AGREEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE INTERNATIONAL PHD COURSE

IN ______________________________________

A.Y __/___ CYCLE____

The University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli, with registered office in Viale A. Lincoln 5 - 81100 Caserta, Italy, in the person of the Magnificent Rector, pro tempore, Prof. ___________________ born in ___________ on __________, authorised to sign this agreement with deliberations of the A.S. _______ of ________ and of the B.o.D. resolution no. ________ of ________;

AND

the (foreign) University _________________________________________________, with registered office in ______________________________________ in the person of the Rector, Prof. ______________________ born in ______________________ on ________ authorised to sign this agreement with _________________________________________________ (indicate the authorisation document, if applicable)

WHEREAS

• the activation of the International PhD Course in ______________________________________ is subject, in accordance with current Italian legislation, to ministerial accreditation;
• the International PhD Course in ______________________________________, subject to accreditation, shall be an integral part of the third level educational offer of the University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli;
• the (foreign) University ______________________________________ already offers PhD Courses in the thematic areas corresponding to the disciplinary sectors of the International PhD Course mentioned above, accredited by its national agency (if accreditation is required);
• the regulatory framework on the PhD program of ______________________________________ (indicate the country where the foreign university is located) provides for the possibility of establishing International PhD Courses;
• it is a common aim to provide the skills necessary to carry out high-level research in the University and in other public or private institutions and, therefore, to contribute to the development of scientific research and to promote the employment of qualified young people

AGREE
to sign this inter-institutional agreement

Article 1. - PURPOSE

In order to strengthen scientific, educational and didactic interaction, the University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli and the (foreign) University ______________________________________ with this inter-institutional agreement establish a cooperation aimed at:
• improving international collaboration in research;
• building high level training activity through a cross-border approach;
Article 2. – EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the International PhD Course in __________________________ is the training of researchers with a strong background in the basic and advanced disciplines of interest of the PhD, such as __________________________________________________________________ (indicate the scientific disciplinary sectors of reference for the Italian universities and the corresponding thematic areas for the foreign university), with strong research skills, analytical skills, knowledge of techniques and investigation tools for the design and execution of innovative research projects in an international context.

The scientific project of the PhD Course and the analytical indication of the themes, with the possible provision of curricula, the structure of the educational program, with the related credits for each activity, as well as the evaluation methods, will be explained in a specific annex (Annex 1) signed by the Course Coordinator and the Co-Director for the (foreign) University __________________________, as an integral part of this agreement.

Article 3. – DURATION, ADMISSION AND LOCATIONS

The International PhD Course in __________________________ has a duration of three academic years.

The modalities and criteria for admission to the PhD Course, determined by the Faculty Board, will be indicated in the relevant notice of competition issued by the University's administrative headquarters of the Course, i.e. by the University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli, and must ensure an adequate comparative evaluation of the candidates, on an equal and non-discriminatory basis in relation to their nationality, respecting the principles of selectivity and transparency.

The Admission Commission for the International PhD Course, appointed by the Rector of the University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli, will be made up of a number of ____ scholars, designated as the Faculty Board, who may not belong to the proposing entities. Nobody can be part of the Commission more than once in a three-year period;

The administrative headquarters of the course, University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli, will also take care of the administrative management of the PhD students' career and the issue of the PhD (joint or double/multiple) academic qualification.

The main operating offices are:
- the Department of ______________________________________________________ for the University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli;
- the Department/structure ___________________________________________ for the (foreign) University ____________________________.

Article 4. – SCHOLARSHIPS AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Each signatory university must finance a minimum of two PhD scholarships for the entire duration of the course, for a total of at least four scholarships for each PhD cycle.

The partner University undertakes to pay the entire administrative amount to the administrative University prior to the issuing of the notice of competition for admission to the International PhD Course.

The scholarships will be awarded on the basis of the general merit ranking.

The amount of each scholarship, for the entire three-year period, is equal to € __________________, including:
- social security charges;
- a budget for the PhD student's research activity (including mobility expenses) equal to 10% of the amount of the scholarship, for the first year, and equal to 25% from the second year;
- a 50% increase in the scholarship for a stay abroad of the PhD student up to a maximum of eighteen months.

The aforementioned amount will be detailed in a specific annex (Annex 2) as integral part of this agreement. Each university undertakes to bear any legislative increases in the scholarship and related charges.

In addition, partner Universities can make available research topics, additional research funds, if available from the research group/faculty board, as well as existing premises (spaces and laboratories), and scientific, didactic and bibliographic equipment.

Article 5. – MANAGEMENT BODIES

The following bodies are responsible for the management of the International PhD Course: the Faculty Board, the Course Coordinator and the Co-Director for the (foreign) University __________________________, activated according to the provisions of the PhD Regulations of the administrative University.

The Faculty Board of the International PhD Course is responsible for the design of the PhD Course and the implementation of the training courses, taking care to actively involve, in carrying out the training activities, the offices signatories of this agreement and/or other affiliated offices.

The Faculty Board is composed of a minimum of 16 teachers of which no more than a quarter of researchers (or equivalent positions in foreign bodies) with a balanced presence of no. _____ teachers belonging to the University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli and of no.________ teachers belonging to the (foreign) University __________________________.

The members of the Faculty Board must belong to macro-sectors consistent with the educational objectives of the Course, be internationally renowned and have documented scientific production over the past five years.

The Course Coordinator, permanent professor in service at the administrative University of the Course, designated according to the current legislation of the same University, is responsible for the implementation of this agreement, in collaboration with a contact person designated by the foreign University, as Co-Director.

The training activities are followed and verified by university tutors appointed by the Faculty Board, for each PhD student, within each partner University.

Article 6. – COURSE STRUCTURE AND TEACHING METHODS

Course Structure:
the International PhD Course in __________________________ is divided into three academic phases/years that will develop in compliance with the principle of reciprocity based on the following:

Phase 1/First Academic Year:
Introduction to the knowledge of the research areas of the PhD Course through courses and seminars on shared subject matters and advanced research methodologies; preparation of a research project for each PhD student with planning/start of a study period abroad; start of research activities.

The courses and seminars will be held in English in the associated universities and linguistic specialisation courses will be provided.
Phase 2/Second Academic Year:
Further study of the research fields of the PhD through specialist courses and in-depth seminars; continuation of the research activity relating to the dissertation project, also aimed at publishing the results. Mobility abroad with a minimum mandatory stay of three months (if not already carried out in phase 1/first academic year).

Phase 3/Third Academic Year:
Continuation and completion of the research activities and of the abroad stay (for a maximum total period of 18 months) also at universities other than signatory universities and associated research institutes; completion of the dissertation written in English.
Participation (if any) of PhD students in seminars, as speakers, on the results of their research; publication of at least one work, as first author or main author, relating to the results of research in scientific journals with Impact Factor, for the bibliometric sectors, or in scientific journals for the non-bibliometric sectors.

Teaching methodologies:
The courses and seminars provided in the three-year period are carried out by experts in the field, with the use of different teaching methodologies: frontal lessons (also through e-learning platforms), scientific experiences, learning by doing, problem solving, web network for the exchange of information, bibliographic research and databases.
Training activities must pay particular attention to IT improvement, knowledge of European and international research systems, the exploitation of research results and intellectual property.
In both universities, PhD students will have access to libraries, university services, laboratories and IT resources, in collaboration with the host research group.

The didactic/scientific contents and the details related to the structure of the International PhD Course, as well as the teaching methodologies, will be reported in Annex 1, to which reference is made.

Article 7. – ASSIGNMENT OF CREDITS AND FINAL EXAM
Sixty credits (ECTS) are awarded annually to PhD students for the activities carried out during each year of the PhD Course.
The credits can be of two types: theoretical training credits (seminars, conferences, workshops, refresher and in-depth courses on certain thematic areas, periodic discussion meetings: journal and data club, etc.) and practical research training credits (research activity carried out under the supervision of a tutor, publication of research results, active participation and/or organisation of conferences, seminars, courses aimed at acquiring practical laboratory skills etc.). The research training credits must contribute to the production of the annual report and/or the final paper to be discussed for the achievement of the PhD qualification.

The training program, the attribution of credits for each activity and the evaluation methods are provided in Annex 1, to which reference is made.
At the end of the course, the PhD students, in a single public session at the administrative office of the Course, will discuss, in English, their dissertations, carried out under the joint supervision of the tutors referred to in art. 5 of this agreement.
The PhD dissertation, written in English, will be evaluated in writing by two international referees, external to the partner universities of the International PhD and appointed by the Faculty Board.

Having acquired the analytical judgement of the external international referees, a specific commission decides on the admission to the final examination of the PhD student or on a possible postponement, if proposed by the referees, for a period not exceeding six months.

The Commission for the final exam is composed of no. _____ full and substitute teachers, designated by the participating Universities (also among teachers not belonging to the proponent offices) of which no.____ foreign teachers. Tutors and referees cannot be part of the Commission for the final exam. Nobody can be part of the Commission more than once in a two-year period;

The Commission is proposed by the Faculty Board and is appointed by the Rector of the University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli, administrative headquarters of the PhD Course.

**Article 8. – PhD QUALIFICATION**

After passing the final exam, the PhD students will be awarded the joint PhD in ___________________________ issued by the University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli and by the (foreign) university ___________________________.

*(alternatively)*

After passing the final exam, the PhD students will be awarded double/multiple PhD qualifications in ___________________________ issued individually by the universities signatories of this agreement.

**Article 9. – PATENTABLE DISSERTATION**

A research dissertation falls into the sphere of patentability only if it solves an existing problem and is able to offer solutions that can be transferred at a technological level (technology transfer) for the benefit of the community (industrial development).

Based on national, European and international regulations, the patent request must be made before the discussion of the dissertation, as public and open discussion is equivalent to a publication.

After the filing request, publishing is allowed in any form.

**Article 10. - INSURANCE COVERAGE**

For the entire period of stay abroad the PhD student will benefit from healthcare coverage valid in EU countries, or must provide appropriate healthcare coverage at his/her own expense.

PhD students enrolled at the University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli are covered by an insurance policy against the risks deriving from accidents.

At the University (Foreign) ___________________________ PhD students are covered by ___________________________(please specify).

Regarding additional risks not covered by the insurance provided for by law or taken out by each University, the PhD student will have to provide coverage independently through a personal insurance.

**Article 11. - DURATION**

This agreement enters into force upon its signature and shall be valid starting from the ______ cycle of the International PhD in ___________________________ and until the three-year conclusion of the Course. It is possible to tacitly extend this agreement in relation to each subsequent cycle.

Each Party may withdraw from this agreement by written communication sent to the registered office of the other Party at least six months before the expiration of the agreement or its extension, without prejudice to
the ongoing training activities that will be carried out until their natural conclusion and without affecting the scientific, educational and research agreements carried out in application of this agreement that may continue until their natural expiry.
This agreement is drawn up in duplicate to be filed by each of the signing Parties.

**Article 12. – FINAL PROVISIONS**
For anything not specified in this agreement reference should be made to the international, national and internal regulations in force at the universities signatories of this agreement.
For all disputes that may arise on this agreement, the Court of S. Maria CV will have exclusive jurisdiction

Place and date ………………………, ………………………
Place and date ………………………, ………………………

For the University of Campania

*Luigi Vanvitelli*

The Rector

(_______________________)

For the *(foreign)* University ______________

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The President/Rector

(_______________________)