

Finnish–Russian Barents Cross-Border University

Agreement on joint Master’s programs leading to joint/double degrees

between

Arkhangelsk State Technical University
Karelian State Pedagogical University
Murmansk Humanities Institute
Murmansk State Pedagogical University
Murmansk State Technical University
Northern State Medical University
Petrozavodsk State University
Pomor State University
University of Lapland
University of Oulu

(herein after referred to as the Consortium members or Consortium)

concerning

Joint Master’s Programs on

Social work

Environmental engineering

Information technology

Circumpolar health and well-being

The above mentioned Institutions agree to work towards establishing joint Master’s programs on the above specified academic fields and to create a more solid higher education area in the Barents Region with the Northern Cross-Border University initiative.

Purpose and Scope of the Agreement

The purpose of this agreement is to record the intention of the mentioned universities/institutions and the involved faculties/departments to develop and run the above named joint Master’s Programs, and outline the principles and terms of joint degree cooperation. All full members to the agreement offer Master’s Programs relevant to the field (as a part of the official national degree system and the degrees are mutually recognized by all partners in the Consortium).

Terms for Joint Degree Cooperation

The Master's programs will be conducted by the Consortium according to the following principles:

1. Each institution of the Consortium is either a full or associate member in one or more of the above named Master's programs. The membership status is defined as follows:

Participating membership status	Federally / nationally recognized Master's degree in the academic field of the program
F Full member	y Yes
A Associate member	n No
— Not participating/not a member	a Applied

Partner university	Social work	Environmental engineering	Information technology	Circumpolar health and wellbeing
Arkhangelsk State Technical University	—	F / n	—	—
Karelian State Pedagogical University	A / n	—	A / n	—
Murmansk State Pedagogical University	A / n	—	—	—
Murmansk State Technical University	A / n	F / n	A / n	—
Murmansk Humanities Institute	A / n	—	—	—
Northern State Medical University	A / n	—	—	F / a
Petrozavodsk State University	A / n	—	F / a	—
Pomor State University	F / a	—	F / a	—
University of Lapland	F / y	A / n	A / n	A / n
University of Oulu	A / n	F / y	F / y	F / y

2. Members of the Consortium can be either full or associate members. A member can apply to change its status to the Rectors Conference of the Consortium.
3. In order to obtain the Joint Master's Degree documented by a joint/double diploma, the students have to study for a total of 120 ECTS credits according to a curriculum approved by the involved universities, faculties and departments/institutes, according to the national and institutional procedures and regulations. The students will receive a joint/double degree from all universities provided that the students have obtained credits at all institutions. The

student will have to study in at least two of the Consortium Universities organizing the specific Master's Program during his/her studies.

4. The Consortium has agreed on common objectives, entry requirements, admission procedures, core contents and structure of the joint Master's Programs as described in the study guide and Program Management Amendment. The members of the Consortium have a common understanding of the skills and knowledge that the graduates of the programs should possess.
5. The Consortium will set up a joint Master's Program Board for each Master's program consisting of members representing the host institutions for each Master's Program. The Board will have the responsibility concerning all major internal decisions to be undertaken with the respect to the joint Master's Program, including changes in the Study plan and the Program's budget. These decisions will be subject to the final approval by the relevant internal bodies, councils and boards of the host universities.
6. Each Master's program will be assigned a Program Secretariat for handling the administrative matters such as financial administration of the Program, including scholarships and tuition fees.
7. The students can apply to any of the universities of the Consortium. Each host institution will forward the applications to the Program secretariat. Application information, including the application forms, can be obtained at all host universities.
8. Students will be admitted based on a joint evaluation of the applications by the Program Board, in accordance with the procedures and regulations of the involved institutions, faculties and departments/institutes.
9. Each student admitted to the joint Master's Program is registered at all the host universities where he/she will study during the joint Master's Program. The student will be subject to regulations and benefits pertaining to degree seeking students. Additional benefits may be offered by individual Consortium members.
10. The host institutions will assist the incoming students in finding accommodation. While the language of the joint Master's Programs is English, all host institutions will provide the incoming students with introductory courses in the national language and culture.
11. The period of study, modules duly completed and evaluated, and examinations passed at one of the host universities will be recognized fully and automatically by the other host universities.
12. Teacher mobility is essential part of the joint Master's Programs. In addition to teachers from the Consortium traveling internally, the teaching staff will include teachers from other partner universities and visiting scholars from third countries.
13. Student mobility is an integrated part of the curriculum of all students admitted to the joint Master's Programs. The agreed upon maximum extent of studies completed in one host university will be specified for each Master's Program including theoretical lectures, practical lectures, thesis work, case studies, or any other studies offered by the Consortium members and integrated in the curriculum of the programs.

14. Recruitment of students will be carried out by all participating universities, using, amongst other things, the channels of communication that are used for recruiting students for the national programs.
15. Tuition fees. Tuition fees will be specified for each Master's Program by separate agreement.
16. Issuing the final diploma will be the responsibility of the *full member host universities*.
17. To conduct a systematic evaluation, quality assurance and dissemination of the joint Master's Programs and to develop the Course further, the following actions will be taken:
 - All modules and other units of the Programs will be evaluated by the students. The outcomes of the evaluations will be used as an input in the annual curriculum assessment by the Program Board.
 - The coordinators of the host universities will meet at least once a year to discuss the curriculum and to make proposals for any adaptation of the Programs.
 - The quality of the joint Master's Programs will be assessed regularly by the relevant national evaluation and accreditation agencies.
 - New teaching activities can be introduced into the joint Master's Programs with the consent of the Consortium, provided that the basic structure of the Course is not changed.
 - A report addressing all above-mentioned topics will be produced annually.
 - Dissemination of information on the joint Master's Programs in the form of oral presentations, program websites, posters and brochures at conferences and fairs and international associations will be carried out.
18. The first Master's programs are aimed to begin in autumn 2009.

Renewal, termination and amendment

The commitment to cooperate in offering the joint Master's Programs is for at least five years. This agreement will be in force for a period of five years starting from 22 March 2007 as approved by the governing bodies of the participating institutions. The agreement will be evaluated and it may be amended on the basis of the outcomes of the evaluation by mutual written consent of all the Parties. Any Party to this agreement may withdraw from the agreement giving 12 months written notice to all partner institutions.

Signatures

Oulu, 22 March 2006

Lauri Lajunen
Rector
University of Oulu

Mauri Ylä-Kotola
Rector
University of Lapland

Andrey Sergeev
Vice-Rector
Murmansk State Pedagogical University

Alexander Ershov
Rector
Murmansk State Technical University

Valeria Shergalina
Rector
Murmansk Humanities Institute

Alexander Nevzorov
Rector
Arkhangelsk State Technical University

Elena Starostina
Vice-Rector
Pomor State University

Andrey Soloviev
Professor
Northern State Medical University

Anatoly Voronin
Rector
Petrozavodsk State University

Valery Bryazgin
Rector
Karelian State Pedagogical University