RENEWAL OF THE PROGRAM SPECIFIC AGREEMENT FOR A STUDENT EXCHANGE

Between

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

And

OSLO AND AKERSHUS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF APPLIED SCIENCES
FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
OSLO, NORWAY

In order to improve the educational experiences and cultural understanding of their students and faculty, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia by and on behalf of Georgia State University and its College of Education (COE), Atlanta, Georgia, United States of America ( "Georgia State" or "GSU"), and Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences (HiOA) through its Faculty of Education and International Studies, (HIOA/LUI) agree to renew a student exchange in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in this agreement ("Agreement"). Georgia State and HiOA hereby agree as follows:

1. Description of Program

This agreement ("Agreement") is established to facilitate a student exchange program at the partner institution ("Exchange Program"). The program enables students working towards a degree at one institution to take classes at the other institution.

Student Program Type: Please check the appropriate box to indicate program type.

☐ Non-Degree Program
☐ Joint Degree Program
☐ Dual Degree Program
☐ Articulation Program
☐ Certificate Program
☐ Other, please specify ____________________________

1 Oslo University College and Akershus University College merged in August 1, 2011 to create Oslo and Akershus University College.

1
For purposes of this Agreement, the term “Home University” shall mean the institution in which a student is formally enrolled as a degree candidate, and “Host University” shall mean the institution that has agreed to receive students from the Home University for a period of study.

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 Paragraph 14 below. The agreement is renewable for additional five-year terms 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 runs through December, and the Spring semester begins in January and runs through May. In addition, there is a summer semester and an abbreviated Maymester. Students from HiOA taking classes at Georgia State will be allowed to participate only during Fall/Spring terms. The academic year at HiOA consists of a Fall term (approx. August 15 – December 15) and Spring term (approx January 20-June 1st). Students from Georgia State taking classes at HiOA will be allowed to participate during any term.

3. Number of Students

Starting in Fall semester, 2013 and continuing for each year during the term of this Agreement, the exchange will be measured according to the following formula: one full-time semester undergraduate at Georgia State equals one full-time semester undergraduate at HiOA. However, starting in the Fall 2013 semester, and continuing for each year during the term of this Agreement, the two institutions will exchange undergraduate students on a two-for-one basis. Specifically, Georgia State will send two full-time semester students to HiOA for every one full-time semester student it receives (or the equivalent ratio). This two-for-one requirement accounts for an imbalance in the previous agreement, under which five HiOA students attended Georgia State but no Georgia State students attended HiOA. The requirement will remain in place until balance is restored, after which the exchange will revert back to a one-for-one basis. A student who participates in the exchange for two semesters will count as two students. Initially, a maximum of four (4) students per academic year will be sent to each institution. These maximum numbers may be amended in writing by both parties.

Both parties will endeavor to maintain an evenly balanced exchange during the term of this Agreement. However, if conditions exist which render such equity impossible during a particular semester, such imbalance shall be corrected in the immediate subsequent semester to restore balance. In no event shall an imbalance in the exchange be carried forward beyond one semester. The exchange balance will be monitored throughout the term of this Agreement by both institutions. Either party to this Agreement may refuse admission to the additional incoming students until the exchange balance is restored.

4. Units Involved in the Student Exchange

Participants in the program will be drawn from the College of Education at Georgia State, and Department of Early Childhood Education and Department of Primary and Secondary Education at HiOA at the discretion of both parties. Exchange students enrolled at Georgia State may take coursework in the College of Education and exchange students enrolled at HiOA may take coursework in programmes taught in English at the Faculty of Education and International Studies.

5. Requirements for Participation

Students who wish to participate in the Exchange Program will be screened for eligibility for admission by the Home University, which shall respect the admission requirements and enrollment constraints of the
Host University. Students will be required to comply with the standard rules, regulations, and enrollment restrictions of the Host University in the selection of courses, including requirements of language proficiency, and health documentation. HiOA 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 students will submit any required HiOA health documentation.

Students must be proficient in the language of instruction for courses being taken at the Host University in order to participate. At Georgia State, the language of instruction is English, and at HiOA the language of instruction in several course offerings is in English. Students from HiOA will be required to submit a minimum TOEFL CBT score of 250 and a score of 5 on the TOEFL essay or a minimum composite TOEFL iBT score of 80, with a Writing score of at least 22 but will not be required to submit a score for the Test of Spoken English (TSE). Students from Georgia State will not be required to demonstrate proficiency in English. These language requirements apply only to the students and not to their spouses and dependents. Each Host University shall have final authority over decisions regarding admission of students to its courses.

6. Academic Counseling, Credits and Reports

The school, department or unit involved in this Agreement at each Home University will provide academic counseling to its own students to ensure that the courses taken at the Host University are acceptable with respect to its own degree programs. The Host University will supply the Home University with course descriptions and other pertinent materials to assist in determining course equivalency. Students will carry a normal load of classes appropriate to full-time status. Georgia State students will register for and take 30 ECTS credits for each semester.

The exchange students must pursue the approved course of study for the agreed period. Course work undertaken by visiting students should be recognized as contributing to degree requirements at the Home University, but this remains at the discretion of the Home University. At the end of each semester or academic term, students will follow appropriate procedures at the Host University to ensure academic records/transcript from the Host University are sent to the Home University.

7. Student Responsibilities and Expenses

Unless otherwise indicated in an appendix hereto, students in this Exchange Program will be responsible for the following:

1. Payment of all student fees and tuition to the Home University;
2. With the assistance of the Host University, obtaining the proper visas and other documents required by the government of the Host University, including any guaranty that they have the financial resources to meet all expenses;
3. The costs of food, housing, international and local transportation, books, fees for class materials, and other educational and personal expenses;
4. Purchasing the required health/hospitalization/liability insurance, including repatriation, for the time period of their involvement in the Exchange Program in order to meet governmental regulations, as well as the regulations of the Host and Home Universities, as set forth in Paragraph 9 below;
5. Abiding by the same regulations and performance standards that pertain to other students at the Host University;
6. Notifying the appropriate exchange coordinator/director at the Host University by email when traveling away from the city in which the Host University is located, and, to
the best of their ability, providing emergency telephone numbers where they can be reached;
7. Submitting to criminal background checks and purchasing relevant insurance if they are participating in an internship at Host University; and
8. Submitting any health or immunization records required by Host University.

8. **Visa Requirements**

Each Host University will provide the necessary documentation (e.g., official letters of admission, immigration documents) for exchange students to obtain a visa to enter and study in the host country. This documentation enables the Home University to sponsor the students as part of this Agreement but does not commit the institution to any financial sponsorship. In order to produce this documentation, they will rely on the Home University communicating student information four to five months before the start of the Exchange Program. The Host University will update the Home University annually regarding the data and documentation required. It is each student’s responsibility to obtain the appropriate visa, as required by the host country. Exchange students coming to GSU are required to obtain a J-1 visa, and therefore must provide documentation of sufficient financial resources needed to study in the U.S. Forms and detailed information about this process will be provided by GSU’s International Student & Scholar Services.

GSU COE students who are American citizens must possess a valid U.S. passport and entry clearance to enter Norway. All GSU COE students who do not possess a U.S. Passport (including US lawful permanent residents and other foreign nationals who study at Georgia State on an F-1 or J-1 visa) must follow the process for proper entry clearance required by Norway for citizens of their home country. International students may be required to provide evidence of sufficient financial resources as determined by host country.

9. **Insurance Requirements**

Personal health, hospitalization and accident insurance, including a repatriation & medical evacuation plan, as well as liability coverage, is required for all students participating in this Exchange Program. Students who already have insurance must submit proof of such coverage to the Host University for approval before departing from their home countries. The Host University will assist students in identifying available insurance options designed for international students, if necessary. Students from HiOA who do not have appropriate insurance must obtain Georgia State’s international students’ insurance policy. Students from Georgia State must obtain Georgia State’s study abroad insurance coverage.

10. **Housing**

The Host University may offer advice to exchange students regarding accommodations, but it is the responsibility of the students themselves to making living arrangements in the host country.

11. **Employment**

This agreement does not allow employment of HiOA students and Georgia State students in the host country.
12. Compliance with Rules and Regulations

Exchange students will be subject to the rules and regulations of the Host University, and the laws and procedures of the state or canton in which the institution is located. The Host University will assume no responsibility for a student’s conduct or lack of compliance with any of the host country’s laws. Each institution reserves the right to dismiss any exchange student at any time for academic or personal misconduct in violation of established regulations provided, however that the Host University will, absent extenuating circumstances, attempt to consult with the Home University before implementing such action. The dismissal of a student shall not abrogate this Agreement, or arrangements regarding other students.

13. 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 exchange students 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 exchange 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 exchange 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 exchange students will be bound by the confidentiality and nondisclosure terms of such agreement. Exchange students pledge to disclose any intellectual property developed as a result of joint research to both the Host and Home Universities unless such disclosure is unlawful under the law of the Host University’s country.

14. 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 or approved students in the Exchange 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.
15. **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 University**
Name: Gary Bingham  
Title: Assistant Professor  
Department: Early Childhood Education  
Address: 30 Pryor St., Suite 550  
College of Education  
Georgia State University  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
Phone: 404-413-8020  
E-mail: gbingham@gsu.edu

**For HiOA**
Name: Anikke Hagen  
Title: Academic International Coordinator  
Department: Early Childhood Education  
Address: Oslo and Akershus University  
College of Applied Sciences,  
Pilestredet 52, 0167 Oslo, Norway  
Phone: tel +47 22452242  
E-mail: anikke.hagen@hioa.no
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 Education

By: [Signature]
Paul Alberto
Dean

Date: 6-11-13

Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences
Faculty of Education and International Studies

By: [Signature]
Knut Patrick Hanevik
Dean

Date: 6-1-13