



Co-operation Agreement for Joint Multi-institutional International Research and Training

Co-operation Agreement for Joint Multi-institutional International Research and Training

THIS AGREEMENT is between the University at Buffalo (UB), The State University of New York and Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research at Berhampur (IISER Berhampur, Kolkata (IISER Kolkata), Tirupati (IISER Tirupati), Mohali (IISER Mohali), Bhopal (IISER Bhopal), Pune (IISER Pune) and Thiruvananthapuram (IISER Thiruvananthapuram), and is effective 21 March 2025 through 20 March 2030.

IN CONSIDERATION OF the covenant of all parties, agreements are reached as follows:

1. PURPOSE

All parties believe that the quality of research and graduate co-supervision training is strengthened by the multi-institutional and international cooperation and wish to enter into collaboration in regard to their mutual enrichment in academic, scientific training, research, and cultural areas.

2. OBJECTIVE

The general objective of this agreement is to establish a multiparty collaborative framework for long-term multi-institutional and international collaboration in educational and research fields that are compatible with the orientation and mission of each institution, and that are relevant to the academic, scientific, industrial, social, and cultural interests and needs of the countries in which the parties are respectively located. The focus will be on multi-institutional collaboration in research and education to catapult the participating institutes to the top echelon of research universities recognized as meeting society's grand challenges with innovative and convergent approaches. This MoU is meant to undertake joint research and training of students and researchers in basic sciences covering Physics, Chemistry, Materials Science, Bioscience and related areas to meet 21st century challenges in energy, environment, healthcare, agriculture, and security. The partners will discuss innovative new models for student exchange and recruitment of Masters' and PhD students.

Topical areas include, but are not limited to: AI and machine learning for materials design, discovery, and sustainable production; Chemistry and processing of nanostructured functional polymers and nanocomposites; 2D-, hybrid-and bio-materials; eco-friendly synthesis; microbial biosynthesis; photonics, nonlinear optics, photon conversion science; quantum materials, quantum emitters, quantum imaging and sensing, and quantum biology emergent materials for semiconductor technology; integration of traditional Indian medicine and modern medicine for multifunctional nano- theranostics; renewable energy strategies integrating new solar harvesting media, thermoelectric, hydrogen energy carriers, and energy storage.

This general agreement may be followed by one or more bilateral Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) if any two parties wish to enter into such MoU(s) for the pursuit of specific goals.

3. MANNER OF IMPLEMENTATION

The collaboration contemplated by the Agreement will be implemented by:

- Joint Supervision of Masters' and Ph.D. students;
- Exchange of graduate students and researchers;
- Coordination of collaborative education, research, and training programs;
- Exchange of scholarly and pedagogical materials;
- Collaboration in applying for research funds from both national and international sources;
- Co-organization of international conferences and thematic workshops;

For purposes of this Agreement, "researchers" means the following:

- faculty members
- research scientists
- students participating in the exchange for the purpose of research and training

4. EXCHANGE OF STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS

- 1) The participation of any student or researcher from any organization in the exchange will be subject to the prior approval of such person by the other organization. Each institution undertakes to maintain the salary and supplementary benefits of its own personnel who participate in the exchange, consistent with its leave policies and other policies in effect.
- 2) Each institution will endeavor to raise funds for travel to the host institution for its own students and researchers wishing to participate in the exchange.
- 3) Participants visiting any host institution shall abide by the rules and regulations of that institution in regard to the use of facilities and conduct and shall be subject to the laws of the host country.

5. ASSISTANCE TO THE PERSONNEL EXCHANGED

Each institution agrees to accept visiting students and researchers within the parameters of this Agreement and will assist visiting individuals in finding living accommodations and becoming integrated into their new social environment.

6. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Ownership of intellectual property developed as a result of collaboration under this agreement will be determined in the context of the respective policies and procedures of each institution. All intellectual property developed as a result of such collaboration will be disclosed simultaneously to each concerned party and each institution will grant the other the right to use such intellectual property for its own internal non-commercial research and development purposes, with no right to sublicense and subject to applicable export control regulations. Where intellectual property is jointly owned, the parties will discuss coordinated patent filings, marketing, and licensing efforts. Intellectual property that has been independently developed will be retained by the originating institution.

7. FORCE MAJEURE

Both UB and IISERs shall not be held responsible for non-fulfilment of their obligations under this MoU due to the exigency of one or more of the force majeure events such as but not limited to acts of God, war, flood, earthquakes, strike, lockouts, epidemics, riots, civil commotion etc.

8. INSURANCE

The parties to this Agreement acknowledge that they do not provide visiting students and researchers with medical or hospital or personal property insurance nor are they responsible for any medical or hospital expenses or any other loss suffered by any visiting researcher. It is required that visiting researchers, or their home institution, ensure that adequate provision for their needs is made in these areas, in advance of the visits, including repatriation costs in the unfortunate event of a fatality. Upon request, the host institution will make reasonable efforts to assist visiting students and researchers in obtaining such insurance, as appropriate, but such assistance shall not include financial assistance.

9. DURATION AND AMENDMENT OF AGREEMENT

This agreement shall have effect and be binding upon the parties hereto for an initial period of 5 years from the date of this agreement and may be renewed upon mutual agreement. Each institution represents that it has the authority to enter into this Agreement and to support the intended collaborative initiatives. This Agreement may only be amended by the mutual consent of all parties in writing.

10. EARLY TERMINATION

This agreement may only be terminated by the mutual consent or by any party upon the showing of the impossibility of performance of its terms. In any case, the party seeking termination must provide at least six months' notice.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties have executed this Agreement with effect as of the date first written.

Signatories:



Prof. Satish K. Tripathi
President
University at Buffalo, State University of New York



Dr. Ashok K. Ganguli
Director
IISER Berhampur



Prof. Gobardhan Das
Director
IISER Bhopal



Prof. Sunil K Khare
Director
IISER Kolkata

Prof. Anil Kumar Tripathi
Director
IISER Mohali

Prof. Sunil S Bhagwat
Director
IISER Pune

Prof. J. N. Moorthy
Director
IISER Thiruvananthapuram

Prof. Santanu Bhattacharya
Director
IISER Tirupati