

**INTERNATIONAL
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

between

AUBURN UNIVERSITY, AUBURN, AL, USA

and

**UNIVERSITY OF AGRONOMIC SCIENCES AND VETERINARY MEDICINE,
BUCHAREST, ROMANIA**

AUBURN UNIVERSITY, Auburn, Alabama, USA, and UNIVERSITY OF AGRONOMIC SCIENCES AND VETERINARY MEDICINE, Bucharest, Romania, wishing to develop cooperative relations on the basis of established contacts and mutual understandings, especially to develop academic and cultural interchange through mutual assistance in the areas of education and research, agree as follows. This collaboration is led by Auburn University College of Agriculture and should serve as a broad MOU for other AU colleges who may be interested in participating in.

PART I

Area of Cooperation

The area of cooperation includes, subject to mutual consent and appropriate conditions, the program(s) of agriculture, veterinary medicine, forestry, and environmental sciences offered at both universities, seen as desirable, feasible, and contributory to the fostering and development of the cooperative relationship between the Colleges of the two universities.

PART II

Methods

All understandings and assistance shall be subject to availability of funds and the specific approval of the Dean of each participating college at **AUBURN UNIVERSITY** and of the unit leader of **UNIVERSITY OF AGRONOMIC SCIENCES AND VETERINARY MEDICINE**, through such activities or programs as:

1. Exchange of faculty members and technical staff
2. Exchange of students with an executed student exchange agreement
3. Conduct joint research activities
4. Participation in seminars and academic meetings
5. Special short-term academic programs
6. Cultural exchange activities
7. Joint participation in international training courses
8. Provide opportunities for staff development for both universities by participation in personnel development programs
9. Engage in consultancies

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION
FOR THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN AUBURN UNIVERSITY
AND: UNIVERSITY OF AGRONOMIC SCIENCES AND
VETERINARY MEDICINE**

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTACT
(Person responsible for the general operation of this agreement)

	University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine	Auburn University
Name	Sorin Mihai Cimpeanu	Arthur Appel
Department	NA	College of Agriculture
Address	University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine - 59, Marasti Blvd., 011464, Bucharest, Romania	107 Comer Hall, Auburn University, Auburn, AL, 36849
Phone	+40213182266	334-844-8727
FAX	NA	NA
email	rectorat@usamv.ro	appelag@auburn.edu

EMERGENCY CONTACT
(First person to be contacted in the event of an emergency related to this agreement)

	University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine	Auburn University
Name	Sorin Mihai Cimpeanu	Andrew Gillespie
Department	NA	Office of International Programs
Address	University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine - 59, Marasti Blvd., 011464, Bucharest, Romania	228 Foy Hall, Auburn University, Auburn, AL, 36849
Office Phone	+40213182266	+1 334-844-5009
FAX	NA	
email	rectorat@usamv.ro	arg0014@auburn.edu



EUROPEAN UNION

Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds

2021-2027

**Erasmus+ Programme
Inter-institutional agreement
Key Action 1**

Learning mobility for higher education students and staff

**between EU Member States and third countries associated to the Programme
and third countries not associated to the Programme**

The institutions¹ named below agree to cooperate for the exchange of students and/or staff in the context of the Erasmus+ programme. This agreement is valid for the Erasmus+ call years 20[21]-20[27] in:

- KA131
- KA171

The institutions commit to sound and transparent management of funds allocated to them through Erasmus+ and to respect the quality requirements of the Programme, outlined in the [Erasmus Charter for Higher Education](#)² and in this agreement.

The institutions agree on exchanging their mobility-related data according to the [principles of GDPR](#)³ and in line with the technical standards of the [European Student Card Initiative](#)⁴, when this becomes available for international mobility involving third countries not associated to the Programme.

Sending institutions located in EU/EEA countries have to ensure compliance with the provisions of art. 46 GDPR for all participants' personal data exchanged in the context of their mobility with institutions from non-EU/EEA countries without an adequacy decision, on the condition that enforceable data subject rights and effective legal remedies for data subjects are available in the respective third country. The participants should be informed in a transparent manner about the level of protection of their personal data, if this is different from the one where the sending institution is located.

¹ Inter-institutional agreements can be bilateral or multilateral in the case of mobility consortia:

- Bilateral agreements are for cooperation between one higher education institution located in an EU Member State or third country associated to the Programme and another institution located in a third country not associated to the Programme
- Multilateral agreements are for cooperation between a mobility consortium of higher education institutions located in one single EU Member State or third country associated to the Programme and another institution located in a third country not associated to the Programme.

² https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/documents/applicants/higher-education-charter_en

³ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/law-topic/data-protection/reform/rules-business-and-organisations/principles-gdpr_en

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-student-card-initiative_en

1. Information about the higher education institutions

Name of the institution (and department where relevant)	Erasmus code or city ⁵	Contact details ⁶ (email, phone)	Websites
UNIVERSITY OF AGRONOMIC SCIENCES AND VETERINARY MEDICINE OF BUCHAREST	ROBUCURES12 PIC Number: 999878232 OID Number: E10208956	International Relations & Mobility Adina SOMESAN adina.somesan@usamv.ro Erasmus+ Institutional Coordinator Paul Alexandru POPESCU , PhD paul.popescu@usamv.ro	General: www.usamv.ro Faculty/faculties: Faculty of Agriculture, Faculty of Horticulture, Faculty of Animal Productions Engineering and Management, Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Land Reclamation and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Biotechnologies, Faculty of Management and Rural Development Course catalogue: https://www.usamv.ro/images/Relatii_internationale/catalog_cursuri_online_EN_v1.pdf
AUBURN UNIVERSITY – COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AUBURN UNIVERSITY – COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE	PIC Number: NA OID Number: NA	College of Agriculture – Global Programs Kelly Pippin Kzp0025@auburn.edu AND Dr. Thorsten Knappenberger knappi@auburn.edu College of Veterinary Medicine – International Affairs	General: https://agriculture.auburn.edu/outreach/global-programs/ https://agriculture.auburn.edu/ https://www.vetmed.auburn.edu/ Faculty/faculties: College of Agriculture, College of Veterinary Medicine Course catalogue: NA; available upon request

⁵ Higher education institutions (HEIs) from EU Member States or third countries associated to the Programme should indicate their Erasmus code; HEIs from third countries not associated to the Programme should mention the city where they are located.

⁶ Contact details to reach the senior officer in charge of this agreement and of its possible updates.

		Dr. Xu Wang xzw0070@auburn.edu	
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2. Mobility numbers per academic year

The partners agree to update this mobility data, whenever possible, by no later than the end of January in the preceding academic year formally via an amendment of the inter-institutional agreement.

Number of student and staff mobility periods

FROM [Erasmus code or city of the sending institution]	TO [Erasmus code or city of the receiving institution]	Subject area ISCED CODE ⁷ (optional)	Subject area NAME (optional)	Study cycle [short cycle, 1st , 2nd or 3rd] (optional)	Number of mobility periods			
					Student Mobility [Specify here total number of students]	Student Mobility [Specify here total number of months]	Staff Mobility [Specify here total number of staff]	Staff Mobility [Specify here total number of days]
RO BUCURES12	Auburn University	0810	Agriculture	3rd	2	3	2	10
Auburn University	RO BUCURES12	0810	Agriculture	3rd	2	3	2	10
RO BUCURES12	Auburn University	0841	Veterinary Medicine	3rd	2	3	2	10

⁷ <https://circabc.europa.eu/sd/a/286ebac6-aa7c-4ada-a42b-ff2cf3a442bf/ISCED-F%202013%20-%20Detailed%20field%20descriptions.pdf>

Auburn University	RO BUCURES12	0841	Veterinary Medicine	3rd	2	3	2	10
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Optional additional information

e.g. blended mobility, etc.

2. Recommended language skills

The sending institution, following agreement with the receiving institution, is responsible for providing support to its nominated candidates so that they can have the recommended language skills⁸ at the start of the mobility period (see also section 5 "Preparation and Support").

Receiving institution [Erasmus code or city]	Subject area (Optional)	Language of instruction 1	Language of instruction 2	Recommended level	
				Student Mobility [Minimum recommended level in at least one of the languages: B1]	Staff Mobility [Minimum recommended level in at least one of the languages for teaching: B2]
RO BUCURES12	All	Romanian	English	B1 – Romanian or English	B2 – Romanian or English
Auburn University	All	English	English	English	English

For more details on the language of instruction recommendations, see the course catalogue of each institution. The links to the course catalogue are provided in the first section.

⁸ For an easier and consistent understanding of language requirements, it is recommended to use the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR): <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/en/resources/european-language-levels-cefr>

3. Partnership arrangements: fees and organisational support funds

In accordance with the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education, partners commit to charge no additional fees to students:

- In connection with the organisation or administration of their Erasmus+ mobility period. Any violation to this rule by the partners shall be brought to the attention of the National Agency and may lead to the termination of the participation in the project linked to this inter-institutional agreement, if no corrective measures are taken.
- For tuition, registration, examinations or access to laboratory and library facilities. Nevertheless, they may be charged small fees on the same basis as local students for costs such as insurance, student unions and the use of miscellaneous material.

This section is mandatory/applicable only for KA171. Repartition of the granted Organisational Support between the partners is strongly recommended, but not mandatory:

Partners agree on the following use and repartition of organisational support funds including a list of objectives that both partners consider a priority:

OS Use and Repartition	Priority Objectives
University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest will use OS funds to cover the financial support of the mobilities	Promote and foster mobility of students and academic exchanges.
	Promote and foster cooperation for exchange of good practices.
	Promote and foster innovation and research based on shared academic and scientific values.
	Advance the goal of free, fair and transparent societies and accessibility for all.

4. Outreach and Selection of participants: calendar, application procedure and requirements

- Partners commit to doing outreach to participants with fewer opportunities to encourage their participation in the Programme and, where needed, agree on a common strategy to meet indicative inclusion targets.
- Partners commit to running selection procedures for mobility activities that are fair, transparent and documented, ensuring equal opportunities to participants eligible for mobility. The calls for applications must be public and an appeal procedure must be in place. Under no circumstances, shall applicants and selected participants incur any costs during application and selection procedures.
- In the case of student mobility, partners will ensure that other elements beyond academic merit are taken into account to ensure participation of students with fewer opportunities. Selection criteria and procedures must be clearly communicated in the call for applications.

Applications/information on nominated students must reach the receiving institution by:

Receiving institution [Erasmus code or city]	Term duration	Deadline ⁹
RO BUCURES12	Autumn Term: from October to February Spring Term: from February to June	Winter Term: 30 th June Spring Term: 30 th November
Auburn University	Rolling basis	Rolling basis

The receiving institution will send its decision within [x] weeks and no later than 5 weeks.

The partners commit to have a fair, transparent, coherent and documented application and selection procedure outlined in their respective websites and regularly updated, together with the contact details of the relevant department:

Application procedure

⁹ Please specify the deadline for each semester and, if necessary, adapt to a trimester system.

Receiving Institution [Erasmus code or city]	Contact details (email, phone)	Website for information
RO BUCURES12	Paul-Alexandru Popescu e-mail: paul.popescu@usamv.ro	https://www.usamv.ro/index.php/ro/relatii-internationale/mobilitati-internationale
Auburn University	Ke Pippin; E-mail: kzp0025@auburn.edu Dr. Thorsten Knappenberger: knappi@auburn.edu Dr. Xu Wang: xzw0070@auburn.edu	https://agriculture.auburn.edu/ https://www.vetmed.auburn.edu/

Selection criteria BUCURES12

Please sum up in this table the selection criteria. This is a non-exhaustive list – partners are invited to agree on the eventual list of selection criteria.

Requirement	Details	Website for information (optional)
Academic requirements	Number of ECTS credits (or equivalent) already completed / current level of completion of studies: approx. 30 ECTS Subject area (ISCED code): 081, 0812, 0721, 0510. EQF level: 8 th	https://www.usamv.ro/index.php/ro/relatii-internationale/mobilitati-internationale
CV	Required	
Motivation letter	Required	
Inclusion measures ¹⁰	Based on the Erasmus rules and Erasmus+ Programme Guide: top-up grant for participants with fewer opportunities	https://www.usamv.ro/index.php/ro/relatii-internationale/mobilitati-internationale

¹⁰ You may find the implementation guidelines of the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Inclusion and Diversity Strategy here:

https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/implementation-guidelines-erasmus-and-european-solidarity-corps-inclusion-and-diversity_en

Other	UASMV may organize interviews for students.	https://www.usamv.ro/index.php/ro/relatii-internationale/mobilitati-internationale
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Selection criteria – Auburn University

Requirement	Details	Website for information (optional)
Academic requirements	Degree levels, transcripts, English proficiency, visa documents, etc. and anything the host institution requires	
CV	Required	
Motivation letter	As needed	
Inclusion measures ¹¹	Based on the Erasmus rules and Erasmus+ Programme Guide: top-up grant for participants with fewer opportunities.	
Other	Other items Auburn may need for administrative purposes	

5. Preparation and support

The Higher Education Institution(s) in an EU Member State or associated third country commit(s) to:

¹¹ You may find the implementation guidelines of the **Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Inclusion and Diversity Strategy** here:
https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/implementation-guidelines-erasmus-and-european-solidarity-corps-inclusion-and-diversity_en

- Ensure that students are aware of their rights and obligations as defined in the [Erasmus+ Student Charter](#)¹²,
- Arrange travels or provide a pre-financing of the grant to **reduce the costs that participants need to cover upfront**, to the extent possible.

All involved Higher Education Institutions commit to the following preparation and support measures. Information and assistance can be provided by the contact points and information sources in the table below:

- The receiving institution will guide incoming mobile participants in finding **accommodation**, according to the requirements of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education. It is considered best practice to use the individual grant to pay for the deposit of dormitories.
- Ensure that outgoing mobile participants are well prepared for their activities abroad, including blended mobility, by undertaking activities to achieve the necessary level of **linguistic proficiency** and develop their **intercultural competences**.
- Provide assistance related to obtaining **visas**, when required, for incoming and outgoing mobile participants, according to the requirements of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education and, if needed, use project funds in the most inclusive way to cover related costs partially or in full.

¹² The Erasmus+ Student Charter is available here: https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/documents/applicants/student-charter_en

- Provide assistance related to obtaining **insurance**, when required, for incoming and outgoing mobile participants, according to the requirements of the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education and use project funds in the most inclusive way to cover related costs partially or in full. The receiving institution will inform mobile participants of cases in which insurance cover is not automatically provided.
- The receiving institution will inform about the existence of relevant infrastructure and provide support to incoming **participants with fewer opportunities**.
- Provide **appropriate mentoring and support arrangements** for mobile participants, including for those pursuing blended mobility, as well as **integrate incoming mobile participants** into the wider student community and in the Institution's everyday life.
- Provide participants with their **grant as soon as possible upon arrival**, including if necessary a first payment using cash, check or similar to avoid delays linked to opening a bank account.
- The institutions commit to encourage participants to act as **ambassadors of the Erasmus+ Programme** and share their mobility experience, e.g. by providing information about the existence of Erasmus+ alumni networks, inviting former participants in promotion activities, etc.

The table serves as a template - the partners are free to adjust it, e.g. to add more measures, to replicate per partner HEI etc.

Preparatory & Support Measures	Institution [Erasmus code or city]	Contact details (email, phone)	Website for information & arrangements
Accommodation	RO BUCURES12	Paul-Alexandru Popescu e-mail: paul.popescu@usamv.ro	https://www.usamv.ro/index.php/en/student-life
	Auburn University	Ke Pippin: kzp0025@auburn.edu Dr. Thorsten Knappenberger: knappi@auburn.edu Dr. Xu Wang xzw0070@auburn.edu	Available upon request
Language Support	RO BUCURES12	Paul-Alexandru Popescu e-mail: paul.popescu@usamv.ro	https://www.usamv.ro/index.php/en/enrollment/international-partnerships
	Auburn University	Ke Pippin: kpz0025@auburn.edu Dr. Thorsten Knappenberger: knappi@auburn.edu Dr. Xu Wang xzw0070@auburn.edu	US visas require incoming visitors to have a certain level of English proficiency. As a host, we will ensure that participants improve their English skills by the end of the mobility program.
Visa	RO BUCURES12	Paul-Alexandru Popescu e-mail: paul.popescu@usamv.ro	https://www.usamv.ro/index.php/en/enrollment/international-partnerships
	Auburn University	Ke Pippin: kpz0025@auburn.edu ISSS: intledu@auburn.edu	https://www.auburn.edu/academic/international/iss/

Insurance	RO BUCURES12	Paul-Alexandru Popescu e-mail: paul.popescu@usamv.ro	https://www.usamv.ro/index.php/en/enrollment/international-partnerships
	Auburn University	Ke Pippin: kzp0025@auburn.edu AU Insurance: insurance@auburn.edu	https://www.auburn.edu/academic/international/iss/insurance/
Inclusion of participants with fewer opportunities	RO BUCURES12	Paul-Alexandru Popescu e-mail: paul.popescu@usamv.ro	https://www.usamv.ro/index.php/en/enrollment/international-partnerships
	Auburn University	Ke Pippin: kzp0025@auburn.edu Dr. Thorsten Knappenberger: knappi@auburn.edu	NA
Mentoring	RO BUCURES12	Paul-Alexandru Popescu e-mail: paul.popescu@usamv.ro	https://www.usamv.ro/index.php/en/enrollment/international-partnerships
	Auburn University	Ke Pippin: kzp0025@auburn.edu Dr. Thorsten Knappenberger: knappi@auburn.edu Dr. Xu Wang xzw0070@auburn.edu	https://www.auburn.edu/academic/international/iss/ https://agriculture.auburn.edu/
Grant payments	RO BUCURES12	Paul-Alexandru Popescu e-mail: paul.popescu@usamv.ro	https://www.usamv.ro/index.php/en/enrollment/international-partnerships
	Auburn University	Ke Pippin: kzp0025@auburn.edu Mercedes McKoy: MLF0015@auburn.edu	https://agriculture.auburn.edu/about/research-office/

Alumni information	RO BUCURES12	Paul-Alexandru Popescu e-mail: paul.popescu@usamv.ro	https://www.usamv.ro/index.php/en/enrollment/international-partnerships
	Auburn University	See websites	https://alumni.auburn.edu/ https://alumni.auburn.edu/engagement/

6. Recognition

Institutions commit to:

- Ensure recognition for activities satisfactorily completed. *[Please specify the recognition tools that will be used, e.g. [the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System](#).]*

- *For RO BUCURES12: European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System*
- *For Auburn University: transcripts, certificates or anything requested by the home institution.*

- Ensure that student and staff mobility for education or training purposes is based on a learning agreement for students and a mobility agreement for staff validated in advance between the sending and receiving institutions or non-academic organisations and the mobile participants.
- Accept all activities indicated in the learning agreement, or according to the learning outcomes of the modules completed abroad, as automatically counting towards the degree, provided these have been satisfactorily completed by the mobile student.
- Partners commit to taking measures to ensure recognition of student and staff mobility upon their return, including:
 - o Providing incoming mobile students and their sending institutions with free-of-charge transcripts. The documents must be in English or in the language of the sending institution and containing a full, accurate and timely record of the achievements at the end of the mobility period.
 - o A Transcript of Records will be issued by the receiving institution no later than [5] weeks after the assessment period has finished at the receiving HEI. *[it should normally not exceed five weeks according to the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education guidelines]*
 - o Providing students on traineeships and staff with a certificate for the activities completed. It is recommended to issue a certificate towards the end of the mobility period.

7. Grading systems of the institutions

It is recommended that receiving Institutions provide the statistical distribution of grades or make the information available through [EGRACONS](#) according to the descriptions in the [ECTS users' guide](#)¹³. The table will facilitate the interpretation of each grade awarded to students and will facilitate the credit transfer by the sending institution.

Institution [Erasmus code or city]	EGRACONS [If applicable]	Website for information
RO BUCURES12		https://www.usamv.ro/index.php/ro/relatii-internationale/mobilitati-internationale
Auburn University		https://bulletin.auburn.edu/Policies/Academic/grades/

RoBucures12

(1 credit = 25 hours total work)

1 full academic year = 60 credits

1 semester = 30 credits

3 months = 20 credits

Grading distribution will be provided by student's Transcript of Records.

ROMANIAN grading system	ECTS grade
10 = Excellent	A = Excellent
9 = Very good	B = Very good
From 7 to 8 = Good	C = Good
6 = Satisfactory	D = Satisfactory
5 = Sufficient	E = Sufficient
From 1 to 4 = Fail	F = Fail

¹³ The ECTS user's guide is available here: https://ec.europa.eu/education/resources-and-tools/document-library/ects-users-guide_en

Auburn University

<https://bulletin.auburn.edu/Policies/Academic/grades/>

8. Any other information regarding the terms of the agreement (optional)

- The colleges of Auburn University participating in this agreement (College of Agriculture and College of Veterinary Medicine) shall not engage in the exchange of students for academic credit hours, nor shall they provide any tuition waivers. Auburn University colleges will only accept individuals from RO BUCURES12, including students, staff, and faculty, who are entering the United States under J-1 scholar/intern visa categories or as B1/B2 visa holders. Auburn University hosting colleges can provide certification of participation, performance evaluation, and other requested documentation from the home institution or complete any required forms provided by the home institution. The decision to issue academic credits rests with the home institution, which will determine if/how credits would be awarded within their own system. When Auburn University sends its students, faculty, or staff to RO BUCURES12, the purpose will not be to enroll in or earn academic credit from the host institution; instead, it will be for research, training, and outreach activities. Consequently, all previous terms regarding receiving grades, transcripts, credit hours, etc., from Auburn University shall not apply to this specific collaboration, although they remain part of the general agreement.



9. Termination of the agreement

[It is up to the involved institutions to agree on the procedure for modifying or terminating the inter-institutional agreement. However, in the event of unilateral termination, a notice of at least one academic year should be given. This means that a unilateral decision to discontinue the exchanges notified to the other party by 1 September 20XX will only take effect as of 1 September 20XX+1. The termination clauses must include the following disclaimer: "Neither the European Commission nor the National Agencies can be held responsible in case of a conflict."]

10. Additional Comments from Auburn University:

Be sure and abide by "The institutions agree on exchanging their mobility-related data according to the principles of GDPR³ and in line with the technical standards of the European Student Card Initiative⁴, when this becomes available for international mobility involving third countries not associated to the Programme."

SIGNATURES OF THE INSTITUTIONS (legal representatives)

Institution [Erasmus code or name and city]	Name, function	Date	Signature ¹⁴
RO BUCURES12	Sorin Mihai Cîmpeanu, Rector		
Auburn University	Christopher B. Roberts, President	Feb 7, 2025	

¹⁴ Scanned copies of signatures or digital signatures may be accepted depending on the national legislation