Cooperation Agreement

CONCERNING
T.I.M.E. DOUBLE DEGREE

between
Groupe des Ecoles Centrales (GEC), France
École Centrale de Lille
École Centrale de Lyon
École Centrale Marseille
École Centrale de Nantes
École Centrale Paris
and
Instituto Superior Técnico (IST), Portugal

Preamble
This Joint Agreement stems from the desire of its signatories, the two above-named Institutions, in the spirit of European co-operation, to set up and develop a system of academic exchanges. This European awareness, present in both institutions, thus forms the basis for them to cooperate, in their dual sphere of teaching and research, within the framework of existing and future programmes promoted by Commissions of European Communities. Both Institutions have decided to embark on an exchange of students that will culminate in the award of the degrees of both Institutions under the conditions specified hereunder.

Article 1 – For students of Ecoles Centrales
Students of engineering programmes from Ecoles Centrales, who have successfully completed the two first years of engineering studies, shall be entitled to continue their curriculum at Instituto Superior Técnico of Lisboa. They shall follow a Master's programme where they shall complete 120 ECTS (including a Master thesis).
Upon successful completion of the Master's programme, and provided they have met all necessary requirements at both Institutions, they will be awarded the Mastrado degree from the Instituto Superior Técnico of Lisboa and the diplôme d'ingénieur Centrales from one of the Ecoles Centrales. Where possible, the two parties will produce the transcripts of records of the exchange students reporting also the marks according to the ECTS scales. Where not possible, they will provide information on the distribution curve of marks.
Moreover, where an entrance selection is practiced, the success percentage will be given.

**Article 2 – For students of the Instituto Superior Técnico**

Students of the Instituto Superior Técnico of Lisboa, who have successfully completed the first cycle of the engineering studies, shall be entitled to continue their curriculum at one of the Ecoles Centrales. They will continue in first and second years of the GEC engineer programme at one of the Ecoles Centrales. They shall complete 120 ECTS. Then, they will return to the Instituto Superior Técnico of Lisboa for completion of the Master’s programme.

Upon successful completion of the programme, and provided they have met all necessary requirements at both institutions, they will be awarded the title of Mestrado degree from the Instituto Superior Técnico of Lisboa and the diplôme d'ingénieur Centralien from the Ecole Centrale they have been following the Tronc Commun.

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**Article 3 – Extent of the Programme**

The students study at both Institutions according to the curriculum and mobility plan defined by the coordinators. The aim of both parties is that the student will spend approximately equal amounts of time at each university.

**Article 4 – Student Admission**

The admission of students to the Programme will be conducted in accordance with the following principles:

- The parties shall agree on the application procedure, including application deadlines, selection criteria and student quota.
- The students must meet the admission criteria of the programmes of both Institutions.
- Students apply to the Programme at their home Institution and this Institution is responsible for screening the applications and providing the host Institution with a list of selected and eligible candidates. The final admission of students is always subject to final approval by the host Institution. The applications are submitted by the students to the home Institution and letters of acceptance are sent from the host Institution to the students no later than by the deadlines.
- Students are selected and admitted to the Programme based on their academic results, prerequisite requirements, motivation and language skills. Students must demonstrate skills of spoken and written English or French.
- Prerequisites for the mobility include that the student has successfully completed a sufficient number of credits at the home Institution.
- No tuition fees are required at the host Institution for students participating in the Programme. Only limited administrative registration costs may be charged when required by the local rules.

**Article 5 – Rights and Status of the Students**

Students participating under this Agreement shall be enrolled as degree students. Students shall have the same rights and obligations as degree students in the respective Institutions.

During the mobility, students will be responsible for covering the travel costs to the host country and living costs during their stay, including accommodation, equipment, consumables, health and travel insurance, third party liability insurance, student union fee (if applicable) and other personal expenses arising out of the exchange and study costs, including books, language tuition prior to the commencement of coursework (where necessary).

Students participating in the Programme will be entitled to participate in any introductory programme (including language courses) that may customarily be arranged for international students at the host Institution.

**Article 6 - Rights and obligations of the parties**

The host Institution will render assistance to the incoming students in finding appropriate accommodation.
Both parties shall try to obtain financial support for this Programme from European or other financial resources.

In order to promote joint actions in education and research, GEC and the IST shall encourage:

- exchanges of students, university staff and researchers;
- student exchanges involving work experience or visits to companies;
- common research projects;
- study sessions, workshops, and seminars on previously agreed subjects;
- exchange of information, documents and scientific publications;

The exchange of persons shall comply with the regulations and procedures in force at the home institutions.

**Article 7 – Study Plan and Course of Study**

The host Institution shall appoint, for each student, a tutor to whom he/she may apply for advice or assistance during his/her stay in the host country.

The Authorities responsible at both Institutions shall decide, by 30th April of each year, the number of students to be admitted to the exchange.

The selection shall be based on academic results. Admission and registration of students is at the discretion of the receiving Institution and in conformity with its own rules and regulations.

**Article 8 – Control of results**

At the end of the academic year, the host Institution shall send to the home Institution a copy of each student’s transcript in English. The parties agree that exams/courses shall be graded and awarded credits according to the rules of the Institution where the exam/course is carried out.

**Article 9 - Delivery of the academic degrees**

Each Institution grants the student credit transfer from the other Institution according to the applicable rules, laws and regulations of that Institution.

After the two years, each student will be submitted to a procedure insuring that he meets the requirements to obtain each Institution’s degrees. He will be graded according to the rules applied by each Institution.

**Article 10 - Academic and administrative representatives**

Each Institution will nominate an academic and an administrative representative for the Programme. These representatives will be responsible for following the Programme and for ensuring that measures are taken in accordance with this Agreement. The representatives will provide advisory and other academic and administrative services to students participating under this Agreement.

**Article 11 – Quality assurance**

Both parties will implement their local evaluation systems for courses and programmes. The feedback and future improvements will be treated at the annual meetings of the persons responsible for the Degree Programme. Both partners will cooperate in external evaluation procedures set up by their respective governments and in obtaining accreditation according to the legislation of both countries.

The parties agree to solve in a friendly manner any controversy rising from the interpretation of the present agreement.

In case the agreement cannot be achieved, the claim will be submitted for arbitration; each party will appoint a member of the arbitration panel, and one member will be chosen by mutual consent.

**Article 12 - Duration of of the Agreement**

This Agreement shall come into effect from the academic year following the day of signature by both Institutions and is valid for five years. It will be evaluated in 2018 and renewed if this
evaluation is positive. At regular intervals, both partners will carry out a review of activities and achievements.

Institutions may admit in the Programme students who satisfy all requirements. Either Institution may terminate this Agreement, provided that written notice of the intent is given at least six months prior to termination. Commitments already in progress shall be fulfilled (students enlisted in the Programme will at that time be allowed to complete it). All partners will seek a solution for running engagements towards students.

The persons responsible for the Programme at both Institutions can meet once a year in order to:

- review the effectiveness of the teaching programmes;
- examine the academic results achieved by the students in the light of Institutions' joint effort;
- propose further actions.

**Article 13 - Amendments or changes**

Amendments or changes to this Agreement will be made in writing and signed by the duly authorised representatives of the Institutions.

The parties agree to solve in a friendly manner any controversy rising from the interpretation of the present Agreement.

In case the controversy cannot be resolved, the claim will be submitted for arbitration; each party will appoint a member of the arbitration panel, and one member will be chosen by mutual consent.

This Agreement has been signed in six originals in English.