



**HRK** German Rectors' Conference  
The Voice of the Universities

# **Korean-German Academic Links Agreement**

**5 October 2007**

## **Korean-German Academic Links Agreement**

The

**Korean Council for University Education (KCUE)**

and the

**German Rectors' Conference - *Hochschulrektorenkonferenz (HRK)* -**

(hereinafter referred to as "the Parties")

- united in the aim of promoting academic links between Korean and German higher education institutions,
- and in the awareness that a furthering of cooperation in the area of higher education is in the interest of both sides,

enter into the following framework agreement.

### **ARTICLE 1**

#### **Purpose of the Agreement**

The Parties to this agreement intend to promote cooperation in the areas of teaching and study, research and development, exchange of students, placement of doctoral students, exchange of teaching staff and researchers.

### **ARTICLE 2**

#### **Participating Institutions of Higher Education**

(1) Each institution of higher education which becomes a signatory to this agreement is entitled to cooperate directly with any signatory institution from the other side in accordance with the provisions of this agreement and without further preliminary arrangements.

(2) This agreement may be supplemented by detailed arrangements between cooperating institutions. While institutions acceding to this agreement shall endeavor to contribute to the development of cooperation, no institution is obliged to enter into cooperation arrangements if it is unable to meet the costs.

(3) Accession to this agreement is open to

- Korean higher education institutions which are members of the Korean Council for University Education (KCUE),
- German higher education institutions which are members of the *Hochschulrektorenkonferenz (HRK)*

Lists of the signatory institutions from both sides, to be updated as may become necessary, form an integral part of this agreement as Appendix 1, and shall be made public in appropriate form on the homepages of the Parties to this agreement.

### **ARTICLE 3 Fields of Cooperation**

Cooperation is to be sought especially

- in the exchange of undergraduate and graduate students;
- in the placement of Korean and German graduates and doctoral students, and of researchers;
- in the fostering and implementing of research projects;
- in the fostering and implementation of cooperation in the curricular design and implementation of programs of study;
- in the exchange of senior and junior staff and research assistants for the implementation of research projects and for teaching;
- through participation in symposia and other academic events;
- in establishing contacts in research and teaching, and in exchanging research information via publications, teaching materials, and electronic networks.
- in the exchange of information and reference regarding degrees, diplomas, and certificates from the participating institutions of both parties
- in the exchange of information on the accreditation system and its results for the participating institutions of both parties

### **ARTICLE 4 Students**

(1) Participating institutions will make efforts to arrange that Korean and German students on direct exchange

- on the basis of pertinent agreements for periods of a semester or more,
  - and who remain validly enrolled for a degree, or provide evidence of a formal leave of absence by the home institution as participants of the exchange agreement,
  - and have paid any required compulsory fees and charges in the home institution,
- will not be required to pay additional tuition fees in the host institutions.

(2) Normally exchanges will be on a basis of parity of numbers, but cooperating institutions may vary the balance by other standards mutually agreed upon.

(3) The host institutions will provide to the home institution a statement/transcript

documenting studies undertaken and/or credit point achievements of each exchange student, in an agreed form (cf. Appendix 3), and cooperating institutions will ascertain procedures and standards for the due recognition of studies undertaken at the host institution.

## **ARTICLE 5**

### **Admissions**

(1) The basis for entry for students will be agreed between each home and host institution, with each taking into account applicants' records of achievement, goals and the comparability of courses to be undertaken.

(2) To guide admission decisions, the Parties will engage in further consultations to set up recommendations for admission of Korean and German students and graduates to the higher education institutions in both countries, including the admission to studies in specific disciplinary areas, and to doctoral studies. Such recommendations shall become part of this agreement as Appendix 2.

## **ARTICLE 6**

### **Staff**

(1) Proposals regarding the attachment of academic staff or researchers to a host institution shall be agreed upon in writing between the departments and institutes concerned well in advance of the period of stay.

(2) The parties to the agreement share the view that due consideration should be given to the wishes of both parties regarding the exchange of personnel and related issues.

## **ARTICLE 7**

### **Arrangements and Support**

(1) The partner institutions agreeing on exchanges and attachments shall attempt to provide every necessary support to participants in the exchange during their stay. They shall allow the participants to use - as far as possible - the host institution's academic resources and amenities on the same terms as members of the host institution in the same category.

(2) The host institution shall ensure that participants gain access also to facilities such as archives, libraries, museums, and laboratories and supporting services, including computing facilities and photo-copying, as required for the successful completion of their academic program or research in the host institution.

(3) Rules and regulations governing admission and stay of international students notwithstanding, participating students will enjoy the same rights and privileges and be subject to the same regulations and discipline as students of the host institution.

**ARTICLE 8**  
**Finance**

(1) Parties to the agreement shall be responsible for ensuring adequate funding for their respective parts in the program envisaged. They shall inform each other in good time about the availability and allocation of funding. The availability of funding shall determine the scope of the program in any period.

(2) Details of the implementation of programs in partner institutions shall be jointly worked out by the appropriate academic institutes and departments and approved by appropriate authorities in those institutions. Specific work programs of this kind do not rule out additional academic contacts.

(3) The Parties may facilitate broad national academic contact and exchange programs with varying patterns of voluntary involvement of signatory institutions from both sides utilizing the good offices of allied bodies.

**ARTICLE 9**  
**Cooperation with other Programs and Activities**

The Parties will undertake efforts to ensure the cooperation of relevant bodies and agencies in the interest of linking their programs and activities with activities foreseen by this agreement.

**ARTICLE 10**  
**Work-study and Traineeship Arrangements**

(1) Cooperating institutions will seek to assist and cooperate in the organization and arrangement of work-study and traineeship periods for their students in firms and relevant institutions in their respective country as far as such periods (assignments) constitute part of regular study programs to be completed by students.

(2) For this purpose, cooperating institutions will exchange information about respective opportunities and mutually assist in the placement of students.

(3) To the extent that an institution maintains organized work-study and traineeship programs, it will, subject to capacities, admit students of cooperating institutions to such programs, provided they fulfill requirements in terms of prior education and command of language. Participants in such programs shall agree to observe applicable conditions and procedures. There shall be no financial obligation whatsoever for the receiving institution other than those that may have been agreed upon in writing prior to the arrival of the student.

(4) Cooperating institutions will advise and consult participants in such programs in all matters relating to the operation of the program and will issue a certificate on the participation in and requirements of the program.

**ARTICLE 11  
Consultation**

Representatives of the Parties shall consult at regular intervals to consider the progress of cooperation and to instigate further projects.

**ARTICLE 12  
Duration**

This agreement shall be valid for five years. It shall be valid for a further five years unless one of the parties gives written notice of discontinuation at least six months before the date of its termination. Any amendments shall be agreed in writing after joint consultations.

**ARTICLE 13  
Entering into Force**

(1) This agreement has been drawn up in English and signed in four copies. Texts to be prepared in both German and Korean serve only for reference without validity.

(2) This agreement shall come into force after both parties have notified each other that the appropriate procedures of assent and authorization on either side have been completed.

Seoul, 5 October 2007

For the  
Hochschulrektorenkonferenz (HRK)

For the  
Korean Council for University Education  
(KCUE)

Margret Wintermantel  
President

Lee Jang Moo  
Chairman

Burkhard Rauhut  
Vice-President

Young Shik Kim  
Secretary General

**APPENDIX 1**

**Korean - German Academic Links Agreement of 5 October 2007**

***Lists of the Signatory Institutions***

- follows after accession of institutions -

## APPENDIX 2

### Korean - German Academic Links Agreement of 5 October 2007

#### Recommendations for the Admission to Higher Education Studies and the Recognition of Academic Qualifications

Decisions on admission of students with German qualifications to Korean higher education institutions and students with Korean qualifications to German higher education institutions will be made by the receiving institution.

To assist institutions in such decisions, the Parties have agreed to the following recommendations. They are aware that changes of structures and standards in both systems may require, from time to time, a review of these recommendations.

#### 1. Language

German and Korean students should demonstrate an appropriate level of competence in the language of instruction. Should the language of instruction be English, it would be expected that students additionally acquire basic skills in the respective host country's language.

#### 2. Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications

In principle, periods of study at Korean and German higher education institutions should be regarded as comparable on a year-to-year basis with respect to programs with corresponding disciplinary profiles ("relevant programs"). Programs which, in terms of their profiles and awards, do not lend themselves to direct comparison should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Also, individual institutions may have specific standards, such as grades or other evaluation criteria, to be satisfied as prerequisites for admission to particular programs of study.

The following recommendations do not preclude institutional agreements with other or additional admission standards and procedures agreed upon for bilateral exchange arrangements.

##### *2.1 Admission of Korean Students and Graduates at German Institutions*

(1) Holders of a Korean Bachelor's degree should be eligible

- for admission to graduate studies (*Magister*/Master programs), or
- for admission to the German *Hauptstudium* (in programs completed by a *Diplom* or *Magister Artium* degree) and may be given advanced standing in accordance with the profile of their prior studies.



(2) Holders of a Korean Bachelor's degree may be considered, on a case-by-case basis, for admission to doctoral programs if the degree requirements include a substantial thesis or research project and the degree has been awarded with an overall grade score of at least 80.

(3) Holders of a Korean Master's degree by research and an overall grade score of at least 80 should be considered for admission to doctoral programs or, depending on the individual record of academic work done, for thesis research towards the doctorate (*Doktorand*).

(4) Students seeking a doctoral degree may be required, depending upon (a) the level of prior academic work undertaken, (b) the discipline in which the doctoral degree is sought as well as (c) the specific topic of the doctoral thesis, to pursue, prior or parallel to their doctoral research, such additional studies as may be proposed by the doctoral advisor and have been formally determined by the relevant department or departmental committee. However, neither the completion of such additional studies nor their evaluation shall be considered as a prerequisite for the admission to pursue doctoral studies. Furthermore, admission to doctoral work may be subject, in line with institutional policies, to the prior acceptance of the doctoral research project by a doctoral advisor and the approval by the relevant department or departmental committee.

(5) Other students should be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

## 2.2 Admission of German Students and Graduates at Korean Institutions

(1) Holders of a German *Bakkalaureus*/Bachelor's degree awarded by a German higher education institution should be eligible for admission to graduate programs.

(2) Holders of a German *Bakkalaureus*/Bachelor's degree awarded by a German higher education institution may be considered, on a case-by-case basis, for admission to doctoral programs if the degree requirements include a substantial thesis or research project and the degree has been awarded with an overall grade of at least "good".

(3) Holders of a *Magister*/Master's degree awarded by a German higher education institution, with an overall grade of at least "good", should be considered for admission to doctoral programs and be granted, depending on the individual record of academic work done, advanced standing, including doctoral candidature.

(4) Holders of a *Diplom* or *Magister Artium* degree with an overall grade of at least "good" awarded by a German university or a corresponding qualification, including a *Staatsprüfung* (*Staatsexamen*), should be considered for admission to doctoral programs and be granted, depending on the individual record of academic work done, advanced standing, including doctoral candidature.

(5) Holders of a *Diplom* (FH) degree awarded by a *Fachhochschule* (University of Applied Sciences) should be eligible for admission to graduate programs. They may be considered, on a case-by-case basis, for admission to doctoral programs if the degree requirements include a substantial thesis or research project and the degree has been

awarded with an overall grade of at least "good".

(6) Students with a *Vordiplom/Zwischenprüfung* plus an additional year of study (three years in total) should be eligible for admission to graduate programs.

(7) Students seeking a doctoral degree may be required, depending upon (a) the level of prior academic work undertaken, (b) the discipline in which the doctoral degree is sought as well as (c) the specific topic of the doctoral thesis, to pursue, prior or parallel to their doctoral research, such additional studies as may be proposed by the doctoral advisor and have been formally determined by the relevant department or departmental committee. However, neither the completion of such additional studies nor their evaluation shall be considered as a prerequisite for the admission to pursue doctoral studies. Furthermore, admission to doctoral work may be subject, in line with institutional policies, to the prior acceptance of the doctoral research project by a doctoral advisor and the approval by the relevant department or departmental committee.

(8) Other students shall be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

### **3. Doctoral Degrees**

Doctoral degrees awarded by Korean institutions signatories to this agreement and doctoral degrees awarded by German institutions signatories to this agreement should be regarded as equivalent.

### **4. Music and the Arts**

In the disciplines of music and the arts, individual musicianship and artistic talent are, beyond formal requirements, the decisive criteria for admission and have to be demonstrated in special entrance examination procedures.

In Germany, these disciplines are offered in specialized Schools (Academies) of Music and Schools (Academies) of Arts, which are both part of the higher education system. Musicology and history of arts, though, are predominantly offered at universities. Some of the Schools (Academies) of Music and Schools (Academies) of Arts are also doctorate-granting institutions.

In particular in the field of music (composition, instruments, voice, conducting, etc.) and the arts, the designation of formal awards for corresponding types of qualifications may vary from school to school.

(1) Holders of a Korean Bachelor's degree in music or the arts should be eligible

- for admission to programs in fields of musical performance or the arts leading to a *Diplom, Magister/Master* or *Magister Artium* degree or completed by a *Künstlerische Abschlussprüfung* or equivalent qualifications. Depending on individual qualifications, applicants may be granted advanced standing, but may also be expected to fulfill specific additional study requirements.

- for admission to programs in musicology and arts studies leading to a *Diplom*, *Magister*/Master or *Magister Artium* degree. While advanced standing may be granted, necessary proficiency in various languages and/or other prerequisites may require additional studies.

(2) Holders of a Korean Master's degree in music or the arts should be eligible

- for admission to advanced programs in fields of musical performance or the arts leading to the *Konzertexamen* (Concert Examination) or the status of *Meisterschüler/in*. Depending on individual qualifications, applicants may be expected to fulfill specific additional study requirements.
- for admission to doctoral studies in musicology or history of art. Aside from general conditions for doctoral studies as set forth in section 2.1, para. 3 and 4, necessary proficiency in various languages and/or other prerequisites may require additional studies. Students seeking a doctoral degree may consider prior participation in (parts of) the relevant Master's program useful for the fulfillment of additional study requirements.

(3) The qualification *Diplom* awarded after the completion of four-year studies in a field of music or the arts should be considered as equivalent to the degree "Master of Arts".

(4) The qualification *Konzertexamen* or the status of *Meisterschüler/in* awarded after the completion of advanced studies in a field of music or the arts, or equivalent qualifications, should be considered as equivalent to the degree "Doctor of Musical Art" and "Doctor of Arts", respectively, with regard to relevant professional work as well as qualification for teaching the subject.

## 5. Legal Studies

The national aspects characteristic of legal studies include a particular responsibility of the host institution to carefully consider the qualification of applicants to pursue specific programs of study. In general, the following recommendation should be taken into account:

### 5.1 Admission of German Students and Graduates at Korean Institutions

German students having successfully passed the *Erste Prüfung* (First Examination)<sup>1</sup> in legal studies (*Rechtsreferendare*) should be eligible for the admission leading to a master's degree, or to pursue doctoral studies in Korea.

Holders of a German Bachelor of Law should be eligible for the admission to programs leading to a master's degree, and holders of a German Master of Law should be eligible for the admission to pursue doctoral studies in Korea.

### 5.2 Admission of Korean Students and Graduates at German Institutions

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<sup>1</sup> The *Erste Prüfung* has been recently introduced to replace the final examination formerly known as *Erste (Juristische) Staatsprüfung*; cf. § 5 of the *Deutsche Richtergesetz*, amended as of 7 June 2004, BGBl I 1961, 1665.

Holders of a Korean Bachelor of Law should be eligible for the admission to programs leading to a master's degree, and holders of a Korean Master of Law should be eligible for the admission, to pursue doctoral studies in Germany.

Korean students holding a degree of Bachelor of Law and having passed the National Examination for Judges and Prosecutors or the National Bar Examination should be eligible for the admission to pursue doctoral studies in Germany.

## **6. Medical Studies (Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine)**

German students having successfully passed the *Ärztliche Prüfung* (Medicine), the *Zahnärztliche Prüfung* (Dentistry), or the *Tierärztliche Prüfung* (Veterinary Medicine) should be eligible to pursue doctoral studies in Korea or to gain admission to programs leading to a Master's degree.

Korean students holding degrees in medical studies, including Medicine (M.D./Doctor of Medicine), Dentistry (D.D.S.), Veterinary Medicine (B.V.M.), should be eligible to pursue doctoral studies in Germany or to gain admission to programs leading to a Master's degree.

Seoul, 5 October 2007

For the  
Hochschulrektorenkonferenz (HRK)

For the  
Korean Council for University Education  
(KCUE)

Margret Wintermantel  
President

Lee Jang Moo  
Chairman

Burkhard Rauhut  
Vice-President

Young Shik Kim  
Secretary General

**APPENDIX 3**

**Korean - German Academic Links Agreement of 5 October 2007**

***Statement/Transcript Documenting Studies (Model)***

- follows, to be agreed with Korean partner institutions -