

**COOPERATION AGREEMENT**

**Between**

**Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)**

**and**

**Saint Petersburg State University (SPSU)**

**Preamble**

The partners concerned agree in their mutual interests to further, develop, and lend permanent support to the cooperation between their institutions in the areas of research and teaching within the fields of medicine, business, engineering, history and international relations. To achieve these goals, VCU and SPSU agree to the following:

**I.**

**Extent and Aims of the Agreement**

1. The purpose of the cooperation in creating programs and research/teaching activities is:
  1. to promote student exchange (the exchange of undergraduates, graduates, postgraduate doctoral research students, scholars) for the purpose of study, doctoral research, or some other academic qualification;
  2. to promote academic exchange between teaching staff (the exchange of university teaching staff and other academic staff/faculty) with a view to gaining further qualifications, or for teaching, study, and research;
  3. to organize and conduct joint conferences, study groups, courses, or meetings;
  4. to pursue joint research projects;
  5. to promote the mutual interchange of information resulting from the exchange of research results, academic material, and publications issued by the partner institutions;

6. to learn the language of the host country in conjunction with the exchanges and to advance the understanding of the economic, legal, social, and cultural issues and traditions of our respective countries.
2. The parties named in the agreement will confer and agree on suitable means of putting the goals set out in paragraph 1 into practice.

## **II.**

### **Persons Bearing Responsibility for the Cooperation**

In order to implement the aims envisaged in the agreement on teaching and research more easily and efficiently, each party bound by the agreement will name a member of the academic staff as the liaison partner. A designated university administrator will interact with the identified faculty partner and both will be responsible for the organizational measures needed to implement the agreement and to insure that they are carried out. Additionally, they will be available *in situ* as partners to assist and facilitate the work of beneficiaries of the agreement.

The financing of any of the activities mentioned in this agreement shall be dependent on the availability of funds and shall be subject to specific agreements by which these activities may be accomplished.

## **III.**

### **Student Exchange**

1. The parties who have signed the agreement commit themselves to organizing the exchange of students and other persons specified in section I, no. 1, for one or two semesters for students, or a pre-determined period of time for other persons. Both partners should exchange the same number of exchange students or persons.
2. The sending partner institution will put forward the names of suitable candidates for the exchange. The candidates must fulfill the matriculation requirements of the host institution, whereby the host institution commits itself to showing as much leniency as the rules applicable in the host country permit in solving questions that may arise.
3. The exchange students are fully enrolled as students with all the pertaining rights and obligations. Their command of the language of the host country should be sufficient for them to fulfill the aims of their exchange and to gain benefit from it.

4. No fees are to be charged for tuition. Any additional charges, including any for social services, are dependent on the regulations of the receiving institution.
5. The exchange student is responsible for all living expenses incurred in the exchange period, including any university expenses other than fees.
6. The exchanging institutions commit themselves, within the limits of their means, to do their utmost to provide financial support (e.g. scholarships) and accommodation in a student hall of residence or other university accommodation.

#### **IV.**

#### **Academic Staff Exchange**

1. The partners regulate the exchange of staff and other academic personnel by agreeing on suitable applicants.
2. Unless otherwise agreed in writing, the staff does not become employees of the host institution.
3. The partners commit themselves to providing appropriate working conditions.
4. Section III, nos. 5 and 6 apply here, too.

#### **V.**

#### **The Exchange of Information**

The partners agree to exchange information regularly on academic courses and events.

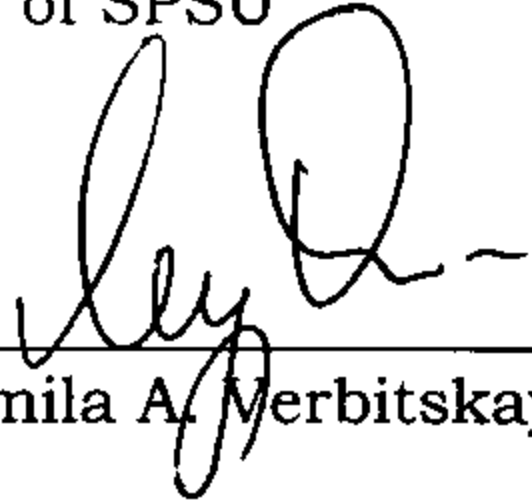
We expect the exchange activities carried out under the terms of this agreement to be between SPSU and VCU. Should other institutions be involved in the cooperation, their participation, by mutual consent of the parties to this agreement, will be clarified in a separate agreement.

VI.

**Period from which the Agreement takes effect and for which it has validity**

1. The Agreement takes effect on August 14, 2006.
2. The agreement is written in English with two signed copies for each institution.
3. The agreement is valid for a period of three years. It is extended for a year at a time unless one of the partners terminates it by giving notice three months before the end of the year.

On behalf of SPSU



Prof. Ludmila A. Merbitskaya  
Rector  
Saint Petersburg State University

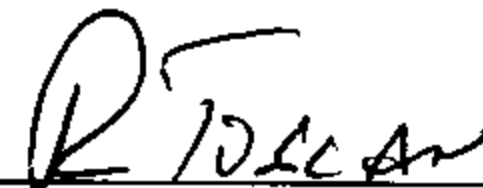
On behalf of VCU



Prof. Eugene P. Trani  
President  
Virginia Commonwealth University



Dr. Stanislav Tkachenko  
Vice Rector for International  
Relations  
Saint Petersburg State University



Dr. Richard E. Toscan  
Vice Provost,  
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Virginia Commonwealth University



Dr. Peter S. Kirkpatrick  
Executive Director,  
International Education  
Virginia Commonwealth University

Date August 14, 2006

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