted to the PROGRAM each year. The number of participating students can be modified by the DIRECTORATE and must be confirmed by the respective bodies of the RUSSIAN and the GERMAN PARTY.
- (4.2) PROGRAM students will be enrolled at both PARTIES for the entire duration of their studies.
- (4.3) All students are encouraged to attend language courses at their host university in order to improve their language skills according to the regulations at the universities. The courses will be offered free of charge.

## § 5 Admission Criteria and Procedure

- (5.1) As a minimum requirement, candidates for the PROGRAM must have obtained or be about to obtain a Bachelor's Degree. In this case of being about to obtain, the Bachelor-degree has to be proven until the beginning of the second term. Recognition of qualification equivalent to Bachelor's Degree is subject to respective national legislation and respective admission regulations of the PARTIES.
- (5.2) Candidates must have graduated or be about to graduate in a field relevant to International Relations. Each PARTY decides according to respective regulations which fields are considered relevant to International Relations.
- (5.3) To apply for the PROGRAM students have to submit:
- an application form as agreed by the DIRECTORATE,
  - a motivation letter,
  - a curriculum vitae,
- both in English language and in addition to the documents required by the admission regulations of the respective PARTIES.
- (5.4) Applicants for the PROGRAM need to have very good language skills in Russian, German, and English as necessary for their active participation in lectures and seminars and their ability to write academic papers.
- (5.5) Applicants for the PROGRAM entering via MGIMO-University have to submit official language certificates confirming their level of proficiency in English ("Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency" (CPE) or equivalent) and German ("Common European Framework of Reference for Languages" (CEFR) or equivalent), both corresponding to the certified level C 1. Results of the foreign language entrance examinations at MGIMO-University in English and German are taken into account.
- (5.6) Applicants for the PROGRAM entering via the German PARTY have to submit language certificates confirming their level of proficiency in English ("Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency" (CPE) or equivalent) and Russian (UniCert level 3 or equivalent), both corresponding to the certified level C 1. In exceptional cases, a provisional admission can be given to applicants including the condition to prove the level of proficiency in Russian until the end of the first term.
- (5.7) The Russian and the German PARTY conclude the admission by the exchange of letters of confirmation including the list of applicants admitted to the PROGRAM.

## § 6 Composition and Structure

(6.1) The PROGRAM is based on the MA program «World Politics» at MGIMO-UNIVERSITY and on the MA program «International Relations» at FUB, HUB, and UP. It offers multicultural and multilingual education. The duration of the PROGRAM is two years, starting each year with the beginning of fall/winter term. The PROGRAM comprises a total of 120 ECTS points.

(6.2) The brief structure of the PROGRAM is the following:

- Students spend the first and the second term at FUB, HUB, and UP in Germany and the third and fourth term at MGIMO-University in Russia;
- Students do an internship in their host country as part of the PROGRAM;
- Students write their Master Thesis under joint Russian-German supervision;
- Students have the Defence of their Master's Thesis in front of a joint German-Russian examination commission.

(6.3) The PROGRAM consists of the following special components:

- Internship in the host country (11 ECTS);
- Defence of the Master's Thesis before of a joint examination commission (4 ECTS).

(6.4) Internship in the Host Country (11 ECTS)

(6.4.1) The internship is spent in the host country of the partner university at a representation or company relevant to the field of International Relations/World Politics.

(6.4.2) Organizing an adequate position is part of the student's individual responsibility. Both PARTIES assist students in finding an adequate internship position.

(6.4.3) PROGRAM students write a report on their internship of approximately 3.000 words and submit it to both, the Russian and the German COORDINATOR.

(6.5) Defence of the Master's Thesis (4 ECTS)

The Defence of the Master's Thesis (Master's Defence) takes place in front of a joint Russian-German examination commission (s. § 10).

## § 7 Course

(7.1) PROGRAM students spend the first and the second term at FUB, HUB, and UP. The total amount of courses and other academic activities corresponds to an equivalent of 60 ECTS. The course of the PROGRAM reflects the study and examination regulations (Studien- und Prüfungsordnung) of the MA program «International Relations» as well as the special components mentioned above.

(7.1.1) The course consists of the following obligatory components:

- Module «International Institutions and Transnational Politics»:  
2 courses, 10 ECTS
- Module «International Economic Relations and Political Economy»:  
2 courses, 10 ECTS
- Module «Specialization»:  
1 course, 3 ECTS
- Module «Methods»:  
2 courses, 6 ECTS
- Internship + Report: 11 ECTS

(7.1.2) The course includes an elective component. Students have to choose two out of the three following elective components with a total amount of 20 ECTS:

- Module «Transformation, Regional Studies and Comparative Politics»:  
2 courses, 10 ECTS
- Module «European Union Studies»:  
2 courses, 10 ECTS
- Module «International Conflicts, Security and Peace»:  
2 courses, 10 ECTS

(7.2) PROGRAM students spend the third and the fourth term at MGIMO-University. The total amount of courses and academic examinations corresponds to an equivalent of 60 ECTS. The course of the PROGRAM reflects the study and examination regulations of the MA program «World Politics» as well as the special components mentioned above.

(7.2.1) The course consists of the following obligatory components:

- Module « World Politics/Compulsory Courses»:  
4 courses, 13 ECTS  
Interdisciplinary State Examination, 5 ECTS
- Module «Foreign Language»:  
1 course, 3 ECTS  
Foreign Language State Examination, 3 ECTS
- Module «Master's Preparation»:  
Master's Thesis Preparation, 9 ECTS  
Master's Thesis, 17 ECTS  
Master's Thesis Defence, 4 ECTS

- (7.2.2) The course includes an elective component. Students have to choose two courses out of the following elective components with a total amount of 6 ECTS:
- Module «Applied Analysis in International Relations»:  
1 course, 3 ECTS
  - Module «Economic Aspects and Legal Regulation of International Relations»:  
1 course, 3 ECTS

## **§ 8 Master's Examinations**

- (8.1) The Master's Examinations, obligatory to all PROGRAM students, consist of the Foreign language State Exam, the Final Interdisciplinary Exam, and the Module «Master's Preparation».
- (8.2) PROGRAM students register for the Master's Examinations according to the regulations of the home university.
- (8.3) Students receive grades for all mentioned examinations including a grade both for the Master's Thesis and Defence of the Master's Thesis. The final grade for the Master's Thesis is the arithmetic average-grade for the Master's Thesis and the Master's Defence.

## **§ 9 Master's Thesis**

- (9.1) PROGRAM students write the Master's Thesis under joint Russian-German supervision. The Russian and the German supervisor ensure exchange between each other.
- (9.2) The length of the Master's Thesis is approximately 20.000 words to be written in English within four months.
- (9.3) No later than by the date of the deadline, the thesis has to be submitted to both supervisors for review. The supervisors submit their reviews to the COORDINATORS at least two days before the date of the Master's Defence.
- (9.4) The grade for the Master's Thesis is the arithmetic average-grade of the two supervisors, one from the Russian and one from the German PARTY.
- (9.5) In case of failing, students may rewrite Master's Thesis twice during a period not exceeding five years.

## **§ 10 Defence of the Master's Thesis**

- (10.1) The final examination of the PROGRAM is the Defence of the Master's Thesis (Master's Defence), obligatory to all participants of the PROGRAM. The Master's Defence takes place after the submission of the Master's Thesis and the review by both supervisors. The supervisors inform the students about the grade of the Master's Thesis no later than three days before the Master's Defence takes place.
- (10.2) Students have their Master's Defence in front of a joint Russian-German commission. The joint commission consists of the two supervisors, one from the Russian and one from the German PARTY, and one additional professor either from the Russian or the German PARTY who specializes in a field closely related to the subject of the Master's Thesis.
- (10.3) The duration of the Master's Defence is 30 minutes. The examinee presents his or her Master's Thesis (10 minutes). Thereafter the members of the joint commission comment on the Master's Thesis and ask questions.
- (10.4) The grade for the Master's Defence is the arithmetic average-grade of the members of the joint commission. The grade is to be found in absence of the examinee.
- (10.5) In case of failing the Master's Defence, students are allowed to take two more Master's Defences during a period not exceeding five years.

## **§ 11 Grading**

- (11.1) Students receive grades for assignments according to the study and examination regulations at the respective universities, i.e. during their studies at the three German universities according to German standards and during their studies at MGIMO-University according to Russian standards.
- (11.2) As for the Master's Thesis and the Master's Defence, students enrolled via the German PARTY are graded according to German standards and students enrolled via MGIMO-University are graded according to Russian standards.
- (11.3) The conversion of grades (Russian-German) operates according to a joint conversion-table (s. appendix).

## **§ 12 MA Degree Requirements and Mutual Recognition of Courses and Exams**

- (12.1) The PROGRAM is completed after successful fulfilment of all the PROGRAM requirements including the submission and defence of the Master's Thesis, regularly after the fourth term.
- (12.2) The examination boards of both PARTIES carry out mutual recognition of courses, exams and other PROGRAM components and take a decision on the conferral of graduation documents for all PROGRAM graduates.

## **§ 13 Graduation Documents**

- (13.1) Graduates receive graduation documents from both, the Russian and the German PARTY. The MA graduation documents of the German PARTY consist of:
- MA Diploma,
  - MA Diploma Supplement,
  - MA Certificate,
  - MA Transcript.
- The MA graduation documents of the Russian PARTY consist of:
- MA Diploma,
  - MA Transcript,
  - MA European Diploma Supplement.
- (13.2) Both PARTIES submit the graduation documents to the graduates after successful completion of the PROGRAM. The MA graduation documents refer to the respective documents of the other PARTY.

## **§ 14 Terms**

- (14.1) This agreement becomes effective after the joint signature of the official representative of the Russian and the German PARTY.
- (14.2) The agreement is valid unless adjusted or disposed by the PARTIES.
- (14.3) Adjustments in the structure and course of the PROGRAM are binding for students starting in the fall/winter term 2011/2012.
- (14.4) Students with an earlier admission to the PROGRAM will be guaranteed completing the PROGRAM according to the requirements of the former study and examination regulations stipulated in the former agreement.

**§ 15 Joint Signature**

This agreement is binding for both PARTIES as the legal basis of the Double Degree Master's Program in International Relations.

**For the contracting PARTIES**

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Prof. Dr. Klaus Segbers

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Prof. Dr. Anatoly Torkunov

## Appendix

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### (1) Grading System/Conversion of Grades

German Grade	Russian Grade
1,0	99-100%
1,1	97-98%
1,2	95-96%
1,3	93-94%
1,4	91-92%
1,5	90%
1,6	89%
1,7	88%
1,8	87%
1,9	86%
2,0	85%
2,1	84%
2,2	83%
2,3	82%
2,4	81%
2,5	80%
2,6	79%
2,7	78%
2,8	77%
2,9	76%
3,0	75%
3,1	74%
3,2	72-73%
3,3	70-71%
3,4	68-69%
3,5	67%
3,6	66%
3,7	65%
3,8	63-64%
3,9	61-62%
4,0	60%
> 4,0	< 60%

## (2) Exemplary Study Plan

### First Study Year at FUB, HUB, UP

Module	Number	ECTS
<b>Obligatory</b>		
«International Institutions and Transnational Politics»	2 courses	10 ECTS
«International Economic Relations and Political Economy»	2 courses	10 ECTS
«Specialization»	1 course	3 ECTS
«Methods»	2 courses	6 ECTS
Internship	6 weeks	11 ECTS
<b>Electives<sup>1</sup></b>		
«Transformation, Regional Studies and Comparative Politics»	2 courses	(10 ECTS)
«European Union Studies»	2 courses	(10 ECTS)
«International Conflicts, Security and Peace»	2 courses	(10 ECTS)
	<u>12 courses + internship</u>	<u>60 ECTS</u>

### Second Study Year at MGIMO-UNIVERSITY

Module	Number	ECTS
<b>Obligatory</b>		
« World Politics/Compulsory Courses»	4 courses + State Examination	18
«Foreign Language»	1 course + State Examination	6
«Master's Preparation»	1 course MA Thesis MA Defence	30
<b>Electives<sup>2</sup></b>		
« World Politics/Elective Courses»	2 courses	6
	<u>8 courses + MA Examinations</u>	<u>60 ECTS</u>

<sup>1</sup> Students choose two out of the three modules:  
«Transformation, Regional Studies and Comparative Politics»,  
«European Union Studies»,  
«International Conflicts, Security and Peace».  
They receive for both modules a total amount of 20 ECTS.

<sup>2</sup> Students choose two courses out of the modules:  
«Applied Analysis in International Relations»  
«Economic Aspects and Legal Regulation of International Relations»