

**Articulation Agreement for Dual Master's Degrees
In Plant Science
Missouri State University, Springfield, MO USA (Missouri State)
Liaoning Teachers University, Dalian, China (LTU)**

Missouri State University and LTU have, on April 12, 2000, entered into a Letter of Intent to conduct educational and cultural exchange, and to explore non-degree, degree and graduate education programs. The parties hereby agree to the terms of articulation as set forth herein to accommodate LTU students in obtaining Master's Degrees in Plant Science from both Missouri State University and LTU.

1.0 Present Status

- 1.1 Missouri State University (MSU) offers a M.S. in Plant Science with course work and research conducted on both the Springfield and Mountain Grove campuses. The Missouri State University program has good facilities for conducting basic and applied research in the plant sciences, and a number of faculty have focused research programs that regularly provide for mentoring of graduate student research.
- 1.2 Liaoning Teachers University (LTU) has a sustained record of offering a master's degree in the plant sciences. Enrollment has been steady, and students in the program receive a solid base of course work.

2.0 Purpose of Collaboration

- 2.1 To strengthen the individual master's programs at Missouri State University and LTU by increasing the diversity of opportunities for students, particularly in development of research skills.
- 2.2 To sustain and increase faculty collaboration on research projects and facilitate the mutually beneficial flow of ideas that are part of such ongoing exchanges.

3.0 Collaborative Master's Degree Program Structure

- 3.1 LTU master's students in plant science will complete a major portion (from one [1] to two [2] years) of the LTU degree before they will be selected to enter the dual-degree program.
- 3.2 Students selected for the dual-degree program will come to Missouri State University for a period of fifteen (15) months of research and class work.
- 3.3 Through the collaborative process described below an LTU student entering this program should be able to complete the Missouri State University M.S. in Plant Science by the end of this fifteen (15) month period. However, all degree requirements must be met before a Missouri State University degree is granted.

3.4 LTU-Missouri State University students will also have completed the LTU Master's in Plant Science program by completion of the Missouri State University degree requirements.

3.5 Completion of the Missouri State University and LTU degrees is based on this articulation agreement whereby a minimum of eighteen (18) semester credit hours (equivalents) taken at LTU will be used to satisfy the Missouri State University degree requirement. LTU courses that are required are:

Biochemistry	4 LTU credits
Modern Analytical Techniques in Biology	4 LTU credits
Molecular Biology	4 LTU credits
Biotechnology in Plant Science	4 LTU credits
Plant Physiology (advanced)	4 LTU credits

3.6 LTU students will take a minimum of eighteen (18) credit hours (semester hour credits) at Missouri State University. Missouri State University courses to be taken are:

FRS 631 Plant Genetic Engineering	3 Missouri State credits
FRS 611 Viticulture OR	3 Missouri State credits
FRS 601 Advanced Pomology	3 Missouri State credits
FRS 698 Research	6 Missouri State credits
FRS 699 Thesis	6 Missouri State credits

FRS 631, 698 and 699 are requirements. In consultation with the advisor, courses other than FRS 611 or 601 may be selected to meet the minimum requirement of eighteen (18) hours of Missouri State University enrollment.

3.7 If the thesis work is not completed at the end of the fifteen (15) month period at Missouri State University, the thesis may be completed by distance learning after the return of participating students to LTU. However, completion and approval of the thesis and the associated comprehensive exam are necessary for completing the Missouri State University degree.

3.8 LTU students entering this program will, in general, do their research and course work at the Mountain Grove campus, albeit some facilities of the Springfield campus may be utilized.

3.9 Through meeting the requirements set forth herein, students participating in this program will obtain the LTU master's in plant science in addition to the Missouri State University degree.

4.0 Student Support by Missouri State

- 4.1 Two (2) LTU students will be competitively selected for each fifteen (15) month appointment. Students will be nominated by LTU and selected by Missouri State University.
- 4.2 On a fifteen (15) month cycle, Missouri State University will provide graduate assistantship support for two (2) LTU students entering the dual-degree program with Missouri State University. All necessary living costs beyond those obtainable with the graduate assistantship stipend will be the responsibility of the student. The graduate assistantship support will be limited to the fifteen (15)-month period anticipated to complete the M.S. in Plant Science at Missouri State University.
- 4.3 Unless otherwise agreed, Missouri State University will provide support for only two (2) LTU students per fifteen (15) month cycle.

5.0 Future Expectations

- 5.1 Based on the successful implementation of the dual-degree master's program in the plant sciences. Missouri State University and LTU agree to investigate the feasibility and desirability of establishing a doctorate program in plant science at LTU.

John H. Keiser
President
Missouri State University of
United State of America

Signature

Date

Qu Qingbiao
President
Liaoning Teachers University of
People's Republic of China

Signature

Date