Student Exchange Agreement

Between

Ocean University of China (Qingdao, China)

And

The University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island (Rhode Island, USA)

By accepting the text of this agreement, the two institutions decide to participate officially in a program of undergraduate student exchange agreement, beginning with the fall of 2012, and continuing each regular semester thereafter for five years.

Statement of Purpose
On a basis of reciprocity and in the interests of both institutions, the goal of this agreement is to establish an exchange program open to qualified undergraduate students at each of the two participating universities. Each institution, respecting the admission requirements and program restrictions of the other, shall assume full responsibility in the assessment and selection of qualified candidates. The host institution shall then respect the selection so made.

Selection of Students
Each institution reserves the right to require candidates to complete the necessary admission documents. The final admission decision will be determined by the host institution. All applications and dossiers will be sent to the receiving institution specifying deadlines for response. Each institution shall receive applications of incoming students, at least two months, before students need to arrive in the host country in order to give the students time to obtain their visas.

Number of Exchange Students
Each institution consents to accepting an equal number of students having the required qualifications. The exact number of exchange students will be negotiated annually, with the decision to be made no later than April 1 of the preceding academic year for fall semester and academic year participants and October 1 of the academic year in progress for spring semester participants. This agreement assumes the exchange of an equal number of students, though an imbalance may occur in a given year. Any exchange imbalance should be rectified within a two-year period.

URI will agree to carry an imbalance for two academic years only. If/when an exchange imbalance exists, the imbalance shall be resolved by:

a. Expecting OUC student applicants that exceed the stipulated exchange number to pay the equivalent of instate tuition and a fee to URI in the subsequent semester(s) until balance is achieved.

b. Similarly, URI students will be expected to pay tuition and fees to the host institution when the imbalance is reflected in the number of URI students received by OUC.

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Program Duration
Students are eligible to attend the short-term programs ranging from three months to a year, or attend one or two semester's studies at the host institution. OUC students may also join for a short ESL session and/or a combination of a short ESL session followed by a semester of exchange. They would be counted as exchange students only when they are enrolled in URI courses (12 credits minimum).

Status of Students
Students enrolled in the host institution will have the same privileges and enjoy the same medical, sports, student services, and other amenities as other full-time local students. They will be subject to the statutes, ordinances and regulations of the host institution, and to the local and federal laws of the region and country.

a. Exchange students will be permitted to enroll in courses and programs at the host institution for which they are qualified with the exception of those courses in which places may not be available due to enrollment limitations.

b. Each accepted student would have an academic program for the fall and [and/or] spring terms. The proposed program of study is to be determined in advance as part of the process of approving each student for this exchange program. No student can participate in this exchange beyond the duration of one academic year.

Academic Parameters
All exchange students shall be subject to the same academic regulations regarding class performance, community standards, and student discipline system, at the host institution, pertaining to all part-time and full-time students, graduate and undergraduate, students in exchange programs, etc.

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a. Applicants must be prepared linguistically, so as to be able to participate with success in the instructional programs of the host university; and/or limit their studies to the institution's specific programs taught in English.

b. In accordance with the host institution's academic requirements for its regularly enrolled students, students are expected to be in good academic standing (2.0 GPA/undergraduate, with no P's – US grades or 10/20 minimum – French grades) to continue in the second semester. If such has not been achieved, the host institution may deny second semester enrollment without refund of program cost.

c. It is recommended that students coming to URI also meet the standard based on IELTS or TOEFL test scores. For TOEFL, this is an overall paper based score of 550 including a score of 4 or more in the Test of Written English (TWE), or an overall computer-based score of 213 including a score of 4 or more in the Essay Writing Score, or an overall internet-based score of 79 including a score of 20 or more in the Writing Section.

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URI students whose native language is not Chinese must demonstrate that they are able to perform successfully in university-level coursework where Chinese is usually the language of instruction and assessment. Students who do not possess such certifications, will be assessed the Chinese language capability by the coordinator of the Chinese program at URI. OUC opens to receive URI students to enter OUC programs conducted in English, and also opens to the academic visits by URI students.

Participation in this exchange program is not intended to imply acceptance into a degree program at either host institution.

Financial Parameters
Each exchange student will remit their current tuition, other mandatory fees, and the required room charges to their respective home institution. Application fees will be waived for the students by the host institutions.

The exchange student will be responsible for all board, transportation, living expenses, and costs involved in travel to and from the host institution for the educational experience. This includes travel and living expenses (including vacation periods and between semester periods), passport expenses, excess luggage, luggage storage, independent travel, and personal expenses such as telephone calls, books, etc.

No refund of exchange balance will be made if the student is unable to complete his or her course of study. With this agreement, participating exchange students

Housing
Each institution will agree to facilitate on-campus housing or its equivalent to the visiting students during the academic term, provided that the student complies with the host institution's requirements for application, deposits, and payments for residence halls or comparable housing. The precise nature of room and board arrangements will be discussed during the admission period. These arrangements can be changed by mutual agreement, assuming six months’ written notice.

a. Exchange student attending URI must be covered by health insurance to cover medical contingencies while in the United States that adhere to the Office of Exchange Coordination and Designation Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, United States Department of State.

b. Violation of laws committed in the host country shall subject the exchange student to immediate withdrawal of his/her immigration and academic sponsorship and to immediate expulsion by the Department of Homeland Security from the host country without refund of program cost. The student will be granted 30 days after withdrawal of the academic and immigration sponsorship to leave the host country.

Transcripts
The host institution will provide the home institution with an adequate record of the participant’s academic performance (a transcript) within 2 months of the end of the relevant term, as long as students have completed necessary paperwork at the host institution. It is the responsibility of the exchange program participant to ensure that the academic record of their academic performance is
sent directly to his/her home institution at the conclusion of each semester. However, it shall be the sole responsibility of the home institution to decide on the application of those credits to the student’s degree program.

Credits will be determined by the home institution dependent upon the grades received by the student at the host institution. It shall be the sole responsibility of the home institution to determine how the grade conversions and credit units the student actually receives on courses taken at the host institution. Terms of how credit will be awarded will be provided to exchange students when they are asked to commit to the program by the student’s home institution.

Course and Schedule Information
Both institutions shall regularly share information pertaining to course programs, calendars, and schedules. Each institution will provide exchange students with on-site orientation both to the host institution and to the larger community.

Agreement Review and Renewal
This agreement shall continue for a five year period, renewable for periods of five years by mutual agreement, or interrupted by request of one of the two institutions with advanced warning of twelve months written notice. If an imbalance exists, the agreement will end after the term in which the balance becomes equal.

The exchange agreement will be applied in conformity with the particular regulations of each of the two institutions and in a manner acceptable to both.

Funding Commitment
No funding commitments are created for either party by this agreement.

Representation
Each university will designate a Liaison Office to develop and coordinate specific activities and programs, which should include the Director of International Office at Ocean University of China, the Director of the Office of International Education at the University of Rhode Island.

This Agreement is effective and hereby agreed upon by:

Signatures

Dr. LI Huajun
Vice President
Ocean University of China
Qindao
China
Date: Jan. 6, 2012

Dr. Donald DeHayes
Provost and Vice President
University of Rhode Island
Kingston, RI
USA
Date: 2/20/2012

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