MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

between

The Pennsylvania State University
York Campus
United States of America

and

Vidyalankar School of Information Technology
India

The Vidyalankar School of Information Technology (Vidyalankar), affiliated with the University of Mumbai, operating under the auspices of the Vidyalankar Dayanapeeth Trust, India, and The Pennsylvania State University, York Campus (Penn State York), United States of America, are both leading institutions in the field of information science. This Agreement has been set forth to enable promotion of their cooperation by establishing an agreement to facilitate faculty cooperation and an undergraduate 2+2 degree program between the Vidyalankar and Penn State. The two institutions agree to the following conditions:

I. Objective
   A. Overall Objective: To promote the development of academic, scientific, technical, and cultural relations between the two organizations, including, but not restricted to, an undergraduate 2+2 degree program, scientific research, professional development, and technical cooperation.

   B. Scope of Cooperation: Students will enroll at Vidyalankar in a pre-approved series of courses which parallel Penn State’s information sciences and technology curriculum. Satisfactory completion of this specific program will enable students to apply, transfer to and enroll at Penn State York for the completion of their BS degree in Information Sciences and Technology (IST), which they will receive from Penn State. At the faculty level, possible professional development and curriculum enhancement for Vidyalankar faculty will be discussed.

II. Implementation procedures for enrollment at Penn State York
   A. Application and registration for students
      i. Students from Vidyalankar will complete a two-year curriculum, equivalent to 64 credits, that parallels the requirements for the BS degree in Information Sciences and Technology at Penn State, including general education requirements. This will be achieved by enrolling these students in the BSc. (Information Technology) program of the University of Mumbai offered at Vidyalankar School of Information Technology. Students will thus study Mumbai University courses in Information Technology which are substantially equivalent to Penn State courses in Information Technology Sciences at the freshman and sophomore level. The specific content of the courses taught at
Vidyalankar have been vetted by Penn State IST faculty. Furthermore the students will be examined by the University of Mumbai system. Vidyalankar has committed to hiring supplemental faculty who teach at other affiliated colleges of the University of Mumbai to teach the general education courses. These general education courses have been patterned after their equivalent Penn State courses. Those faculty will meet the same academic standards as Vidyalankar’s Information Sciences faculty.

ii. Once a candidate has completed the required coursework at Vidyalankar, an academic record will be sent by Vidyalankar to the Chancellor’s office at Penn State York by January 15th of each year. In addition, students will complete the on-line application for the Penn State. Requirements for admission are the same as other international applicants, which include:

1. Completion of the undergraduate application;
2. Submission of application fee;
3. Submission of full high school transcripts;
4. Completion of English 015 and 202C with a grade of C (2.0) or better which will substitute for the usual TOEFL scores;
5. Submission of official transcripts indicating that a student has completed the agreed upon coursework with satisfactory grades at Vidyalankar. The student should have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA. Only individual courses with a grade of C (2.0) or better can be transferred into Penn State;
6. Submission of all required financial proof of support documents.

iii. When accepted into the program, students should be admitted as third year students in the major offered by information sciences and technology at Penn State York, leading to a B.S. degree.

B. Coursework requirements for students

i. Students must maintain full-time status. While each student’s needs may be individually determined, visa requirements for full-time status must be fulfilled at all times.

ii. If a student is not planning to enroll in a minimum of twelve (12) credits of coursework while at Penn State, the Penn State program coordinator must consult with ISS to determine the relevant visa requirements. As of this writing, it is possible to fulfill the requirement for full-time status with a structured research program by special dispensation from the Responsible Officer (Director of ISS). It is acknowledged by all parties that, should visa regulations change, it may be necessary for the students coming from Vidyalankar to enroll in twelve (12) credits of actual instruction. Any financial implications of such change are the responsibility of the student.

C. Housing and other facilities for students
i. Participants in the program will have access to off-campus housing and the assistance of the Penn State York Chancellor's office in obtaining same.

ii. Students will be provided access to all facilities, including computer access, research facilities, and materials as is commensurate with their standing as degree candidates.

iii. Students attending Penn State must purchase the health insurance plan provided by Penn State, or obtain a waiver by providing to the Student Insurance Office proof of alternate coverage that meets Penn State’s minimum standards.

III. Implementation procedures for non-students

A. Professors, staff members, specialists, and technicians may choose to engage in professional development and other mutually agreed upon joint projects. Both organizations will allow faculty to visit the other organization or affiliated organizations for the purpose of individual research or other approved cooperative projects.

B. The object in exchanging staff members or faculty is to enhance and maintain working relationships for both Penn State and Vidyalankar. The number and duration of exchanges will be negotiated on an individual basis.

i. Both Penn State and Vidyalankar will allow access to unclassified resources such as libraries, film and slide libraries, technical and academic materials depositories, laboratories, and studies for the purpose of enriching and developing their own resources to those involved in the program.

ii. Exchange personnel must abide by the laws of the host country and the rules and regulations of the host organization. Each of the cooperating institutions will assist its guest scholars, to the fullest extent possible, in obtaining visas and other documents required by the government of the host country.

IV. Expenses

A. Undergraduate students

Vidyalankar shall be responsible for ascertaining, as a prerequisite for acceptance into the program, that full financial support is available to each student. This includes, but is not limited to, tuition, room, board, utilities, books and stationery, insurance, fees, travel expenses, and cost of living expenses. In order to receive the appropriate visa document in a timely manner, documentation of this support must be provided to ISS at the time of the admissions offer.

B. Faculty and other employees

Travel funding will be the responsibility of each employee at the discretion of their home institution. Reasonable attempts will be made to seek external funds for mutual projects. Other arrangements may be made on an individual basis. Participants (students, faculty, and researchers) in the program coming to
Vidyalankar or Penn State will provide medical and accident insurance necessary for their own health assistance for the period to be spent in that institution.

V. Administration
   A. Undergraduate students
      This 2+2 degree program is the direct responsibility of the Chancellor of Penn State York and her or his staff. Yearly coordinators are to be appointed by the Chancellor at his or her discretion.
   B. Faculty and other employees
      Project directors will be assigned at each institution as needed. Administrative structures will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Each institution can designate a local coordinator to supervise all activities of the Agreement and to verify the attainment of the foreseen objectives.

VI. Equal Access Policy
   Both institutions are committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by the respective Penn State and Vidyalankar policies or by state or federal authorities. Neither institution discriminates against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. Penn State and Vidyalankar shall abide by these principles in the administration of this MoA and neither institution shall impose criteria for the exchange of scholars or students which would violate the principles of non-discrimination.

VII. Evaluation/Assessment Clause
   The offices responsible for administering the agreement will jointly review the program every three years to assess its effectiveness in promoting the institution's respective international education goals. This agreement will start immediately after all signatures have been obtained and will be effective for five years, subject to revision or modification by mutual written agreement, unless terminated by either party in the form of a written notice submitted at least eight months in advance of the academic year in which the termination is to become effective.

Students enrolled in this program prior to such termination of agreement will be allowed to complete their studies at Penn State should they meet admissions requirements. Controversies on interpretation and execution of this Agreement will be resolved by a committee comprised of one member from each institution, designated by the Chairperson of Vidyalankar and Robert N. Pangborn, Vice President and Dean for Undergraduate Education.
The Pennsylvania State University

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