

Erasmus Mundus Programme – Animal Breeding and Genetics (EM-ABG)

(<http://www.emabg.eu>)

CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT

This agreement is made and entered into by and between:

Wageningen University (WU), whose registered office is at PO Box 9101, 6700HB Wageningen, The Netherlands, lawfully represented by dr. Aalt Dijkhuizen, President Executive Board, and Prof.dr. Martin Kropff, Rector Magnificus, hereinafter referred to as **“Co-ordinator”**, and

Universität für Bodenkultur Wien (BOKU), whose registered office is at Gregor Mendel Strasse 33, A - 1180, Vienna, Austria, lawfully represented by o.Univ.Prof.Dipl.-Fw.Dr. Hubert Dürrstein, hereinafter referred to as **“Partner”**, and

Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel (CAU), whose registered office is at Christian-Albrechts-Platz 4, 24118 Kiel, Germany, lawfully represented by Prof. Dr. Thomas Bauer, Rector, hereinafter referred to as **“Partner”**, and

AgroParisTech (APT, formerly known as INA P-G), whose registered office is at 16 rue Claude Bernard, 75231 PARIS cedex 05, France, lawfully represented by Rémi Toussain, General Director, hereinafter referred to as **“Partner”**, and

Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet (SLU), whose registered office is at P.O Box 7070, SE-750 07 Uppsala, Sweden, lawfully represented by Prof. Lisa Sennerby Forsse, Rector, hereinafter referred to as **“Partner”**, and

Universitetet for Miljø- og Biovitenskap (UMB), whose registered office is at PO Box 5003, N 1432 Ås, Norway, lawfully represented by Prof. Knut Hove, Rector, hereinafter referred to as **“Partner”**

(hereinafter referred collectively to as **“Partners”** or **“Consortium”**)

This Agreement is drafted within the framework of the action entitled: “European Master in Animal Breeding and Genetics” (EM-ABG), based on Framework Partnership Agreement number 2007-0058/001/FRAME MUNI123 (hereinafter referred to as **“FPA Agreement”**) between Co-ordinator and the Commission of the European Communities (hereinafter referred to as **“Commission”**) and all related Specific Agreements for Erasmus Mundus Masters courses (Action 1) and Scholarships (Action 2) (hereinafter referred to as **“SA Agreements”**). The FPA Agreement and its annexes (Annex 1) and the SA Agreements and their annexes (Annex 2) shall form an integral part of the present Agreement.

The Co-ordinator is bound by the terms and conditions of the FPA Agreement and further amendments. Each Partner shall be bound in applicable parts by the terms and conditions of the FPA Agreement and amendments to the FPA Agreement, approved by all Partners when applicable. The Partners shall not act in any way that could risk the fulfilment of the Co-ordinator’s duties and obligations under the FPA Agreement. On the basis of the present Agreement the Partners shall together contribute to the achievement of the requirements of the FPA Agreement in accordance with the terms and conditions as stated in the present Agreement.

The core text of the Agreement describes a number of issues as structure, organization, finance, cooperation in general terms rather than in detail. More details are given in a number of separate Annexes. In order to maintain maximum flexibility in terms of working principles, needed to adapt the operational execution of the course based on advancing insight or experience built up during the consecutive years the course is given, consequential changes will be met, where possible, by changes in relevant Annexes rather than through changes in core text. Subsequent versions of Annexes will be approved as

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described in Article 9. approved formally by the Consortium and subsequently, when applicable or appropriate, by the legal representatives of the Partners.

Article 1. Summary of EM-ABG

The integrated European Master of Science Course in Animal Breeding and Genetics (EM-ABG) aims to offer high quality international training, both in terms of scientific knowledge as well as in didactic skills.

EM-ABG is a response to the need for highly qualified graduates, as well as to the need to adapt education systems to the demands of the knowledge society, and to enhance the attractiveness and visibility of European higher education worldwide. The focus of EM-ABG is on the development of sustainable breeding programmes for farm animals, fish and companion animals. This innovative approach is based on mobility of people, exchanging experiences in different disciplines and establishing a common high quality standard in education and training.

EM-ABG aims at building capacities in the fields of animal breeding and genomics to meet the following challenges in developed and developing countries:

- increase of livestock and fish production, while preserving the quality of the products and the welfare of animals;
- preservation of natural resources, especially biodiversity, which become scarcer and scarcer;
- development of sustainable animal breeding programmes that contribute to improved livelihood of farmers and efficient food chains;
- development of sustainable breeding programmes that contribute to the improved health and welfare of companion animals (including populations in zoos and nature reserves).

The EM-ABG graduate will be trained to formulate and provide effective and appropriate responses to these challenges. The EM-ABG offers quality higher education in Animal Breeding and Genetics with a distinct European added value, which is attractive for students from all over the world. Students will be awarded two nationally recognized masters degrees (double degree), together with a specific EM-ABG certificate.

Representatives of seven international organisations have agreed to participate in the international advisory board which will meet once a year to advise on development of the course.

The instruction language of the two-year MSc Course is mainly English. An opportunity to study other European languages and to become familiar with European cultures will be provided. The annual student enrolment is expected to be 30 third-country students and 18 European students.

EM-ABG starts with an orientation period for all students in Wageningen. Students will conduct the major part of their training at two institutes / institutions of the consortium. The duration of the stay at one institute / institution varies between 6 and 18 months.

The consortium consists of Wageningen University (the Netherlands) as Co-ordinator, University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences (Austria), Christian-Albrechts-Universität (Germany), AgroParisTech (France), Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (Sweden) and The Norwegian University of Life Sciences (Norway).

Students will be awarded two nationally recognized masters degrees (double degree), together with a specific EM-ABG Masters certificate, and a joint diploma supplement (nature, level, content and status of the subjects; outstanding features of professional training).

EM-ABG will be open to well motivated students who have completed BSc or equivalent degree in animal science or related fields and good knowledge in English (TOEFL-test/ demonstrated competence). Student admission, enrolment and degrees will be handled by the consortium committee.

Article 2. Structure and content of the programme

The EM-ABG MSc Course generally combines a first year (M1 slot) in one institute / institution with a second year (M2 slot) in a second institute / institution. Optional choices are proposed to the students depending on their previous personal experience of scientific own professional goals.

The EM-ABG MSc Course will concentrate on use of quantitative and molecular genetics for animal breeding purposes. This involves the following concepts:

- understanding of and measuring genetic variation (Statistical Genomics)

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- molecular genetics and bioinformatics (Genomics)
- design and evaluation of breeding programmes (Animal Breeding)
- understanding of intra-animal biological relationships (other)

The EM-ABG MSc course will be truly international and have many links to global research and to capacity building in developing countries. The length of the EM-ABG is 2 years (120 ETCS). The EM-ABG builds on existing MSc courses and consists of required and elective subjects: Orientation Period, Applied Period, Problem Oriented Subjects, Complementary Subjects, and Thesis Research.

The EM-ABG offers a tailor-made study plan that meets the needs of the individual student. Each EM-ABG student makes his/her own study plan. Coherence and quality are discussed and approved by the mentors to ensure that the study plan meets the requirements to award the double degree. A more detailed description of the EM-ABG Curriculum is given in 3.

Article 3. Organisational structure and responsibilities

The EM-ABG is governed by the following management structure:

1. An EM-ABG Consortium Committee (Annex 4), with one representative of each institute / institution, is in charge of all academic issues. The Consortium Committee is chaired by the representative of the Co-ordinator. The representatives are mandated by their institute / institution and are in charge of evaluating the files of incoming students, selection of scholarship grantees, the proposition of awarding degrees, content of the course, study programmes of students, advice on dissertation topics and all other academic and organisational issues. If needed due to regulations of the respective Institute / institution, the Consortium Committee submits its proposals on topics, mentioned above, to the relevant body of the Institute / institution for approval or decision. The Consortium Committee is meeting at least once a year and nominates among its members persons in charge of specific issues that need to be regulated.

2. A technical secretariat (Annex 5) will provide administration support and will treat all administrative questions and problems and will be in charge of practical issues such as arrival of students, mobility arrangements, administrative tasks concerning study progress, collecting the marks of students, organisation of the selection procedure, organisation of meetings of the managing bodies, communication, financial reporting and report writing. The secretariat will consist of the administrative support representatives of the institutes / institutions and will work under the guidance of the administrative representative of the Co-ordinator. The secretariat will provide the Consortium Committee with financial information on a regular basis. The technical secretariat will provide the members of the Consortium Agreement with an EM-ABG financial and administrative handbook as guideline for all procedures to be followed by the institute / institution. This EM-ABG financial and administrative handbook will become an integral part of the Consortium Agreement (Annex 6).

3. Examination and dissertation commissions: For each individual subject, the examination criteria of the hosting institutes / institutions do apply. Examinations are fully recognised by all Consortium institutes / institutions of the same training track. For the thesis submission a common monitoring and if necessary a joint evaluation procedure is organised by the tutors. An external member is always involved in supervision and grading. The thesis can only be defended when all other requirements to obtain the degree are fulfilled, so that the commission can be mandated to award the degree or not. The common monitoring process and, when applicable, a description of the joint evaluation procedure will be described in detail and after approval by the Consortium Committee added to the agreement as Annex 7.

4. The Co-ordinator: The Co-ordinator is in charge of coordinating the course and responsible for all contacts with the EU. The Co-ordinator will take all actions necessary for a good functioning of the Consortium and for the fulfilment of the contractual agreement with the EU. The representative of the Co-ordinator will chair the Consortium Committee. The Co-ordinator will guide the technical secretariat.

Article 4. Administrative organisation of EM-ABG

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4.1 Admission criteria

The EM-ABG MSc Course is open to well-motivated students. Students are required to have a BSc degree in Animal Sciences or related fields with a number of prerequisites (e.g. knowledge of Statistics and Genetics). Grade Point Average needs to be at minimum 70 % of the maximum score. All students are required to pass a TOEFL exam. The result has to be paper based at least 580, computer based at least 237 or internet based at least 92-93. An alternative is a minimum score of 6.5 from a IELTS test. Furthermore, basic computer skills are required. The Consortium Committee can admit excellent students with a somewhat lower TOEFL (550, 213 or 79-80 respectively) or IELTS score (6.0). The co-ordinating institute / institution selects the students that meet the admission criteria.

At the start of the EM-ABG MSc Course, each student is interviewed by the mentor to ensure the study plan meets the needs of the student (tailor made programme) and that the study plan is also feasible. After one year of the study plan, there is a study advice in case progress is not good enough. Advice can be that special action should be taken or that the study should be stopped.

4.2 Application procedure for EM-ABG

The consortium has established a central application procedure at the EM-ABG Co-ordinator, using a joint application form. Students can apply through a standard application form which can be downloaded from the EM-ABG webpage, can be sent on request or can be obtained from the institutes / institutions awarding the degree. The co-ordinating institute / institution provides first-hand support via telephone or e-mail for all questions regarding the application. Applications have to be sent to the technical secretariat before the agreed deadline of February 1st in order to be eligible for an Erasmus Mundus Scholarship but no later than May 1st for EM-ABG in general. It contains all elements necessary for further selection (such as letter of motivation, full academic background containing a list of courses followed, obtained grades, information about the ranking of the students in their previous studies, language skills, motivation). Furthermore 2 recommendation letters will be asked of each student. It also indicates the University where they want to start their courses. The Co-ordinator collects all application forms, checks whether students fulfil basic diploma requirements and prepares an overview for the selection by the EM-ABG Consortium Committee.

4.3 Admission of students

The students (using the admission criteria, the letter of motivation and reference letters), after checking eligibility by the Co-ordinator, are pre-selected by the EM-ABG Consortium Committee during its annual mid-term meeting (February) and subsequently proposed to the EACEA for final selection. Minutes of the meeting are made and circulated to all Partners. Students proposed for selection by the EACEA are informed as such by the Co-ordinator. The students finally selected on by the EACEA in May will get an official letter of admission signed by the Co-ordinator. A copy of this letter will be sent to the department responsible for enrolment of the Institute / institution receiving the student. Information on students selected for the EM-ABG MSc Course is forwarded to the co-ordinator of the starting institute / institution. Admission also depends on actual enrolment with respect to the set minimum and maximum numbers of students per institute / institution as a percentage of the total number of students in EM-ABG. All admitted students can enrol under the conditions set for enrolment. Enrolment is only official after paying the subscription fee to the account of the Consortium.

Students who enter the EM-ABG MSc Course may have only minor deficiencies at the start of the Course. If they do, then they need to attend courses to overcome these deficiencies during their first year of the EM-ABG MSc course.

4.4 Selection procedure for Erasmus Mundus scholarships

The selection of grantees of an Erasmus Mundus scholarship is a competitive process based on the academic performance and credentials of the candidates, in order to guarantee the selection of high-quality students. The Co-ordinator makes the first selection based on the criteria described in 4.1. Subsequently the Consortium Committee selects from the list of applicants the students who can enter the course and the third country students that will be proposed for a scholarship. The Consortium Committee selects and ranks the third-country students that are eligible for a scholarship. The Consortium will admit at least 30 third-country scholarship holders to the EM-ABG MSc Course. A list of participants ranked according to their academic quality and motivation will be sent to EACEA before February 28. After approval of the list, the Co-ordinator

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will contact selected students to start up the inscription procedures and mobility arrangements (inviting letters to obtain visa e.g.).

Selection will be based on academic scores, reputation of the school or Institute / institution where the student has previously studied, language skills, country of origin (in order to promote geographical balance), motivation and other relevant criteria. Furthermore the recommendation letters will be taken into account (with as criteria the names and reputation of the referees, their knowledge of the student, their ranking of the student, their evaluation of the language and other capacities of the student).

(Scholarship) students will be divided over the institutes / institutions based on student's preference within the limitations of the set minimum and maximum numbers of students per institute / institution as a percentage of the total number of students in EM-ABG, being 10% and 33% respectively.

4.5 Enrolment of EM-ABG students

Students are enrolled per year at the institute / institution where they follow part(s) of the EM-ABG course programme. Registration however always takes place administratively at the Co-ordinator's institution.

4.6 Subscription fees

The fees charged by institutes / institutions are different due to differences in national policies. However, all third-country students will have to pay the same tuition fee to the consortium irrespective of their institutes / institutions of study. Within the consortium, arrangements have been made to divide the fee and additional costs over institutes / institutions to ensure that all institutes / institutions receive an appropriate amount of money (covering local tuition fees and compensation for additional activities for the EM-ABG MSc Course). The fee for third-country students will be €8.000 per academic year whereas the fee for EU students will be €5.000 per academic year.

The tuition fees include the following costs of the students:

- registration in the two institutes / institutions (including institutional subscription fees);
- costs of the orientation period and the accommodation of the students during these events;
- allocation of a research grant to every student (EU and third country) for direct costs (including travel costs) related to thesis research and internship;
- participation in the summer activity at the end of the first year; and
- the extra costs for organising the joint master

Every year the Consortium Committee will decide on the amount of the fees and on the distribution of the incoming money of the Consortium.

Other costs (insurance, language courses, internal mobility, eventually extra educational fees to be paid for use of library, informatics or other services) are at the charge of the students. The EM-ABG students are to cover their living and subsistence costs by themselves.

Subscription fees of all EM-ABG students are paid to the account of Wageningen University. The Co-ordinator will transfer the agreed institutional subscription fees to the accounts indicated by the respective institutes / institutions.

4.7 Education

All institutes / institutions are responsible to provide appropriate education, teaching and examination within the framework of EM-ABG in correspondence with the educational responsibilities described in the Erasmus Mundus Programme Application Form for Action 1 for EM-ABG as submitted on April 28th, 2006.

4.8 Mobility

The mobility system can be seen in the study structure. Students have two joint activities, the orientation period and the summer activity, that are obligatory and common for all the EM-ABG students. Students are provided with many choices for their Applied Period. The criteria for choosing are that it is relevant to the AP position, and that it maximises the benefit for the student. For the Thesis research period and elective subjects students choose the institute / institution that best fits their personal study plan. Each participating institute / institution can be a hosting institute / institution for students and can offer both thesis opportunities and large variation of elective subjects. In order to meet the requirements for a double degree,

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students will conduct the major part of their training at two institutes / institutions of the consortium. The most convenient time for mobility between institutes / institutions is during the summer, although other tailor-made times can be arranged. The duration of the stay at one institute / institution varies between 6 and 18 months. A student can also do a minor part of the study at a third institute / institution, but in that case one of the two bi-lateral institutes / institutions is responsible for arranging a good fit for this part.

To enhance the attractiveness of the EM-ABG MSc Course, the consortium will establish a Partnership with each of two third-country higher education institutions, namely the Iowa State University in Ames (USA) (contact prof J.C.M. Dekkers) and the University of New England in Armidale (Australia) (contact prof J.H.J. van der Werf). The Partnership is established to allow European participants in the EM-ABG MSc Course (both graduate students and scholars) to spend a short time at the third-country Partner institutions as part of the Course. After recognition of EM-ABG MSc Course, the consortium will apply for mobility grants (Action 3). A mobility plan will be developed by the EM-ABG consortium and recognition of study periods at the third-country institution is guaranteed by the Erasmus Mundus Masters consortia. The opportunities to include additional third-country institutions in the Partnership will be investigated in the future.

4.9 Transfer of credits

The ECTS system of grading is used. The system for translation of national marks is given in Annex 8.

For each subject, the examination criteria of the host institute / institution where the subject is taken apply. For awarding the double MSc degree, the examination criteria of each of the two host institutes / institutions apply. The consortium will advise the two institutes / institutions on awarding the degree but the final decision is made by the institute / institution.

Marks are communicated to the secretariat at Wageningen to be recorded in the general student monitoring database. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in (re-)examination of subjects of one institute / institution while they are staying at another institute / institution during their EM-ABG MSc Course.

4.10 Passing exams

Examinations are fully recognised by all consortium institutes / institutions following the mutually agreed EM-ABG regulations.

For the thesis defence, a common monitoring and joint evaluation procedure is organised by the supervisors.

4.11 Awarding the degree of EM-ABG

The degree is awarded by the institutes / institutions awarding the ECTS leading to the degree. After a student has successfully obtained credits according to the programme and after a successful defence of the Master dissertation the Consortium Committee will recommend the relevant body of the institute / institution authorised to issue the respective degrees. Awarding the degree is based on mutual trust of the Partner institutes / institutions in the application of the commonly decided standards and quality criteria.

In addition a Diploma Supplement for EM-ABG course as a whole will be made. The Diploma Supplement will be signed by the Chairman of the EM-ABG Consortium Committee. The Diploma Supplement will mention the name and the degree of the training in English. The Supplement will contain full transcript of all ECTS credits obtained during the master course and will mention the titles of the courses as used at the respective institutes / institutions. Students will receive each academic year copy of the transcript of records of the courses followed in that academic year. A legalised translation in French, Spanish, German or Dutch of the diploma can be obtained upon request and upon payment of a service fee.

4.12 Quality assurance

The EM-ABG consortium and the organising institutes / institutions will ensure the high quality of the Course, evaluating the outcomes annually in the Consortium Committee. The standards and guidelines from the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) will be used.

Each of the six institutes / institutions has its own quality assurance system according to its national rules. In most cases, this system involves a site visit by a peer review commission.

An International Advisory Board with seven representatives from the working field is installed to advise the EM-ABG Consortium Committee on the set-up of the EM-ABG MSc Course and the relevance for the professional practice. All

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members of the International Advisory Board have expressed their support to the EM-ABG MSc Course. The International Advisory Board (Annex 9) will meet during the orientation period in August, and members of the board will present their views on the relevance of Animal Breeding and Genetics to the students.

4.13 Quality assessment

Within each participating institute / institution established procedures for evaluation by students already exist. Hence, each subject as well as the entire EM-ABG MSc Course is continuously assessed by all students (including third-country students). The EM-ABG consortium will use this system.

To ensure that the EM-ABG MSc Course works well, a special student evaluation will be performed every year and an EM-ABG Student Council will be installed.

Student representatives for the EM-ABG Student Council will be elected by the students from students in each participating institute / institution (European and third-country students). Videoconferencing and e-mail communication will be used by the student council to discuss items related to the EM-ABG course. The Student Council will have regular contacts with the EM-ABG co-ordinator (contact person for the program committee). The Student Council will be asked for advice on the organisation of the EM-ABG MSc Course. The role of the Student Council will be discussed in more detail during the first joint common Orientation Period, described in wording and added as Annex 10 to this Agreement. An electronic newsletter including the minutes of the meetings of the Student Council will be circulated to all EM-ABG students. Results of the evaluations and advice from the International Advisory Board and the Student Council will be discussed during the annual meeting of the Consortium Committee in August.

4.14 Other responsibilities

All six institutes / institutions have considerable experience in welcoming and hosting international students. Information on facilities and services regarding visa application for third-country students and scholars and other matters related to studying at the EM-ABG consortium can be found at the host institutes / institutions' websites. Each institute / institution has an office administering international student affairs, and each administration will support scholarship holders in their visa application process. Further, admitted students get information about housing facilities, welfare services and language courses. Overall, Erasmus Mundus students from elsewhere get special facilities and services so they can be successful in their studies. More detailed information per participating institute / institution is integrated in an EM-ABG Student Handbook which will be added to the Consortium Agreement after approval by the Consortium Committee as Annex 11.

Article 5. Costs and financing

The costs of the EM-ABG course are based on a number of fixed and variable costs. In addition, a number of scenarios with varying numbers of EU as well as third country students and varying distribution among institutes / institutions with higher or lower institutional fees were used to make a best estimate of the fees needed to cover the costs of EM-ABG. The upper case and base case scenarios can result in either a surplus of income over costs or a deficit. Yearly adjustments in fees will be made to keep within budget or to compensate for likely events such as introduction of institutional fees in institutes / institutions currently not having such fees. Yearly, a new budget will be composed, and proposed to the Consortium Committee for approval.

In case of surplus during the EM-ABG period, the Consortium Committee will decide how to allocate these funds for the benefit of the EM-ABG students. In case of a surplus at the end of the EM-ABG period, if any, this will be divided among the Partners in a way to be agreed upon by the Consortium Committee.

The financial arrangements will be as follows: All money (grants from EU, scholarships and subscription fees of students without scholarship) is transferred to the account of Wageningen University, adequately labelled and solely reserved for the EM-ABG Consortium. From this account will be paid:

- The scholarships to students (monthly scholarship + remainder of lump sum for travel, fees and relocation cost after deduction of the subscription fee and other costs) transferred on a personal account of the student in the country of residence
- The administrative costs for running the course (secretary work, other administrative costs)
- All costs related to the scientific coordination of the course

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- Meetings of the Consortium Committee and other necessary mobility costs linked to practical organisation of the course
- Meetings of the Advisory Board including travel and stay
- The institutional subscription fees charged per individual EM-ABG student by the institutes / institutions where the student is studying. Each Institute / institution decides freely on how this amount is used within the Institute / institution. For all purposes EU EM-ABG students will be regarded as regular EU students and third country students as regular third country students meaning that extra costs can only be charged to EM-ABG students on the same basis as regular students.
- A research grant for every student (EU and third country) allocated for coverage of direct costs (including local travel costs) related to laboratory work, thesis research and internships.
- All organisational costs related to the practical organisation of the yearly summer activity.
- All other costs related to the scientific coordination and practical organisation of the master.
- Any other costs decided upon by the Consortium Committee to be covered from the funds.

Financial and administrative coordination of the master course will be done by the EM-ABG technical secretariat of the course under supervision of the Co-ordinator. The Co-ordinator is keeping the accounts and reports regularly to the Partner institutes / institutions. The Consortium Committee decides every year on the proposed budget, the allocation of specific tasks and the spending of the money. Surplus money will be divided equally over the participating institutes / institutions based on number of students attending the institute / institution during the entire period the EM-ABG is running. Unforeseen budget deficits, or deficits as a result of a low number of students in such a way that costs for the Consortium and the execution of the course can not adequately be covered from the student fees, will both be equally divided between the Partner institutes / institutions. The amounts mentioned in this agreement can be changed at any time on proposal of the Consortium Committee. All administrative and financial processes will be described in an EM-ABG financial and administrative handbook as guideline for all procedures to be followed by the institutes / institutions.

Article 6. Liability

6.1. Each Partner shall be solely liable towards the other Partners and towards third parties for loss, damage or injury resulting from its own actions in the execution of this Agreement. However, no Partner shall be responsible to any other Partner for indirect or consequential loss or damage such as, but not limited to, loss of profit, loss of revenue or loss of contracts.

6.2. Each Partner shall be fully responsible for the performance of any part of its share of the Agreement and for the requirements of Insurance and Social Security for its personnel, involved herein.

6.3. With respect to any injury to any person or any damage to any property of any person occurring at any establishment of any of the Partners in the course or arising out of the execution of this Agreement, the Partner at whose establishment the injury or damage occurs, shall be solely responsible for the payment of compensation to such extent as this Partner shall be under a legal liability in respect of such injury or damage. This article shall not apply with respect to any such injury or damage, the causing of which is attributable to any act of a servant or agent of any of the Partners, committed with the intention of causing harm to any person or property or with reckless disregard for the consequences of his act.

6.4 Each Partner shall be solely liable for any breach of, or non-compliance with, its legal obligations arising from the present Agreement. If the Co-ordinator has to pay damages to the Commission due to such breach or non-compliance by a Partner, the Co-ordinator shall be entitled to full reimbursement from the Partner concerned.

Article 7. Entry into force and termination

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This Agreement shall come into force as of the date of its signature but shall have retroactive effect from date of signing the FPA agreement., referred to as T₀, by all the Partners and shall continue until the end of the agreements between the European Community and Wageningen University within the framework of the action entitled: 'IEM-ABG – Erasmus Mundus International Master of Science in Animal Breeding and Genetics' (framework Partnership agreement number 2007-0058/001/FRA M UNI123 and all related specific agreements for Erasmus Mundus Masters courses (Action 1) and Scholarships (Action 2) and other specific agreements signed on behalf of the Consortium.

This Consortium agreement is valid as long as contracts with the EU are binding the Partners. If this is not the case anymore, the Partners will decide in mutual agreement to continue this agreement or not.

If a Partner should want to leave the agreement before the end of the EU agreement, this Partner will discuss this with the Consortium and will have to follow the rules stipulated in the EU contract. This is not the case if the Partner should leave by force majeure.

Article 8. Applicable law and Competent Court

This Agreement shall in all respect be in compliance with the terms of the related Framework Agreement and Specific Agreements and be governed by Belgian law. The settlement of any difference or conflict arising from or in connection with this Agreement shall be attempted by an amicable effort from the Partners. Only the Courts of Brussels are competent to decide on the disputes which remain unresolved.

The EM-ABG student is bound to the rules and regulations from the Institutes / institutions at which she/he is enrolled.

Article 9. Amendments

The Consortium Committee has the mandate to add amendments to this agreement when necessary. For all things not stipulated in this agreement the Consortium Committee can decide, subject to approval by the official bodies of the signing institutes / institutions and/or the EACEA. Formal approval by the Consortium Committee and subsequently, when applicable or appropriate, by the legal representatives of the Partners or the EACEA, including a thorough audit trail of all versions will be documented by the Co-ordinator.

Signed for and on behalf of: Wageningen University	
President Executive Board:	Rector:
Date:	Date:
Place:	Place:

Signed for and on behalf of: Universität für Bodenkultur Wien
Rector:

Signed for and on behalf of: Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel
Rector:

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Date:
Place:

Date:
Place:

Signed for and on behalf of:
AgroParisTech

General Director:
Date:
Place:

Signed for and on behalf of:
Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet

Rector:
Date:
Place:

Signed for and on behalf of:
Universitetet for Miljø- og Biovitenskap

Rector:
Date:
Place:

Annexes

- Annex 1. FPA Agreement and annexes
- Annex 2. SA Agreements and annexes (will be added upon receipt from EACEA for each consecutive course)
- Annex 3. EM-ABG Curriculum
- Annex 4. EM-ABG Consortium Committee
- Annex 5. EM-ABG Technical secretariat
- Annex 6. EM-ABG financial and administrative handbook
- Annex 7. EM-ABG Common monitoring process / joint evaluation procedure
- Annex 8. Translation of national marks
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Annex 1. FPA Agreement and annexes

See pdf-file

Annex 2. SA Agreements and annexes (will be added upon receipt from EACEA for each consecutive course)

See pdf-file

Annex 3. EM-ABG Curriculum

Description of the EM-ABG Curriculum

The EM-ABG will be truly international and have many links to global research and to capacity building in developing countries. The global structure of the EM-ABG is presented in Table 1. The length of the EM-ABG is 2 years (120 ECTS). The EM-ABG builds on existing MSc courses and consists of required and elective subjects: Orientation Period, Disciplinary and Complementary subjects, Applied Period, Problem Oriented Study, and Thesis Research. A student can also do a minor part of the study at a third university, but prerequisite is that in all cases only two universities are in charge of awarding credits to the extent that for both awarding universities the minimum requirements for awarding the degree are met. In principle, students follow one year at the first institute / institution and the second year at a second partner institute / institution who will both be in charge of awarding credits (usually 60:60 ECTS) and degrees to the student; but – provided that the two supervisors of the thesis agree – a short stay for doing e.g. thesis research at a third institute / institution is possible. In case of a period of attending a third institute / institution one of the two bi-lateral universities is responsible for arranging a good fit for this part. As a result of the above the duration of stay at one institute / Institution can vary between 6 and 18 months.

Table 1. Global structure of EM-ABG MSc Course

What	Aim	Year (%)		ECTS
		1	2	
Orientation period	Introduction + academic skills	100		6
Disciplinary subjects	Increasing understanding of Animal Breeding and Genetics	60	40	30
Complementary subjects	Gaining flanking knowledge (including multidisciplinary subjects)	70	30	24
Joint summer activity	Study trip	100		2
Applied period	Getting to know the industry	50	50	0-24
Free choice	Option to specialise or to broaden skills/expertise	50	50	0-36
Thesis research	Conducting research related to Animal Breeding and Genetics		100	30-60
Degree at two universities		50	50	120

Orientation period (in August at WU, The Netherlands)

At the opening of the course, all EM-ABG students will attend a common Orientation Period (OP) in Wageningen. The OP introduces the students to a European and Global dimension that will complement their existing knowledge of farm animal breeding and genetics. The OP is the cornerstone of the EM-ABG, because it provides the students with an invaluable insight into the multi-faceted nature of European farm animal breeding and genetics. The three-week intensive subject provides the students with an introduction to topics ranging from biodiversity to business management and to questions of social responsibility. The OP also introduces students to each other and to staff, introduces the EM-ABG to the students and starts collective discussions between staff and students regarding their choice of optional modules in their future studies.

Disciplinary subject (at all universities)

Each university provides a number of disciplinary subjects related to Animal Breeding and Genetics. A detailed description of the ABG subjects is given in Annex A2 of the Application. This Annex provides an overview of the different areas covered by the ABG subjects, based on the results of the AFANet report on joint curriculum development. Each university will recognise the ABG subjects from the other universities involved. The overview in Annex A2 of the Application will also be used to support students in making a careful selection of subjects so as to avoid that a student attends similar subjects at different universities.

Applied Period (in a national, trans-national or international organization)

The aim of the Applied Period (AP) for the students is to apply their skills and knowledge gained throughout their student and working life. The AP consists of a study assignment with a national, transnational or international organization. The AP is project based, and the topic of the work assignment is agreed upon in cooperation with the host organisation, the mentor, and the student. The form in which the AP is offered differs between universities but all universities have subjects that meet the objectives of AP.

Problem Oriented Study (in any of the partner universities)

The Problem Oriented subject (POS) provides the students with tools to respond to a challenging situation in animal breeding programmes. The POS focuses on problem solving through team working and concerns relevant problems of the issue in question. The POS provides the students with an all-compassing view of issues that are relevant to modern-day breeding of farm animals, companion animals, or aquatic species. The focus of the POS is on working together as an international team to realise a goal, and on utilising all the experiences of the team and available expertise of teaching staff. The POS can be offered as a separate subject (e.g. Academic Master Cluster at WU) or be integrated as a teaching method in other subjects.

Elective subjects (in any of the partner universities)

Students can choose from a large variety of subjects from each partner university to complete their personal study plan. The partner universities offer a broad range of subjects lectured in English (and, of course, the national language) in such fields as Animal Health, Product Quality, Natural Resource Management, Business Economics, Plant Science and Soil Science.

Thesis research (in any of the partner universities depending on the subject)

The thesis is the main area of the EM-ABG MSc Course and consists of the preparation at a host university of a thesis with an international dimension. The research plan also has to be approved by the two universities awarding the double degree, and there will be dual supervision of thesis research. Video conferencing and distant learning tools will be used to facilitate dual supervision and to enhance contacts between partners.

Partners from the consortium make bi-lateral double degree curricula. The minimum contribution of each university for awarding a double degree is given in Table 2.

Table 2. Minimum contributions (in ECTS) from each university to for awarding a double degree.

University	Minimum contribution from university (ECTS)
BOKU	study at 2 universities: 60 ECTS from BOKU (either for subjects in case students spend the first year at BOKU, or from coursework + master thesis in case student spends the second year at BOKU) study at more than 2 universities: 40 ECTS from BOKU (courses or courses + thesis)
CAU	54 in total including thesis (30 ECTS) under (joint) supervision possible
INA P-G	30 for subjects at INA P-G and 30 for thesis under (joint) supervision of INA P-G
SLU	30 for subjects at SLU and 30-60 for thesis under (joint) supervision of SLU
UMB	0-30 for subjects and 30-60 for thesis
WU	36 for subjects at WU and 30 for thesis under (joint) supervision of WU

All successful students (European and third-country) will obtain a double degree from two universities. The title of the degree awarded by each partner is listed in Table 3. Each participating university, except SLU, has recently implemented the European Bachelor Master degree structure (3+1 or 2 years) according to the Bologna model. At SLU, outlines for the new courses at BSc and MSc level will be produced before May 2006 and the new structure will be implemented in September 2007, i.e. the intended start of this EM-ABG MSc Course.

Table 3. Type and title of degrees obtained at the participating universities in the EM-ABG MSc Course

University	Title of degree awarded for this Masters Course by this institution	Type of degree awarded	Date and reference of formal approval of degree (Provide details of approval procedures under point 2.5)
BOKU	Master of Sciences (MSc)	double	The Erasmus Mundus Consortium Agreement for the Curriculum "Animal Breeding and Genetics" will be the basis for having a special "Studienkennzahl" for this programme. In the Diploma Supplement, a detailed description of the "Master of Science" awarded can be included (e.g. "Master of Science in Animal Breeding and Genetics").
CAU	Master of Science	double	The degree has been implemented by the Faculty of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences on 10 April 2001. Approval by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Culture on 14 March 2001. The reference is: NBl. MSWFK Schl.-H 6/2001 issued 29. May 2001.
INA P-G	Master of Life Sciences and Technologies Speciality in Animal Sciences	double	The programme has been accredited by the Ministry of Education (departmental order in date 15 April 2005). The accreditation holds for the period 2004-2008.
SLU	Master of Science in Animal Sciences	double	Ordinance for SLU is stated in Appendix 1 of the Higher Education Ordinance (SFS 1993:100), which entitles SLU to deliver Master degrees. Within this frame, the board of the university is entitled to approve Master programs to be given at the university.
UMB	Master of Animal Sciences	double	Act Relating to Universities and University Colleges (enacted 01 August 2005, Ministry of Education and Research)
WU	Master of Science in Animal Sciences and Aquaculture	double	The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has given the legal basis for issuing this degree under the law on Higher Education and Science (WHW art 1.8 and art 7.10a). The programme has been accredited by the NVAO and is registered in the Central Register of Programs in Higher Education (CROHO) under registration nr. 66849 .

Annex 4. EM-ABG Consortium Committee

EM-ABG Consortium Committee

Wageningen University (Co-ordinator): Prof.dr.ir. J.A.M. van Arendonk

Universität für Bodenkultur Wien: Prof. J. Sölkner

Christian-Albrecht-Universität zu Kiel: Prof. G. Thaller

AgroParisTech: Prof. E. Verrier

Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet: Prof. B. Malmfors

Universitetet for Miljø- og Biovitenskap: Prof. G. Klemetsdal

For meetings of the committee appointed representatives can be replaced by authorized substitutes, after timely announcement (in writing or by e-mail) to the Co-ordinator. In such cases Minutes of meetings have to be approved afterwards by the appointed representative.

Annex 5. EM-ABG Technical secretariat

EM-ABG Technical Secretariat

Wageningen University (Co-ordinator):	Mrs. Gerda Bakker
Universität für Bodenkultur Wien:	Dr. Margarita Calderon-Peter
Christian-Albrecht-Universität zu Kiel:	Dr. Martina Schmode
AgroParisTech:	Mrs. Anne-Marie Mercy
Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet:	Mrs. Anna Lauritz
Universitetet for Miljø- og Biovitenskap:	Thorbjørn Gilberg

Annex 6. EM-ABG financial and administrative handbook

See pdf-file

Annex 7. EM-ABG Common monitoring process / joint evaluation procedure

EM-ABG Common monitoring process / joint evaluation procedure

To be added later.

Annex 8. Translation of national marks

Translation of the ECTS scale

University	ECTS scale	University scale
BOKU	A B C D, E FX, F	1 2 3 4 5 (failed)
CAU	A A- B+ B B- C+ C C- D+ D	1.0 1.3 1.7 2.0 2.3 2.7 3.0 3.3 3.7 4.0 (<4.0 failed)
APT	A, B, C, D, E, FX, F	No one (ECTS used every time)
SLU	A, B, C, D, E, Fx, F	Pass* Fail
UMB	A B C D E Fx and F	A B C D E F**
WU	A B C D/E F	9-10 8 7 6 1-5

* Introduction of a more graded university scale at SLU is discussed

** The Norwegian system is not based on distribution of students with each grade like the ECTS system, which have (A 10%, B 25%, C 30%, D 25%, and E 10%), but on certain criteria given for each grade

Annex 9. EM-ABG International Advisory Board**EM-ABG International Advisory Board**

Name	Organisation	Function	Country
Dr. Irene Hoffmann	FAO, Animal Production & Health Division	Chief Animal Production Service	Italy
Dr. Ken Laughin	Aviagen	Group Technical Director	United Kingdom
Dr. Jan Merks	Institute for Pig Genetics	Director	The Netherlands
Dr. Raoul Ponzoni	World Fish Centre	Research Scientist and Project Leader	Malaysia
Dr. Reinhard Reents	Interbull	Chairman	Germany
Dr. Andrea Rosati	European Association for Animal Production	Secretary General	Italy
Dr. Carlos Sere	International Livestock Research Institute	Director General	Kenya

Annex 10. EM-ABG Student Council

EM-ABG Student Council

To be added later. EM-ABG Student Council to be established at first joint orientation period, August 2007.

Annex 11. EM-ABG Student Handbook

EM-ABG Student Handbook

Under construction. To be added later.

[Z1]The two thesis supervisors have to agree who is in charge for doing so.