

DOUBLE DEGREE AGREEMENT

Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" (SU), Faculty of Economics and Business Administration (FEBA)

Tsarigradsko Chaussee, 125, Bl. 3, 1113 Sofia, Bulgaria

represented by the Dean, Prof. Dr. Teodor Sedlarski

and

Hochschule Worms (HSW), International Management (IM)

Erenburgerstr. 19, D-67549 Worms, Germany

represented by the President Prof. Dr. Jens Hemsdorf, the Director of the International Management Program Prof. Dr. Dirk Schilling and the Director of the International Center Joachim Mayer

agree to develop and promote the Double Degree cooperation at bachelor level as well as at master level between the degree programmes: Business Administration (FEBA) and International Management (IM) – Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) and Master of Arts (M.A.). The Double Degree cooperation framework includes the following:

1. The strategic goals of both partners
 - The Double Degree cooperation enhances the competitiveness of both partners by adding value to their existing degrees.
 - The cooperation aims to achieve increased professional insight, deeper intercultural experience and higher competence for the involved students and academic staff.
 - Both partners agree on the importance of the Double Degree, and will take every effort in order to promote the Double Degree-cooperation.
 - Both partners are committed to support the implementation of the Double Degree programme.

2. The general purpose of the Double degree is to give students from both HEIs the opportunity to
 - get extra benefits of completing two (European) degrees;
 - gain substantial competencies in the fields of International Management and Business Administration through education and research;
 - study and gain practical experience abroad;
 - learn about the cultures in the host country and its surrounding countries;
 - learn the basics of the host country's native language.

3. Implementation of the Double Degree Programme
 - The Double Degree Programme will be implemented as part of the existing degree programmes at both HEIs:

- HSW: B.A. International Management (180 ECTS) and M.A. International Management (120 ECTS)
- FEBA: B.A. Business Administration (240 ECTS) and M.A. Business Administration (90 ECTS)
- Both degrees are granted to those students who meet the HSW (IM) and the BA (FE-BA) requirements. B.A.-Students from HSW (IM) are required to achieve 240 ECTS in total, M.A.-Students from HSW are required to achieve 120 ECTS in total. B.A.-Students from SU (FEBA) are required to achieve 240 ECTS in total, M.A.-Students from SU (FEBA) are required to achieve 120 ECTS in total.
- The Double Degree Programme will include one year of academic studies for B.A.-Students and one semester for M.A.-Students at the host HEI.
- B.A.-Students from SU (FEBA) will study at HSW during the fifth and sixth semester. M.A.-Students from SU (FEBA) will study at HSW during the second semester.
- B.A.-Students from HSW (IM) will study at the SU during the third and fourth or during the fourth and fifth semester. M.A.-Students from HSW (IM) will study at the SU during the third semester.

4. Student admissions

- Students who wish to enter the double degree scheme must be registered students of either of the two participating institutions. They must fulfil the selection criteria for higher education studies determined in the home country of the student.
- Students must also fulfil the criteria of the Double Degree programme: number of credits earned, study success, language skills, motivation and commitment to double degree studies etc.
- The competency in the English language must correspond to level B2 (for B.A.-Students) and to level C1 (for M.A.-Students) in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.
- Students who wish to take a Double Degree must apply to the Double Degree programme at the home institution.
- The home institution makes preselection and sends a proposal of preselected students to the host institution.
- Acceptance procedure at the partner institution has to be completed by the partner institution.
- Students from SU (FEBA) are accepted as students of HSW and students from HSW are accepted as students of SU (FEBA).
- Students should address any possible complaints concerning admission to the institution that made the decision.

5. Curriculum

- The learning outcomes of the Double Degree are compatible with national qualifications frameworks and the European Qualifications Framework.
- The course offering consists of the regular courses of the corresponding study programme as it is shown in the Study Plan/Learning Agreement in the Appendix. Students may choose among the courses listed in the appendix but (course related) capacity restrictions of the particular HEI will also be taken into account.
- Recognition of prior learning will be applied in the personal study plan.
- The curriculum at both institutions may be changed by mutual agreement.
- Studies completed at the host HEI will be fully acknowledged by the home HEI.
- Students who have successfully completed their coursework will be awarded a degree by the host HEI, as well as by their home HEI.

- Double Degree students are entitled to all academic counselling, student counselling and advice as well as other facilities and resources (library, IT, study environment etc.), that are available to regular degree students. Double Degree students have the same rights and responsibilities as regular degree students.

6. Thesis

All participating double degree students are required to prepare a final thesis. The thesis will be supervised by a member of academic staff/professor from the student's home institution. The supervisor will guide the thesis according to the home institution's standards which are mutually accepted by this agreement.

7. Assessment and examinations

- Assessment is based on the principles of the ECTS framework.
- The regulations of the institution where the studies are conducted are observed concerning assessment criteria, exam procedures and retake exams.
- Remaining exams after the exchange period may be administered by the student's home institution.
- The regulations of the host institution are followed concerning the maximum time for completing the programme and procedures in the event that a student fails to complete the studies within the specified timeframe.

8. Degree certificate and Diploma Supplement

- The degrees to be conferred fall within the official degree systems of the countries participating in provision of the programme.
- The student is awarded two national degree certificates.
- The certificate indicates participation in a Double Degree programme. The studies completed and additional information (e.g. which studies have been completed at each institution) are recorded in the Diploma Supplement.

9. Tuition and other fees

- Students will pay the tuition fees if any to their home institution, not to the host institution. Administrative fees could be applicable at host institution.
- Students will be responsible for their living and travel expenses, student association fees and the acquisition of their own study materials.
- Orientation, tutoring, a social programme and other services related to studies and living in the host country will be provided by the host institution.
- The host institution will assist with finding accommodation for the study period.
- HSW and SU do not have financial obligations to each other.

10. Timetable for the implementation of the Double Degree

The Double Degree scheme will be implemented at the beginning of the academic year 2017/2018.

11. Capacity

Both institutions agree that a maximum of 5 students for the Bachelor-Double-Degree-Programme and 5 students for the Master-Double-Degree-Programme per academic year

will be admitted to the programme at this stage. The number of students admitted could be adjusted once the programme has been established. This will be discussed further and decided after the pilot phase.

12. Teaching and research

- Both parties agree to foster teaching staff exchange and cooperation in the field of research.
- The host institution will assist with finding accommodation for the mobility period.
- Orientation and other services relevant to the exchange will be provided by the host institution

13. Quality assurance

In Germany as well as in Bulgaria a system of accreditation is used to ensure and maintain the high quality of the HEIs' system. Both partners will inform each other of ongoing and completed processes and the results achieved.

14. Expanding the Double Degree network

- The Double Degree cooperation will be open for additional partners at a later date.
- The expansion of the Double Degree cooperation will take place by mutual agreement.

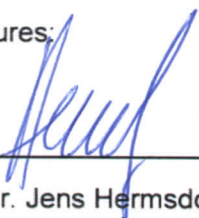
15. Termination of the agreement

Either institution may terminate this agreement in writing before February 1st for the next academic year. In such a case, termination will not affect the exchange of students already accepted for participating in the exchange programme described in this agreement, nor will affect the obligations for each institution with regard to the exchange balance which arose prior to the date of receipt of the termination notice.


16. All detailed arrangements may be modified by mutual consent

Place and date: 21.09.2016

Signatures:

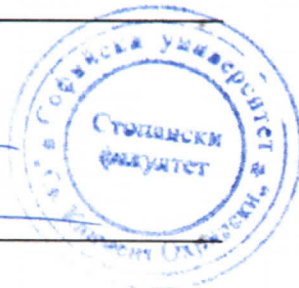


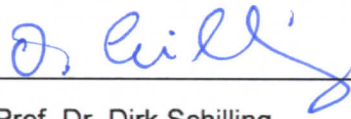
Prof. Dr. Jens Hermsdorf
President HSW



Prof. Dr. Teodor Sedlarski

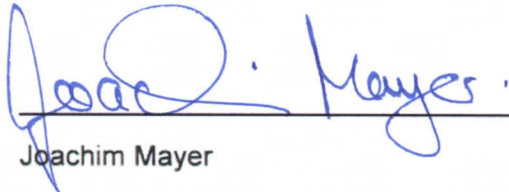
Dean, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Faculty of Economics
and Business Administration





Prof. Dr. Dirk Schilling

Director of the International Management Program, HSW



Joachim Mayer

Director International Center, HSW