



Università degli Studi di Firenze

AGREEMENT OF CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORENCE (ITALY) AND THE YEREVAN STATE UNIVERSITY (ARMENIA)

General Provisions

- Given that cultural and scientific exchange is indispensable to academic institutions to develop their educational and research activities;
- given that, for the above-stated purpose, it is necessary to promote and encourage direct cultural agreements between institutions of higher learning in different countries;
- having verified the mutual interest that the University of Florence (Italy) and the Yerevan State University (Armenia) share in establishing an appropriate form of exchange program in the fields of: Cultural Heritage Studies, Medieval Archaeology, Medieval Culture and Public Archaeology;
- having examined the documentation submitted by the Dept. of History Archaeology Geography, performing and fine Arts of the University of Florence as evidence of experience and interest in forms of cultural and scientific collaboration and in further developing relations of this kind;
- in agreement with the laws of the two countries and, as far as the Italian law is concerned, with the Ministerial Decree of November 3, 1999 n.509 concerning forms of educational autonomy of individual universities (article 3 in particular);
- in agreement with the Statute of the University of Florence (articles 1, 8, 9, 11) and with the University Didactical Regulations (articles 11 and 12);
- in agreement with the resolutions of the Academic Senate and of the Board of Governors of the University of Florence passed on January 14, 2004 and January 30, 2004 respectively;

THE FOLLOWING TERMS OF AGREEMENT ARE STIPULATED

BETWEEN

the University of Florence, represented by the Rector Prof. Alberto Tesi residing in Florence, Piazza San Marco, 4

AND

the Yerevan State University, represented by the Rector Prof. Aram Simonyan, residing in 1 Alex Manoogian str., Yerevan - 0025

Art. 1 Units and Fields of Study and Research

The two Universities intend to establish an exchange program initially in the fields of: Cultural Studies, Medieval Archaeology, Medieval Culture and Public Archaeology, with a special interest in assessing the role played by Cultural, Archaeological and Architectural Heritage along medieval Silk Road for ancient and contemporary resident communities.

The above-stated cooperation includes the following units of the University of Florence:

- *Dept of History Archaeology Geography, performing and fine Arts (SAGAS)*
- *School of Specialisation in Archaeology*

and the following units of Yerevan State University:

- *Faculty of History*
- *Department of Cultural Studies*

The two Universities have the right to pursue, when they both deem it appropriate, other areas of cooperation. In this case, the appropriate administrative units will approve explanatory clauses to be attached to this agreement.

Art. 2 Purpose of the Agreement and types of collaboration

The form of cooperation specified in art. 1, based on strictly-observed criteria of equality and mutual interests, includes the following activities:

- 1) Exchange visits of members of teaching and research staff of the units mentioned in art.1. Visits are intended to promote seminars, courses, conferences, lectures, to carry out joint research projects, to discuss experiences in fields of common interest, and so forth.
- 2) Circulation of publications and information on the specific fields of study and research included in this agreement and on any other subject of relevant interest.
- 3) Exchange visits of post-graduate students for periods of study and research.
- 4) Student exchange for the purpose of attending courses, participating in professional training and specialization programs or other educational activities.
- 5) Exchange visits of members of technical or administrative staff when considered a profitable experience.

Promoting administrative units can specify in specific protocols the different forms to implement these exchanges (i.e. visitor's length of stay and obligations, application selection procedure, detailed explanation of the fields for which the agreement is stipulated, etc.)

The universities subscribing this agreement intend to encourage student mobility according to a criteria of reciprocity. The host institution will make available to host students their didactical facilities and tutorial services.

Upon the approval of the appropriate administrative bodies, exchange students will be given academic credits for the work done at the foreign institution.

Universities participating in this exchange agree that no registration or any other fee will be imposed, except those fees required by the law of the country.

Art. 3 – Supporting Activities

Administrative bodies subscribing this agreement will exchange all relevant information - by supplying catalogues and other materials - to promote greater and mutual knowledge on their institutional structure and organization.

In conformity with laws and regulations of their respective countries, subscribers of this agreement will provide to visitors from the partner institution all possible assistance and access to facilities to enable them to carry out the activities agreed upon.

Art. 4- Insurance Procedure

Visitors sent by one University to the other must have both medical and accident insurance. This may be provided either by their home institution, according to its own regulations, or it may be directly set up by the interested person, through the stipulation of a policy with an insurance agency guaranteeing the above mentioned risks. The host university will be free from any responsibility to provide schemes of medical and accident insurance to its foreign guests. The host university, however, will be liable for damages its foreign visitors might cause to a third party while carrying out activities under the terms of this agreement; in this case their home university will not be held responsible.

Art. 5 Funding

Each of the subscribing parties commits itself, through its participating units, to search funds to carry out the activities foreseen by this agreement.

As a general rule, the institution sending its members to the foreign partner is responsible for covering their travel expenses, while room and board are covered by the host university. The administrative units of the University of Florence participating in the exchange will be in charge of covering travel expenses to their members and room and board to their foreign visitors. If institutional funds are not available for these purposes, student and staff mobility will be possible; in this case exchange visitors will be directly responsible to fully cover their own

expenses for travel, room and board, without any charge for the two Universities.

Art.6 – Coordinators

The implementation of the activities foreseen by the agreement will be promoted, initially, by the following Coordinators, appointed by each University:

University of Florence	Yerevan State University
Prof. Guido Vannini	Prof. Hamlet Petrosyan
Dept of History Archaeology Geography, performing and fine Arts	Head of Department of Cultural Studies, Faculty of History

Art.7 – Duration of the Agreement

This agreement is to be drawn up and signed in both Italian and English.

Should any disputes arise, the problem will be entrusted to a board of arbiters made of one member selected by each partner and one chosen by common consent.

The present agreement will become effective from the date the contract is signed and will be valid for one year; it will then be tacitly renewed from year to year, for 5 years from the signing of the agreement, unless notice of termination of the agreement is given by one of the two parties at least six months before expiration.

The Rector

The Rector

University of Florence

Yerevan State University

Prof. Alberto Tesi

Prof. Aram Simonyan

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