



**Extension of  
COOPERATION AGREEMENT**

BETWEEN

**UNIVERSITY OF VERONA (Italy)  
PhD School  
PhD programme in Biomolecular Medicine**

AND

**UNIVERSITY OF OLDENBURG (Germany)  
Department of Neuroscience  
PhD programme in Molecular Basis of Sensory Biology**

**INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME**

The Graduate School of the Università degli Studi di Verona, hereinafter referred to as the University of Verona, represented by its Director Prof. Alfredo Guglielmi and the University of Oldenburg, Department of Neuroscience, represented by its Director, Prof. Christine Koeppel (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties"), recognising the educational and cultural exchanges that could mutually benefit the two Institutions, enter into this agreement to facilitate the exchange of their respective doctoral students and academic staff.

The Parties agree to accept the following terms and conditions, including those reported in the Annexes A e B which constitute an integral part of this document.

**ART. 1**

**Purpose of the Agreement**

The general purpose of this Agreement is to establish specific educational links and cooperation between the two Parties in order to facilitate academic and scientific connections and enrich cultural understanding between the two countries involved.

For this purpose, the Parties agree upon the following forms of collaboration:

- a. To develop common research in fields of mutual interest;
- b. To receive doctoral students and academic staff from the partner Institution for agreed periods of study and/or research;
- c. To organise and mutually participate in academic meetings, symposia and seminars;
- d. Mutual exchange of experiences and information regarding teaching programmes and academic methods and techniques;

Each Institution will provide scientific and material support in accordance with these aims, and will designate a Programme Coordinator/Speaker to oversee and facilitate the implementation of this Agreement.

For the University of Verona, the person responsible for implementing this Agreement will be the Coordinator of the PhD programme in Biomolecular Medicine.

For the University of Oldenburg, the person responsible for implementing this Agreement will be the Speaker of the Research Training group Molecular Basis of Sensory Biology.

**ART. 2**

**Academic and cultural cooperation**

The two Institutions agree on the principle of exchanging doctoral students and academic staff. Specifically, the programme exchange will concern doctoral students enrolled in the PhD programme



in Biomolecular Medicine at the University of Verona and doctoral students enrolled in the qualification programme in Molecular Basis of Sensory Biology at the University of Oldenburg. The Parties shall not be responsible for any private arrangements made between participating staff members concerning exchange of accommodation, vehicles, etc.

### **ART. 3**

#### **Doctoral students and academic staff exchanges**

Subject to the availability of interested, suitable candidates, each Institution will send at least two doctoral students to the partner Institution in a time-frame of five academic years during the period of the agreement, which is considered automatically renewed for the following five academic years. Each exchange will be for the duration of one or two semesters.

Each University will offer incoming students the possibility to attend lectures, academic meetings, symposia and seminars, and agrees to register incoming doctoral students who are accepted under this Agreement as “non-degree” visiting students for the entire duration of their exchange. They will have access to the same facilities as home students (such as libraries, desks and printing facilities) and will be invited to attend seminars, lectures and other events organised by both the PhD programme in Biomolecular Medicine and the Graduate School of Life and Health Sciences and by the Research Training Group (PhD programme) in Molecular Basis of Sensory Biology. They will be exempt from Host Institution tuition fees, except for fixed fees established by the university’s regulations in force and required by law.

At the end of their exchange period at the Host Institution, doctoral students will not be provided with an official transcript but a nominative letter stating the activities carried out during the period of their stay and the lectures and seminars attended. Such a letter, signed by the relevant programme coordinator, will be issued for each student participating in this International Exchange Programme. All doctoral students and academic staff who participate in the International Exchange Programme are required to purchase suitable accident and health insurance and any other insurance required by the Host University or the country in which the host university is located. The insurance must cover the entire duration of their stay abroad. Exchange students from the University of Verona have to prove at minimum Level B1 (CEFR), if they would like to attend courses at the University of Oldenburg offered in German. Otherwise a minimum Level of B1 (CEFR) in English is necessary. The proof can be confirmed by a language certificate or by the exchange coordinator by signing the application for exchange students.

The Parties shall agree on the number of doctoral students that each university will send out and accept from the other university, six (6) months prior to their departure. Doctoral students will be subject to the academic requirements and rules of conduct of the Host University. The Home University will advise its own students of the Host University’s academic and cultural expectations.

### **ART. 4**

#### **Services**

In the spirit of exchange, the Parties will endeavour to facilitate the admission procedures, academic progress, physical relocation and cultural orientation of the students and academic members accepted under this Agreement, in particular by providing:

- a. Access to university facilities (such as libraries, local language courses and canteens);
- b. Information on health insurance requirements and the extent of the medical cover;
- c. Assistance in finding accommodation;
- d. Documents necessary for obtaining the appropriate visa.

The Host Institution does not guarantee accommodation on campus for incoming doctoral students. However, every effort will be made to assist students in obtaining accommodation within a reasonable distance from campus.

Doctoral students from the Home University will be responsible for:



- a. Paying their Home University tuition fees prior to participating in the International Exchange Programme;
- b. Paying for their own room and board in the host country, including utility bills;
- c. Organising and paying for transport to, from and within the Host University;
- d. Arranging and paying for suitable medical insurance;
- e. Any expenses in excess of their medical insurance cover;
- f. Purchasing any required textbooks, clothing and personal items;
- g. Obtaining and paying for the appropriate visa;
- h. Settling all other debts incurred by them or on their behalf during their student exchange or regarding their participation in the International Exchange Programme, as applicable.

#### **ART. 5**

##### **Reviewing the International Exchange Programme**

The Parties will be responsible for reviewing this International Exchange Programme annually in order to make appropriate and mutually agreed modifications as may be required.

#### **ART 6**

##### **Regulations for reference and resolution of disputes**

For any matters not specified in this Agreement for inter-university cooperation, please refer to the laws in force in the respective countries, and in particular the internal regulations in the field of doctoral studies issued by the Institutions in Partnership.

The signatory Institutions commit to amicably solve any disputes that may arise regarding this Agreement.

Should it not be possible to reach an agreement in this manner, and for any disputes that may arise between the Parties concerning the interpretation, execution and/or validity of this Agreement, will be submitted to a board of arbitration of three (3) members. Each party will appoint a member, these members will appoint a independent third member, who will act as chairman. The arbitral proceedings shall be ritual and based upon current regulations. Decisions will be binding to all parties.

#### **ART. 7**

##### **Duration and language of the Agreement**

This Agreement for inter-university cooperation comes into force from the date it is signed by both Parties. It will be valid for five years and may be renewed in accordance with the Parties' wishes. Either Party may terminate the Agreement at any time and for any reason by notifying the other Institution six (6) months in advance. Notice of termination will not affect any individual students or faculty members who have already commenced or been accepted by either Institution. The Agreement may be amended at any time by the mutual consent of the Parties. Any notice or other communications concerning the Agreement must be made in writing.

This agreement is drawn up in English language and electronically signed.

SIGNED 30.05.2022



### Annex A

Academic Staff of the University of Oldenburg involved in the International Exchange Programme to be included in the composition of the Italian Teaching Committee of the PhD Programme in Biomolecular Medicine:

Name	Surname	Institution	Department	Position (full/ associate professor ...)	Scientific Sector
Karl- Wilhelm	Koch	University of Oldenburg	Department of Neuroscience	Full Professor	Biochemistry (BIO/10)

In accordance with the constraints imposed by the Ministerial Decree ~~45/2013~~ 226/2022, it is confirmed that the above listed professor(s) meet the following requirement(s):

(please tick as appropriate)

- ☒ holder of at least 1 ASN Full-Professor quality index (valore soglia I fascia), or  
☐ holder of at least 2 ASN Associate-Professor quality indexes (valori soglia II fascia)  
☐ winner of a EU grant for a research project related to scientific topics included in the PhD Programme.

### Annex B

#### Facilities and equipment made available by the Parties for PhD students participating in the International Exchange Programme

##### UNIVR

Laboratories	Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Laboratories. Biophysical techniques (Dynamic Light Scattering, Differential Scanning Calorimetry, Nuclear Magnetic resonance, Stopped Flow Absorption Spectroscopy, Isothermal titration calorimetry; Surface Plasmon Resonance), confocal and two-photon microscopy
Libraries	Scientific Library "Meneghetti"
Database	
IT facilities	All technologies availables at "Piattaforma Grandi Attrezzature"
Other	

##### UNIOl

Laboratories	Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Laboratories, Cell cultures for protein expression in prokaryotic and eukaryotic systems. Biophysical Techniques (Isothermal titration calorimetry, Surface Plasmon Resonance, Backscattering Interferometry spectroscopy); fluorescence microscopy
Libraries	Access to all University libraries
Database	
IT facilities	Available on the Wechloy Campus of the University of Oldenburg
Other	

#### Information on the foreign partner

Name of the Research Training Group, RTG, (PhD programme) run by the Partner Institution:  
Molecular Basis of Sensory Biology (GRK1885/2)

Accreditation of the PhD programme by national agency (if applicable):  
The RTG study programme is operating within the framework of the Graduate School Science, Medicine and Technology

Name of national agency:  
The Research Training Group is funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)