



Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

**BETWEEN
THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (CNR) OF ITALY
AND
THE UNIVERSIDAD SAN FRANCISCO DE QUITO USFQ**

ARTICLE I

In view of their similar dedication to excellence in teaching, research and community involvement, the National Research Council of Italy (CNR hereafter) and the Universidad San Francisco de Quito USFQ (USFQ hereafter) hereby agree to this Memorandum of Understanding, with the objective of promoting international academic exchange, scientific relationships and collaborative research.

ARTICLE II

RECITALS

1. CNR was founded on 18 November 1923 with the Royal Decree 2440/1923.

The CNR is the largest public research institution in Italy, the only one under the Research Ministry performing multidisciplinary activities. It is also the first research institution for number of researchers: CNR staff counts more than 8,400 researchers, technologists, technicians and administrators. About 4.000 young researchers are engaged in postgraduate studies and research training at CNR within the organization's top-priority areas of interest. A significant contribution also comes from research associates: researchers, from Universities or private firms, who take part in CNR's research activities. CNR structure includes 7 scientific Departments and 102 Institutes with specific leading expertise in technology and science sectors, with more than 330 secondary sites and laboratories in Italy and abroad, including the scientific bases in Arctic and Antarctic Areas. The Departments are: Biomedical Sciences, Chemistry and Materials Technology, Earth and Environment, Engineering, ICT Energy and Transportation, Physics and Materials, Humanities and Cultural Heritage, Bio and Agro-Food. The scientific, technological and applicative contribution of research in critical areas for Italy and the world is fundamental: from climate to the planet's health, from human well-being to the study and treatment of rare diseases, from food safety to nanotechnologies, from the training of young students, to the monitoring of air, water and plants pollution levels, and in many more fields. The mission of CNR has been defined in the first Statute dated 1924: to coordinate and stimulate research activity at a National level in the different areas of science, to keep in contact with various stakeholders on scientific matters and to establish National scientific laboratories. CNR performs research in its own Institutes, promotes innovation and competitiveness of the national industrial system, promotes the internationalization of the national research system, provides technologies and solutions to emerging public and private needs, advises Government and other public bodies, and contributes to the qualification of human resources.

2. Universidad San Francisco de Quito USFQ is an Institution of Higher Education, created by the Executive Decree No. 3166 on October 18, 1995, published in Official Register No. 809 on October 25, 1995 in accordance with the provisions stated in the Reformatory Law of the Universities and Polytechnic Schools No. 604 published in Official Register No. 509 on August 22, 1994 and in Law No. 095 published in the Amendment to the Official Register No. 771 on August 31, 1995.

Universidad San Francisco de Quito USFQ is a private, non-profit institution based on the concept of Liberal Arts, which seeks to form leaders: people who are innovative (who accept change, promote it and employ it in order to create a more rightful and unbiased society), creative (promoters of new ideas) and of entrepreneurial spirit (who take risks based on knowledge and wisdom). The mission of the university is to form the person, and not only educate and instruct the person, i.e. to seek that the person learns to design the map of his or her own life, to be the promoter of his or her own life project. The learning system is designed to allow the students to take responsibility for their own learning. The university does not prepare specialized students at the undergraduate level rather, but rather specialized generalists. At the graduate level, students receive both the Liberal Arts education as well as the education to become a specialist.

The following actions will be carried out through this Agreement:

- FIRST To provide mutual scientific and cultural counsel and support through the exchange of researchers, faculty and students, in accordance with annual programs previously established, and also accepting, according to the intentions and regulations of each institution, the student, researcher and faculty mobility when the institutes and/or programs of the two institutions are in agreement.
- SECOND To propose and develop joint research projects, which maximize human resources, materials, and available information.
- THIRD To develop forms and actions of cooperation in other areas of mutual interest, such as organizing scientific events, technical cooperation activities, transferring technology, etc.
- FOURTH The parties agree that each specific activity to be undertaken will be defined and refined in terms of its objectives, mechanisms, duration, and resources by means of additional written amendments mutually agreed upon.
- FIFTH To carry out faculty, researchers and students exchange programs, the development of research projects and technical cooperation, within the parties' possibilities. The parties may jointly or individually seek the necessary funds with national and international entities.
- SIXTH The two signatory institutions shall be explicitly mentioned in all communications and publications pertinent to the present Agreement.
- SEVENTH Both institutions shall promote cultural programs and experiences to increase knowledge and appreciation of their respective societies through the Offices of International Programs and Relationships.

ARTICLE III

For the development and implementation of joint activities outlined in the present Memorandum of Understanding specific agreements shall be signed defining the action and details to be performed in a precise manner.

ARTICLE IV

Intellectual property rights that may arise from these specific agreements shall be established in the specific agreements.

ARTICLE V

The institutions will not be held responsible or be liable in any way for wrongful acts committed by the foreign members inside or outside their sites. The students/staff while in the foreign country are fully liable under its laws.

ARTICLE VI

Any controversy rising from the interpretation and execution of the present agreement will be submitted to an academic commission composed of one representative from each party and one chosen by common consent.

ARTICLE VII

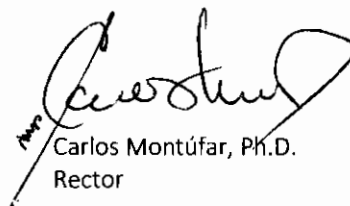
This Memorandum of Understanding shall take effect upon the approval of the appropriate authorities of both parties. It will be valid for five years starting the date of the last signature. It can be terminated by either party upon previous notification given at least twelve (12) months in advance.

For National Research Council of Italy

For Universidad San Francisco de Quito USFQ



Prof. Massimo Inguscio
President



Carlos Montúfar, Ph.D.
Rector

Rome, 2/07/2018

Quito, 2/07/2018