



**RENEWAL OF PROGRAM SPECIFIC AGREEMENT FOR A
COLLABORATIVE GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH PROGRAM**

Between

**BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA
BY AND ON BEHALF OF GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY AND ITS
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
ATLANTA, U.S.A.**

And

**SOUTHWEST JIAOTONG UNIVERSITY AND ITS
SCHOOL OF LIFE SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING
CHENGDU, SICHUAN, CHINA**

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia by and on behalf of Georgia State University and its College of Arts & Sciences (“Georgia State”), Atlanta, Georgia, United States of America and Southwest Jiaotong University and its School of Life Sciences and Engineering, Chengdu, Sichuan, People’s Republic of China (“SWJTU”), in furtherance of this program initiated in 2015, agree to continue their collaborative graduate student research program in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in this agreement (“Agreement”).

At the time this agreement is signed, the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted travel and academic operations. Therefore, the parties agree that before this agreement is implemented, each party must confirm that the timing and plans are acceptable. The implementation of the agreement may be postponed or cancelled at the request of either party.

Georgia State and SWJTU hereby agree to the following:

1. Description of Program

This Agreement enhances and extends graduate student training and faculty research collaboration in life and medical sciences between SWJTU and Georgia State. Top masters-level students at SWJTU will be selected to apply to Georgia State as Master’s-level Biology or Chemistry students. SWJTU will provide Georgia State with funds for graduate research stipends and materials and Georgia State will grant a research assistantship to qualified students. The Program, which now involves the Biology and Chemistry Departments at Georgia State, within the College of Arts and Sciences, may be expanded to other departments upon mutual agreement with an amendment.

2. Term and Academic Years

This Agreement becomes effective on the date it is duly signed by representatives of both institutions. The term of the Agreement shall commence on the effective date and shall be in effect for five (5) years, unless earlier terminated by either party pursuant to Section 8 below. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, the term of this Agreement shall not extend beyond one academic year if Georgia State assumes any financial obligations by entering into this Agreement. This Agreement is renewable for an additional academic year or five-year renewal terms, as applicable, upon the advance written agreement of both parties.

The academic year at Georgia State consists of two regular semesters: the Fall semester begins in August and ends in mid-December, and the Spring semester begins in January and ends in early May. In addition, there is an abbreviated Summer Term. Graduate students from SWJTU have no restrictions on which semesters they can attend Georgia State.

3. Number of Students

Starting in Spring 2021, up to ten students from SWJTU will be invited to apply as transfer students to Georgia State.

4. Units Involved in Program

Participants in the program will be drawn from the School of Life Sciences and Engineering at SWJTU.

5. Graduate Student Research Program

A. Requirements for Students to Participate

SWJTU will select outstanding graduate students from their graduate program to receive training, participate in collaborative research, and earn either an MSc Biology or Chemistry degree from Georgia State. The selected MSc students at SWJTU will apply to either the MSc Biology or Chemistry program at Georgia State as transfer students.

The SWJTU students will fulfill all application requirements for an MSc Biology or Chemistry program at Georgia State. Georgia State agrees to waive the GRE requirement.

SWJTU students are required to establish English language proficiency by submitting TOEFL or IELTS scores and meeting the minimum score required by their chosen academic program at Georgia State. SWJTU students admitted to Georgia State will also take the GSTEP (Georgia State Test of English Proficiency) upon arrival.

SWJTU students at Georgia State will complete all MSc Biology or Chemistry degree requirements. Their graduate course credits from SWJTU may or may not be transferred based on Georgia State's policy and the decision of the Departments of Biology or Chemistry. Up to nine (9) credits of appropriate graduate courses may be transferred to Georgia State toward the Biology or Chemistry MSc degree.

The school, department or unit involved in this Agreement at SWJTU will provide academic counseling to its own students to ensure that the courses taken at Georgia State are acceptable with respect to its own degree programs. Georgia State will supply SWJTU with course descriptions and other pertinent materials to assist in determining course equivalency. At the end of each semester or academic term, students will follow appropriate procedures at Georgia State to ensure academic records/transcript from Georgia State are sent to SWJTU.

It is expected that SWJTU students will complete at least a year in the SWJTU Master's Program before joining Georgia State's program for 2 years. Variation or exceptions will require mutual agreement in writing. SWJTU agrees to accept the graduate credits from Georgia State toward SWJTU's MSc degree. Outstanding students from this program will be considered for acceptance to the Georgia State's PhD program if they meet established admission requirements. Accepted PhD students from SWJTU MSc program may also qualify for graduate assistantships.

Students will be required to comply with the standard rules, regulations, and enrollment restrictions of Georgia State in the selection of courses, including requirements of language proficiency and health documentation. SWJTU students must submit immunization documentation, including but not limited to Measles, Mumps and Rubella or MMR, Tetanus, Diphtheria, Varicella, Hepatitis B for enrollment.

Georgia State has final authority over decisions regarding admission of students to its courses.

B. Student Responsibilities and Expenses

SWJTU agrees to provide these students with MSc stipends and supply funds. The funds will be transferred directly to Georgia State, through the Georgia State Research Foundation. With the guarantee of these funds, Georgia State will grant each MSc student from SWJTU a graduate research assistantship. The students will work in the Biology or Chemistry Labs throughout the academic year. SWJTU students are responsible for paying mandatory Georgia State fees and any charges not covered by the Georgia State research assistantships (e.g. health insurance) each semester by published deadlines. Each graduate assistantship is \$6,000 per academic year.

Supply funds will be agreed upon at the start of each academic year however, in the first year, SWJTU will provide \$10,000 per student per year to be deposited at Georgia State as a special sponsored project. The exact annual amount will be dependent on the availability of funds and the number of students from SWJTU.

C. Visa Requirements

Georgia State Biology and Chemistry Departments will forward all necessary international student data to Georgia State's International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) office to enable participating students to apply for the F-1 student visa. It is each student's responsibility to obtain the appropriate visa, as required by the United States of America. Documentation of sufficient financial resources in the United States is also required. Forms and detailed information about this process will be provided by Georgia State's International Student & Scholar Services.

The above information must be received at Georgia State approximately three (3) to four (4) months preceding the international student's arrival to the U.S.

D. Insurance Requirements for Students

Personal health, hospitalization and accident insurance, including a repatriation & medical evacuation plan, as well as liability coverage, is required for all international students studying at Georgia State. Students may submit proof of comparable coverage to the Georgia State Student Financial Services office for a waiver consideration or purchase Georgia State's international students' insurance policy.

E. Housing for Students

Georgia State's Housing Office will provide SWJTU students information about university housing. SWJTU students are responsible for negotiating leasing agreements with the Georgia State Housing Office as appropriate. Housing space at Georgia State is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. SWJTU students who wish to live in Georgia State housing must complete the application process at least four (4) months preceding their arrival.

F. Compliance with Rules and Regulations

SWJTU students will be subject to the rules and regulations of Georgia State, and the laws and procedures of Atlanta, GA, USA.

Georgia State will assume no responsibility for a student's conduct or lack of compliance with any U.S. laws. Georgia State reserves the right to dismiss any student at any time for academic or personal misconduct in violation of established regulations provided, however that Georgia State will, absent extenuating circumstances, attempt to consult with SWJTU before implementing such action. The dismissal of a student shall not abrogate this Agreement, or the arrangements regarding other students.

6. Research

To the extent allowable by law, the parties may engage in joint research, conference participation, publication of research results and other research-related activity. The parties understand and agree that national laws regulating the export of technologies may prohibit participation by visiting students, faculty, and researchers on specific research projects in the host country. The parties further understand and agree to secure all University and other required approvals prior to conducting research activities and to abide by all policies and procedures governing such activities.

If students participate in research funded by a third party sponsor, the parties agree that such research activities will abide by the terms of the sponsorship agreement. If students receive third party confidential information for research purposes that was provided under a written nondisclosure or confidential disclosure agreement, the parties agree that the students will be bound by the confidentiality and nondisclosure terms of such agreement.

Students pledge to disclose any intellectual property developed as a result of joint research to both the Georgia State and SWJTU unless such disclosure is unlawful under the law of the United States of America. If valuable intellectual property is created as a result of joint research, ownership of such intellectual property shall be determined in accordance with the law of inventorship or authorship of the country in which the research occurred and Georgia State's policies. The parties agree that Georgia State will evaluate the intellectual property, in consultation with the other party, to determine whether formal patent, copyright, or other protection is desirable.

7. Equal Opportunity

Both parties to this Agreement subscribe to a policy of equal opportunity, and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, age, ethnicity, religion, national origin, or disability.

8. Modification, Termination, Renewal of Agreement

This Agreement may be modified, revised, or renewed but only upon the mutual consent of the parties in writing. Either party may terminate this Agreement by written notice submitted at least 90 days in advance of the next academic semester. Termination will not affect existing students in the program.

Unless renewed by mutual written consent, this Agreement will conclude at the end of the specified academic term or year (as defined in section 2 above).

9. Primary Contacts / Program Directors

The Primary Contacts/ Program Directors will ensure that the terms of this Agreement are carried out. They will serve as the contact persons at each institution, ensure the general welfare of program participants, ensure that necessary approvals are in place, and have administrative oversight of the program.

The primary contacts for the parties to this Agreement are the following:

For Georgia State

Department of Biology

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For SWJTU

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Department of Chemistry

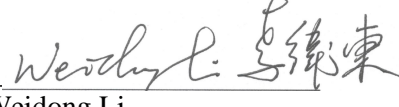
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WHEREFORE the parties to this Agreement signify their acceptance of the terms and conditions contained herein by signing in the spaces below.

**Board of Regents of the University
System of Georgia by and on behalf
of Georgia State University and its
College of Arts & Sciences**

**Southwest Jiaotong University and its
School Life Sciences and Engineering**

By: 
Sara Rosen
Dean

By: 
Weidong Li
Dean

Date: 11/16/2020

Date: 11/27/2020