

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
SCUOLA SUPERIORE MERIDIONALE, NAPLES, ITALY
AND
EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY,
DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA, U.S.A.**

The **Scuola Superiore Meridionale**, (hereinafter referred to as **SSM**) and **Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University** (hereinafter referred to as **ERAU**) enter this **Memorandum of Understanding** (hereinafter referred to as “**MOU**”) to establish a collaboration that is of interest and beneficial to both parties. The MOU intent is to create and promote a dual PhD degree agreement between the two educational institutions.

The present MOU involves the College of Engineering (COE) for ERAU and the Department of Cosmology, Space Science and Space Technology (SPACE) as well as the department of Mathematical and physical sciences for advanced materials and technologies (MPHS) for SSM.

1. Dual Graduate Degree Programs

1.1 PhD students from ERAU who already have an MS degree (or equivalent) will get a PhD in Aerospace Engineering from ERAU and a PhD in SPACE or MPHS from SSM. The ERAU students must complete 4 courses chosen from the required courses within the PhD curriculum at ERAU and 4 at the SSM, spending a minimum of 1.5 years and maximum of 2 years at SSM. The students will take 24 dissertation credits, while at ERAU. The PhD advisor at ERAU will be responsible for choosing the courses. The ERAU courses can be found here: <https://catalog.erau.edu/daytona-beach/engineering/phd/aerospace-engineering/qualifying-exam-info/>

1.2 PhD students from SSM will obtain a PhD degree in SPACE or MPHS from SSM and a PhD in Aerospace Engineering from ERAU. The SSM students must complete 4 courses at the SSM and 4 at ERAU, spending a minimum of 1.5 years and maximum of 2 years at ERAU. SSM student will also have to obtain a minimum of 12 AE800 credits (thesis) at ERAU.

1.3 SSM agrees to consider academically qualified PhD students from ERAU (cGPA 3.5 or higher) who have completed a minimum of an academic year at ERAU and have the approval from the PhD program coordinator.

ERAU agrees to consider academically qualified graduate-level students from SSM (cGPA 3.5 or higher) who have completed a minimum of an academic year at SSM and have their PhD program coordinator approval. SSM students will have to complete the GRE with the ERAU established minimum scores ([Doctoral Program Specific Criteria < Daytona Beach campus catalog, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University \(erau.edu\)](#)), and the English language test (e.g.:

TOEFL [International < Daytona Beach campus catalog, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University \(erau.edu\)](#)), before joining ERAU. The students should take the qualifying exam, and preliminary exam, as required for all PhD students.

- 1.4 ERAU and SSM reserve the final right of acceptance of a candidate.
- 1.5 The participating students must successfully defend their dissertation at ERAU and SSM to complete program requirements. The participation by a SSM faculty on the ERAU thesis committee is mandatory.
- 1.6 Students will be enrolled in the respective PhD programs at the two institutions while attending courses.

2. Costs

- 2.1 ERAU students going to SSM will be charged the national fee of 140 euros for each academic year they will spend at the SSM.
- 2.2 SSM students may view the estimated cost of attendance, mandatory fees, program fees and lab fees at <https://daytonabeach.erau.edu/admissions/estimated-costs>. Each academic year ERAU fees may be updated.
- 2.3 It is recognized that host institutions may have additional costs that are not included in the tuition. These additional costs may be lab fees, technology fees or other fees that are charged to all students. Neither institution will create fees that apply only to the dual graduate degree graduate students.
- 2.4 The travelling expenses and living expenses will not be parties' responsibility unless otherwise negotiated. All housing and meal costs will be the responsibility of the student. All travel costs as well as insurance will be the responsibility of the individual student. Miscellaneous fees such as special course and lab fees, key deposit, books etc. will be paid for by each student.
- 2.5 Individual students will be responsible for their own housing, meal arrangements, and expenses during vacation and holiday periods.
- 2.6 Each participant will provide proof of health insurance. The insurance must be valid in the host country. Before registering for classes, proof of adequate insurance coverage must be provided to the international office at SSM and to the Health Services Office at Embry-Riddle, through the online portal. Incoming ERAU students have the opportunity to purchase student insurance through ERAU.
- 2.7 The obligations of each institution under this agreement are limited to the students enrolled in the dual PhD program and do not extend to partners or dependents.

2.8 ERAU will require a Proof of Funds. Applicants applying to ERAU will work with the University's office of International Student & Scholar Services to receive an I-20. As part of this effort, the applicants will need to have sufficient funds for their expenses during the entire period of study, including but not limited to living costs and tuition and fees. Sufficient proof of funds is required for all international students who will require an I-20. Students are required to submit a proof of funds document or a letter from the sponsoring organization or Embry-Riddle department stating that they will sponsor the student. The proof of funds must be dated no more than six months before the start of the semester and addressed to Embry-Riddle. The proof of funds or sponsorship letter must guarantee the availability of sufficient funds to cover tuition and fees, living expenses, book, and personal expenses for the first two semesters. Financial Guarantees/Sponsorship Letters must include the student's name, school ID, the specific term(s) which is being sponsored and state specifically what will be covered (tuition, fees, room & board etc.).

3. VISA Requirements

3.1 The host institution will provide reasonable information regarding visa requirements; however, the participant remains responsible for obtaining a visa and paying the cost.

3.2 Students from SSM to ERAU will seek to obtain an F-1 Visa.

3.3 Students from ERAU to SSM will seek to obtain a study permit according to the European Union regulations.

4. Accreditation

4.1 Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award associates, bachelors, masters, and doctoral degrees. SSM is not accredited by SACSCOC, and the accreditation of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University does not extend to or include SSM or its students. Further, although Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University agrees to accept certain coursework from SSM to be applied toward an award from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, that coursework may not be accepted by other colleges or universities in transfer, even if it appears on a transcript from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. The decision to accept coursework in transfer from any institution is made by the institution considering the acceptance of credits or coursework.

4.2 SSM is a recognized institution in Italy, officially belonging to the higher education system (university and AFAM) and is authorized to award academic titles that hold legal value and are part of the Italian higher education system. SSM is a verified university as listed in the Italian system's official university institution database.

SSM contributes to ensuring a more equitable distribution of specialized institutions in the Italian national territory and has the task of contributing to the general progress of the university system and of promoting collaboration with other schools and with Italian and international universities. With the same decree, the Statute of the SSM was also approved, drawn up by the Organizing Committee which will ensure its functioning by carrying out the functions and tasks of the statutory bodies to be established within the times set out in the same Statute. Until April 1st 2022, the SSM established a Strategic Project of the University of Naples Federico II which played the role of incubator.

5. Courses and Curriculum. Courses are carefully reviewed and evaluated to ensure that their content and course objectives are the equivalent of those at ERAU. Incorporated into this MOU are the course equivalencies for the 2024-2025 year based on the current catalogs from both ERAU and SSM. In the event that either party's catalog changes with regard to the affected courses or programs, the parties' respective designees shall approve and sign an updated agreement if said designee agrees with all such changes.

6. No Conflict with US or Italian Law

6.1 ERAU is an entity organized under and subject to the laws of the United States of America. If at any time during the performance of this agreement, it shall become apparent that a provision hereof requires ERAU to violate United States law, that provision shall, without remedy, be null or void and of no effect whatsoever, and the remainder of this agreement shall continue in effect. Alternatively, this agreement may be terminated immediately by either party without cost, penalty, or expense to ERAU. The parties expressly agree that this clause shall supersede any other agreement or covenant in this contract, including but not limited to any choice of law provisions.

6.2 SSM is an entity organized under and subject to the laws of the Italian Republic. If at any time during the performance of this agreement, it shall become apparent that a provision hereof requires SSM to violate Italian law, that provision shall, without remedy, be null or void and of no effect whatsoever, and the remainder of this agreement shall continue in effect. Alternatively, this agreement may be terminated immediately by either party without cost, penalty, or expense to SSM. The parties expressly agree that this clause shall supersede any other agreement or covenant in this contract, including but not limited to any choice of law provisions.

7. Dispute & Jurisdiction

This Contract and any dispute or claim (including non-contractual disputes or claims) arising out of or in connection with it or its subject matter or formation shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the law of the jurisdiction where the dispute or claim arises or where the action is brought.

Each Party irrevocably agrees that the courts where a dispute or claim arises or where an action is brought shall have exclusive jurisdiction to settle any dispute or claim (including non-

contractual disputes or claims) arising out of or in connection with this Contract or its subject matter or formation. An aggrieved Party seeking and invoking judicial remedies where no venue is apparent as the locus where the dispute or claim arose shall file and pursue those judicial remedies in the jurisdiction of the Party from which it seeks redress.

8. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement of the parties, and no verbal agreements shall be given force or effect, unless reduced to writing and signed and dated by authorized signatories of each party.
9. **Term.** This MOU shall take effect from the date of signing by both parties and shall be valid for six (6) years. Any changes or modifications to this MOU must be agreed upon by both parties in writing.
10. **Early Termination.** Either party has the right to terminate this MOU at any time according to their own desire subject to giving the other party six (6) months prior notice in writing. The termination of the MOU shall not have any adverse effect on students in the programs at the date of termination

Agreed on this day, October 1, 2024, by


Jeremy V. Ernst

Vice President for Research and Doctoral Programs
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Daytona Beach, Florida, U.S.A.

Date 10/02/2024

Arturo de Vivo

Responsible for the Scuola Superiore Meridionale
Naples, ITALY

Date _____

Firmato digitalmente da

Arturo De Vivo

CN = De Vivo Arturo
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