

consortium, in accordance with the programme of studies: the *Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore* (UCSC, Italy), the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU, Sweden), the *Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn* (UBonn, Germany), and the *Université catholique de Louvain* (UCLouvain, Belgium).

2. The attendance referred to in the previous article is recognised by the respective universities as integral part of the qualification for which the student is preparing, as long as the student is successful in the respective examinations and/or assessments.

3. To participate in the academic programme of the AFEPA European Master, the student receives a scholarship to the total value of 16.800/33.600 Euros, donated to the AFEPA Consortium, consisting of the universities mentioned above.

4. The monthly instalments of the scholarship for living costs are paid to the student in twenty-four monthly instalments of 700/1,400 Euros each. The payments of the monthly instalments should begin up to 30 days after the beginning date stated in the first article of the present agreement but not before the end of the registration process at the first host university. These monthly instalments are paid by bank transfer to the student's personal bank account.

5. In addition to the regular tuition and administrative fees at the two main participating universities, the student agrees to pay an annual contribution fee of up to 300 Euros to the AFEPA coordination office (UBonn), which is used to cover expenses related to the annual summer school of the AFEPA Master's Programme (renting the venue, inviting guest speakers, and covering field trips and social events). This fee does not, however, cover the student's travel and accommodation for attending these annual summer schools. Any other costs that may be charged in addition (e.g. for participation in fieldwork activities), being compulsory or voluntary, are communicated to the student at the application stage. These costs and any other costs, such as document application, visa and residence permits, books, local transportation, travels to the host universities and accommodation, including the travel and accommodation expenditures to participate to the two summer schools are not covered by the AFEPA Master's programme.

6. Under the present agreement, the student is obliged:

- to obtain his/her residence permit from the national and local authorities upon his/her arrival in the host countries if required;
- to participate in the orientation and welcome meetings as well as informative and official meetings and events;
- to attend assiduously, and with the objective of successfully passing, the courses, seminars, summer sessions and the thesis inherent in the programme of studies;
- to refuse any other scholarship or subvention financed by the Commission of the European Communities under other Community programmes.

7. The participating universities of the AFEPA consortium shall announce the academic calendar by the first week of the academic year, including the course schedule and location as well as the examination periods. The coordinating institution in consultation with the organizing institution shall announce the period and location of each summer session within the first three months of each academic year.

8. Each participating university of the AFEPA consortium shall post the description of its own courses of the AFEPA academic programme before the beginning of each academic year. The course description includes the objectives and the structure of the course as well as the methods and examination conditions. Each participating university of the AFEPA consortium shall also post the guidelines for the thesis examination before the beginning of each academic year. The Master thesis is examined and evaluated by at least two professors, including the thesis' supervisor from the host participating university and a thesis' adviser from another participating university. Each participating university of the AFEPA consortium uses the grading scale of its own institution as well as the ECTS grading scale if this scale is not already used to assess the academic performance of the student.

9. The student agrees to allow his/her respective first- or second-year university to share a copy of the academic transcript as soon as possible after each exam period, but at the latest after the end of a semester with the AFEPA coordination office at UBonn.

10. The student is obligated to read and understand the exam regulations at his or her AFEPA partner universities. The respective exam regulations are contained in the welcome package at the first-year university. If doubts remain, the student is asked to discuss the unclear elements with the local AFEPA representative at the beginning of the academic year.

11. The student is strongly advised to stay at his or her respective two programme universities for the entire duration of the academic school years. Short absences such as trips for a weekend or during university vacation periods do not need to be justified. However, longer absences do require the approval by the local AFEPA representatives and have to be justified. This also includes the fourth semester of the programme when the student may not have to take courses anymore but is writing the Master's thesis. Any short study or research period at a third university must be endorsed by both participating universities and the third university and specified in a learning agreement.

12. Any alteration to the present agreement must be communicated in writing. All alterations to the initial situation must be immediately communicated by the student to the coordinating institution and the host universities. Upon mutual agreement of contractual modifications, the coordinating institution issues an *addendum* to the present agreement.

13. Any deliberate failure on the part of the student to fulfil the conditions expected in terms of attendance at the AFEPA Master's Programme, in particular non-fulfilment of the conditions stipulated in the present agreement, constitutes sufficient reason for action to be taken towards resolving the issue and could lead to the exclusion of the student from the AFEPA Master's Programme and the reimbursement of the scholarship awarded.

14. In case of exclusion or withdrawal of the student from the AFEPA European Master, on his/her own decision or force majeure, the student hereby makes a commitment on his/her honour to reimburse the host university the excess funding from the scholarship allocated to him/her, which consists in any funds of the scholarship received in terms of monthly allowances covering the period following the months of the date of exclusion or withdrawal.

15. Upon exclusion or withdrawal, the student shall in due time and before his/her departure pay for all his/her financial obligations, in particular:

- the rent of his/her accommodation,
- the bank fees corresponding to his/her accommodation insurance,
- the bank charges to pay for any of his/her bank accounts and credit cards.

16. Without prejudice to the general consequences laid down in national law applicable in the present agreement, the coordinating institution reserves the right to cease the effects of the present agreement, without recourse to any juridical procedure apart from adequate communication to the student. Failing agreement by both parts, the German courts are designated as the only competent authorities to resolve any legal dispute between the coordinating institution and the student emerging from the present agreement. The present agreement is governed by German Law.

17. The coordinating institution and the participating universities are exonerated from any responsibility for accidents, illnesses, injuries, losses or damages to persons or goods resulting from or in any way related to the activities that are the object of the present agreement.

The signatories declare that they have read and accepted the conditions laid down in the present agreement.

First signatory
Bonn,

Second signatory
Place, date

The Provost

Student

Witnessed and approved:

Prof. Dr. Thomas Heckelei
Institute for Food and Resource Economics