



Office of Executive Vice President for
Academic Affairs and Provost

August 11, 2020

Dr. Belle S. Wheelan, President
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
Commission on Colleges
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, GA 30033-4097

Dear Dr. Wheelan:

This letter serves as notification to the Southern Association of Colleges and School Commission on Colleges of two new dual degree programs being undertaken by the College of Information and Communication. The University of South Carolina, in partnership with National Chengchi University, will offer two dual graduate degrees, effective Fall 2020.

Contact information for both parties to the agreement is listed as follows:

For University of South Carolina
Bob Caslen
President
University of South Carolina – Columbia
206 Osborne Administration Building
Columbia, SC 29208

For National Chengchi University
Li-Hsin Kuo
Dean
No. 64, Section 2,
Zhinan Road, Wenshan District
Taipei City, Taiwan 116

Upon completion of the program, students will earn either a Master of Arts (MA) in Journalism and Mass Communications or a Master of Mass Communications (MMC) in Journalism and Mass Communications from the University of South Carolina - Columbia (USC), and an International Master's in International Communication Studies from the National Chengchi University. Students must meet the degree requirements of each institution and each institution will award a separate degree. The curriculum will be collaboratively supervised between the two institutions. No changes are being made to curriculum, admissions or other policies. This degree has been approved by the USC Board of Trustees and the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education.

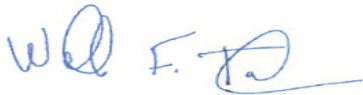
The University of South Carolina is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award graduate degrees. National Chengchi University is not accredited by SACS Commission on Colleges and the accreditation of

University of South Carolina does not extend to or include National Chengchi University or its students. Further, although University of South Carolina agrees to accept certain course work from National Chengchi University to be applied toward an award from University of South Carolina, that course work may not be accepted by other colleges or universities in transfer, even if it appears on a transcript from University of South Carolina. The decision to accept course work in transfer from any institution is made by the institution considering the acceptance of credits or course work.

We do not anticipate any new costs associated with the two dual degree programs. The signed Memorandum of Understanding and contact information for the program representative at National Chengchi University is attached.

Please let us know if you have any questions regarding this notification.

Sincerely,



William F. Tate IV
Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost

Enclosure

WFT/TH:ks

C: Sabrina Andrews, Executive Director of Institutional Research and Assessment
Trena Houpp, Interim Director of Academic Programs
Donald Miles, Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Accreditation

**Memorandum of Understanding
On
Dual Master's Degree Program**

Between

**National Chengchi University
College of Communication
Taipei, Taiwan**

And

**University of South Carolina
School of Journalism and Mass Communications
College of Information and Communications
Columbia, South Carolina, USA**

1. Objectives and Definitions

The goal of this Memorandum of Understanding is to establish a dual master's degree course of study between National Chengchi University (hereafter referred to as NCCU), College of Communication, Taipei, Taiwan and the University of South Carolina (here after referred to as UofSC), School of Journalism and Mass Communications within the College of Information and Communications, Columbia SC, USA. For purposes of the agreement, the institutions have agreed to refer to the course of study as a "dual master's degree program," which recognizes that two distinct degrees, one given by each institution, are components of the program. Each institution confers its own degree for work done to meet the graduation requirements for the specific degree of that institution.

The dual degree program will give students the opportunity to acquire the Master of Arts (MA) from NCCU and either the Master of Mass Communications (MMC) or Master of Arts (MA) from UofSC.

NCCU will deliver a minimum of 12 credit hour requirements and UofSC will deliver 24 (MMC) or 18 (MA) credit hour requirements for their respective program, designed to meet all curriculum requirements of both institutions.

The main objective of the program is to develop the skills of international and strategic communications. Furthermore, it is meant as a unique chance for students to study from a truly international perspective.

2. Curriculum

2.1 General Principles

The general structure of the dual degree program is for NCCU students to study at UofSC for either 24 (MMC) or 18 (MA) credit hours, with the remaining portion of the program taught at NCCU. UofSC students will study at NCCU for 12 (MA) credit hours, with the remaining portion of the program taught at UofSC. The total minimum credit hours for the dual degree program are either 36 (MMC) or 32 (MA). NCCU students would spend their first year at NCCU and UofSC students will spend their first year at UofSC. Then the students will spend their third and/or fourth semester(s) at the partner university.

The course requirements for each degree must be fulfilled. Each institution will be the sole judge of whether a student has completed the requirement for the degree that it awards. Each institution will be the sole judge of whether or not a student has met any progression requirements for its degree. Each institution may change the requirements for their degree according to their own governance process and give notification to the partner institution and to the students. If a student does not meet the requirements for the award of one's institution's degree, the other institution reserves the right to award its own degree to the student.

The Office of Academic Affairs at NCCU approves applications for graduation upon completion of all degree requirements. At UofSC, the Dean of the Graduate School approves applications for graduation upon completion of all degree requirements.

2.2 Recognition of Course Work and Credit Transfer

Recognition of course work will be based on the transcripts of records provided by each partner institution according to the Grading System of each school. Students are required to sign a transcript release form as part of their participation in the program, allowing the Registrar to release their transcripts.

3. Selection and Admission of Students

Each institution will exercise their best effort to enroll the students into the dual degree program. Students must meet the admission criteria of both institutions to obtain the admission of the dual degree program. There will be a separate screening process done by the admission committee of each university.

From the UofSC perspective, requirements for admission to the program conform to the general regulations of the UofSC Graduate School and the accreditation standards of the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications. From the NCCU perspective, requirements for admission to the program conform to the regulations of the College of Communication, NCCU.

Candidates will be evaluated on the strength of their application and supporting documents, including GRE scores, professional experience and academic and professional recommendations. Candidates must have a sound knowledge of English, evidenced by a TOFEL, IELTS, or equivalent score, consistent with the standards acceptable to the UofSC Graduate School. An applicant whose native language is English or that has graduated from a degree program taught in English is waived from this requirement.

4. Rules and Regulations

Students from each institution studying under the dual degree agreement shall be subject to the same rights and privileges as well as rules and regulations as local students at each university. Students must obey, and comply with, the rules and regulations of both institutions (NCCU and UofSC) during their time in the dual degree program.

5. Financial Issues

During their studies at the partner university, students must register with the partner university and pay for the tuition and all applicable fees. Students' financial obligations with their home university during the years of studying abroad will conform to the general regulations of each university.

Students are responsible for the costs of student travel, travel visas, books and educational supplies, transportation, accommodation, living expenses, and appropriate health insurance. Students are responsible for obtaining adequate health insurance for their entire studies, as required by the school, which they are attending.

6. Program and Quality Management

Both institutions agree to exercise their best effort to provide the necessary means, faculty, resources and prerequisites to implement and operate the dual degree program.

NCCU and UofSC shall provide support services assisting the incoming dual degree students in academic, administrative, organizational and socio-cultural issues.

7. Duration, Amendment, Review and Termination of the Agreement

The agreement shall be effective upon approval by both institutions and shall remain in effect for an initial period of 5 years, beginning August 2020. It may be amended by written agreement signed by both institutions. Changes to the dual degree program must not affect students already enrolled, unless the changes are advantageous to the students.

Either institution may terminate this agreement by giving at least 12 months' written notice. In the event of termination, students who are enrolled and already have been selected to participate in the double degree program must have the opportunity to complete it. An evaluation of this agreement will be initiated by both institutions at least 12 months prior to its expiration.

The agreement is based on long-term strategic cooperation interests from both institutions. NCCU and UofSC will support and work towards the renewal and extension of this agreement to ascertain the continuation of the dual degree program. The agreement will be automatically renewed for 3 additional years unless either party gives the other written notice of termination at least 1 year prior to the contract expiration date.

8. Force Majeure

Neither partner institution shall be liable for failure to perform its obligations under this agreement if such failure results from circumstances which could not have been contemplated and which are beyond the partner institution's reasonable control.

9. Dispute Settlement

Both partner institutions agree to amicably resolve any disputes arising from the agreement in accordance with institutional policies and governmental regulations of each partner's institution and government.

10. Intellectual Property

The parties convene that this Agreement does not grant NCCU or UofSC any license of use or rights over the intellectual property of the other party. The use of trademarks and/or denominations representative of either party is strictly prohibited without the owner's written consent. Each institution does authorize the partner institution to use its name and logo for purposes related exclusively to promoting the dual degree program.

Both parties agree to comply with NCCU and UofSC's existing and future policies regarding intellectual property and copyright. Both Parties will notify to the other any policy changes.

For any work created by the faculty and students within the scope of this relationship, each party will retain a perpetual, irrevocable, royalty free, world wide right and license under such copyright to use, reproduce and exploit the copyrighted work as though each institution were the owner of such copyright as prepared by its students and faculty, respectively. Joint ownership, as documented, will apply for that work which is jointly created.

11. Accreditation Disclaimer Statement

UofSC is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS) to award Bachelor, Master, and Doctoral degrees. NCCU is not accredited by SACS Commission on Colleges and the accreditation of UofSC does not extend to or include NCCU or its students. Further, although UofSC agrees to accept certain course work from NCCU to be applied toward an award from UofSC, that course work may not be accepted by other colleges or universities in transfer, even if it appears on a transcript from UofSC. The decision to accept course work in transfer from any institution is made by the institution considering the acceptance of credits or course work.

Signatures

National Chengchi University

University of South Carolina



Dr. Lin, Jih-Syuan
Director, International Master's Program in
International Communication Studies

Date: Nov. 7, 2019



Dr. Tom Reichert
Dean, College of Information and
Communications

Date: January 8, 2020



Dr. Kuo, Li-Hsin
Dean, College of Communication

Date: Nov. 7, 2019

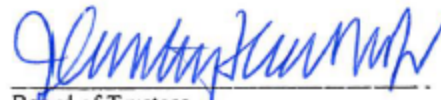
Dr. Tayloe Harding
Executive Vice President for Academic
Affairs and Provost (Interim)

Date: _____



Robert L. Caslen Jr.
President

Date: 25 Jan 20



Board of Trustees

Date: JAN 28 2020

J. CANTEY HEATH, JR.
SECRETARY, UNIVERSITY OF S.C.