

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**To Establish Principles for a Dual Master's Degree at**

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY and**  
**SAINT PETERSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY**

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ("MOU"), dated this 9 June day of 2010, (the "Effective Date"), is made by and between George Mason University ("Mason"), a public institution of higher education and state agency of Virginia, United States, and Saint Petersburg State University, ("SPSU"), a public institution of higher education of St. Petersburg, Russia, (together, the "Parties").

SPSU and Mason agree to work on a distinctive collaboration in order to provide Russian students with opportunities to study under both Russian and American faculty and to take advantage of the strengths of programs operating at the two institutions. The educational collaboration underlying this agreement will create possibilities for joint research and the possibility of developing additional educational partnerships. It will also provide additional exposure to Russian scholarship and culture for the George Mason University community. Through educational activity and dialogue, the SPSU-Mason partnership will provide new opportunities for mutual understanding between Russian and American constituencies.

WHEREAS, both Parties offer a Master of Arts Degree (MA) in Political Science from Mason and International Relations from SPSU; and

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to promote and provide an international educational experience for Russian students; and

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to establish a joint curricular program to offer dual graduate degrees from both SPSU and Mason in the field of political science; and

WHEREAS, the Parties envision establishing a program for Russian students to enroll in both institutions, and to take classes both at SPSU and Mason; and

WHEREAS, Mason has the infrastructure and student support services for international students to enjoy a complete university experience with American students; and

WHEREAS, the Parties have agreed in principle to the basic terms and conditions of a mutually beneficial dual degree program; and

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to set forth the terms and conditions of a mutually beneficial affiliation which would promote and be in furtherance of the objectives described above;


NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises herein, the Parties hereby agree:

1. The Parties agree in principle to establish a dual degree program (the "Program"), in which both institutions will offer a MA Degree (the "Degrees"): in Political Science from Mason and in International Relations from SPSU.
2. The Parties will award degrees to those students who successfully complete the requirements of the Program.
3. The Parties will timely enter into an agreement (the "Agreement") to establish the terms and conditions of the Program.
4. It is anticipated that the Agreement will include the following:
  - a. Students will apply to both institutions and meet the admissions standards of both institutions.
  - b. Degrees will be awarded when students complete the degree requirements of each institution.
  - c. The Curriculum will be composed of at least 36 Mason credits / 120 ETCS units. The shared credits between both institutions will not exceed 12 credits.
  - d. The first semester of courses will be taught at SPSU in Russian, and the second and summer semesters of courses will be taught at Mason, in English.
  - e. The third and fourth semesters will be taught at SPSU in Russian. During the third semester students will work on a thesis under supervision of Mason faculty.
  - f. Mason will provide integrated student support services to students in the Program, as it provides to all international students at Mason.
  - g. Students will be responsible for costs of tuition, room/board, and other ordinary fees while at Mason.
  - h. Students will directly pay SPSU tuition in rubles for their semesters, and will pay Mason in US dollars for subsequent semesters.
  - i. SPSU & Mason will provide program coordinators to help ensure success of the Program.

5. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the Parties agree that this MOU will not constitute a legally binding agreement between the Parties. Rather, the obligations of the Parties will become legally binding only if, and to the extent to which, an Agreement, acceptable in form and substance to both Parties, has been negotiated, executed, and delivered.
6. Each institution agrees to comply with the host country's immigration guidelines in support of exchanges of international students, faculty and/or administrative staff.
7. George Mason University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. Saint Petersburg State University is not accredited by the Commission on College and the accreditation of George Mason University does not extend to or include Saint Petersburg State University or its students. Although George Mason University accepts certain Saint Petersburg State University courses in partial fulfillment of the Mason master's degree, other colleges and universities may not accept this work, even if it appears on a transcript from George Mason University. Each institution decides for itself whether to accept credit from another institution.
8. All Activities conducted under this Agreement will be in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations of both institutions, and all applicable federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations. Nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed a waiver of the sovereign immunity of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The signatory for each Party certifies that he or she is an authorized agent to sign on behalf of such Party.

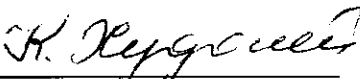
WITNESS the following signatures of the Parties:

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY:**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
  
 Dr. Peter Stearns, Provost

<b>Управление Международных связей СПбГУ</b>	
08/2-04	- - А - - - 10 - 009
Дата <u>10.06.10</u> Регистратор <u>Панова</u>	

**SAINT PETERSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY:**

Date: 9 June 2010   
 Dr. Konstantin Khudoley, Vice-Rector