MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR “3+X” PROGRAM
BETWEEN
THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
AND
TUNGHAI UNIVERSITY

The University of Rhode Island (URI), Kingston, Rhode Island, United States of America and Tung hai University (THU), Taichung, Taiwan, Republic of China, agree to develop a plan for an International Bachelor’s/Master’s Degree (3+x) for THU students that will be delivered partly at THU and partly at URI and will lead to degrees from both universities. “X” signifies 2 years in the normal scenario for the master’s degree, or more depending on students’ preparation and success. The educational objective of the program is to prepare students in selected academic disciplines who are proficient in the language, society, and culture of both countries and who can easily interface between the two cultures. At this point, we are inviting applications from juniors for accelerated 3 + x BS/MS engineering programs, and also from seniors for standard 2 year master’s programs. Students apply for a discipline in the College of Engineering, which include program in Mechanical and Industrial & Systems Engineering and a discipline in the College of Business Administration, which include programs in Business Administration and Accounting. In the near future, we will expand the MOU to include other accelerated BS/MS and standard MS programs offered by URI colleges and departments in cases where there is mutual interest from both sides.

THU students will study at THU for three (Juniors) or four years (Seniors) towards their Bachelor’s degree and then study at URI towards their master’s degree for the final two years. Students would be expected to be proficient in English by the third year of the program and to meet all requirements for admission to URI.

TERMS

1. After 3 years of study in Industrial Engineering and Enterprise Information or in Business Administration at Tung hai University, juniors, if qualified, can be conditionally admitted to the URI Graduate School into a 3 + x engineering program at the University of Rhode Island. Once the junior students complete their Bachelor’s degree and achieve appropriate TOEFL scores (≥ 79 IBT) they will be fully admitted to the URI Graduate School at URI. Acceptance into the master’s program can be granted only conditionally pending performance in their first semester at URI, when they simultaneously complete requirements towards their THU Bachelor’s degree and begin course work towards the master’s at URI. Acceptance will be finalized after completion of the Bachelor’s degree. Senior students may be admitted immediately. Regarding admission, the students have to follow the graduate admission process, which includes a completed graduate application, references, GRE, TOEFL, and GMAT (if MBA) scores, recommendation from
the graduate admission committee of the respective departments, transcript, and proof of financial support.

2. No courses can be double-counted towards the B.S. and M.S. degrees at URI. Students must complete the required credits towards their master’s degree in the remaining 1.5 years. They can also enroll in up to 9 credits of research, and use the summers before and in-between to do so.

3. All students, both graduate and undergraduate, shall be subject to the same academic regulations and policies regarding class performance, community standards, and student discipline systems. In addition, all students must abide by the following:

   a. Applicants must be prepared linguistically, so as to be able to participate in the instructional programs of the host university with success; applicants will be expected to meet URI published English proficiency standards (TOEFL score of ≥ 79 IBT) before beginning study in the United States.

   b. In accordance with URI academic requirements for its regularly enrolled students, THU incoming students are expected to be in good academic standing (3.0 GPA/undergraduate, 3.0 GPA/graduate, with no F's or the equivalent) for continuation in the program. If such has not been achieved, the host institution may deny continued enrollment without refund of program cost.

   c. 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 from the host country without refund of program cost.

   d. THU students will pay tuition and fees during the three years of their Bachelor’s program to THU and URI international student tuition and fees during their two years or more master’s program to URI.

   e. While minor illnesses may be treated at the URI Health Services, each student must be covered by insurance to cover medical contingencies of greater magnitude while in the host country that adhere to the Office of Exchange Coordination and Designation Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, United States Department of State.

   f. Each student is responsible for living expenses, including during extended academic recess (e.g., summer, winter and spring breaks), all transportation costs, books and supplies, health insurance, and personal and incidental expenses.
4. This agreement is valid as of academic year 2013-2014. It shall continue for an indefinite period, but with twelve months written notice, it can be interrupted or terminated at the request of either institution.

5. The terms of this agreement shall be mutually discussed and agreed upon in writing and signed by both parties prior to the initiation of any specific program or activity. Each university will designate a Liaison Office to develop and coordinate specific activities and programs, which must include the Director of the International Engineering Program, the Dean of the URI Graduate School, and the Dean of International Education and Programs Office at Tunghai University.

This Memorandum of Understanding is hereby agreed upon by:

President David M. Dooley  
The University of Rhode Island

Date: 26.4.2013

President Ming-Jer Tang  
Tunghai University

Date: 2013-4-26