



Introduction

This document is designed as a record of the information and action required for the smooth implementation of the Department of Sociology's 2+2 joint undergraduate degree program with Xi'an Jiaotong University in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, People's Republic of China.

Building Relationships

The Department of Sociology at the University of Saskatchewan has engaged in an active relationship with colleagues in the Sociology Department and School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Xi'an Jiaotong University in China over the past decade. This relationship has culminated in joint research exchanges and joint program initiatives which, in turn, are well-positioned to foster more extensive collaboration that involve several additional units and partnerships through both institutions. The dual degree program is part of an ongoing partnership between the two institutions intended to foster international collaboration in research and graduate and undergraduate training. This involves initially Sociology, with expectations that other academic units within the College of Arts and Science and, potentially, other Colleges, will develop similar arrangements.¹

Memorandum of Understanding

Basic Framework

The Departments of Sociology at the Xi'an Jiaotong University (XJTU) and the University of Saskatchewan (U of S) have enjoyed a productive collegial collaboration. It was in the context of this collaboration that a Letter of Intent for the Establishment of a Joint Undergraduate Degree Program in Sociology was signed on May 11, 2007. In order to achieve the goal of further collaboration between the two universities, XJTU and U of S have reached the agreement on the Joint Undergraduate Degree Program in Sociology.

According to this agreement, undergraduate Sociology students registered at the XJTU, who have successfully completed the first two year of studies in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences are eligible to apply to the U of S for admission and transfer to the U of S undergraduate Sociology degree program. Similarly, undergraduate Sociology students registered at the U of S, who have successfully completed the first two years of full-time studies in the College of Arts and Science are eligible to apply to the XJTU for admission and transfer to the XJTU undergraduate Sociology degree program. If an admitted student meets degree requirements from both universities, as articulated in the *Implementation Plan* signed by both universities, the student can obtain bachelor degrees from both universities.

¹ Wotherspoon, Terry. *International Collaborative Program Pilot Project: Joint Undergraduate Degree Program in Global Citizenship with Xi'an Jiaotong University (China) Department of Sociology (University of Saskatchewan) and Department of Sociology (Xi'an Jiaotong University)*. December 2010. p 2



This agreement focuses on the four-year Sociology undergraduate degree programs in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at the XJTU and the College of Arts and Science at the U of S. On the basis of admission requirements of both universities, the two universities may recommend a certain number of qualified students apply for the joint degree program. Undergraduate students who have finished their first two years study in Sociology at the XJTU, once admitted by the U of S, can transfer to the U of S to continue their study in Sociology for the third and fourth year. The U of S recognizes an equivalent number of credit units obtained in specified courses taken in the first and second years at the XJTU and allows them to be transferred to the U of S. The XJTU will recognize an equivalent number of credit units obtained in the third and fourth year study at the U of S and will allow them to be transferred to the XJTU. Undergraduate students who have finished their first two years of full-time study in Sociology at the U of S, once admitted by the XJTU, can transfer to the XJTU to continue their study in Sociology for the third and fourth year. The XJTU recognizes an equivalent number of credit units obtained in the first and second year study at the U of S and allows them to be transferred to the XJTU, and the U of S agrees to recognize an equivalent number of credit units obtained in the third and fourth year study at the XJTU and allow them to be transferred to the U of S. Once enrolled at either the XJTU or the U of S in the joint degree program, these students will be treated identically to other students at the XJTU or the U of S, with full rights and responsibilities. Specifically, students will be expected to meet the academic progress requirements and follow all academic policies of the university they are attending, either XJTU or the U of S, with the exception of specific terms outlined in this agreement.

As students from XJTU may be interested in other majors, this agreement does not preclude additional articulation agreements for joint undergraduate degree programs in other majors between the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at the XJTU and the College of Arts and Science at the U of S.

Other Matters

1. This agreement is subject to re-negotiation of terms by either party at any time. In the case of re-negotiation of the terms of the agreement, students who have already commenced their studies in the Joint Degree Program in Sociology at the partner institution will be permitted to complete their studies under the terms of the agreement in effect at the time of their admission by the partner institution.
2. The contact person for the XJTU is the Vice Dean of College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the contact person for the U of S is the Associate Dean (Undergraduate) of the College of Arts and Science.
3. This agreement will become effective at the beginning of the 2009-2010 regular academic term of XJTU and U of S.
4. This agreement has no specified end date, but may be terminated by either party with one-year's notice.
5. This agreement will be reviewed after five years by the parties to ensure that it is still meeting the needs of each party. If, during the review, both parties agree, the agreement will remain in effect unless written termination, with one year's notice, is given by either party.
6. This agreement is available to both parties in both English and Chinese; it is therefore made in duplicate in each language. The English and the Chinese documents are equivalent in status.



7. The implementation of the joint undergraduate degree program in Sociology is articulated in the signed *Implementation Plan* as attached.²

Implementation Plan

Based on the *Academic Agreement Regarding the Joint Undergraduate Degree Program in Sociology* signed by Xi'an Jiaotong University (XJTU) and the University of Saskatchewan (U of S), the *Implementation Plan* serves as an articulation document for the joint undergraduate degree program in Sociology offered in cooperation by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at the XJTU and the College of Arts and Science at the U of S.

1. Students are required to meet the admission requirements of both universities, including language requirements and course level completion. Students who have successfully completed the program and met the requirements from both universities will be granted a bachelor's degree from the U of S and a bachelor's degree from the XJTU. Each university establishes and administers the requirements for its own degree programs
2. Students pay tuition to the XJTU during their study at the XJTU and pay tuition to the U of S during their study at the U of S at a rate determined by the respective University.
3. Students who apply to the U of S for admission and transfer must have completed and passed all courses taken in the first two years at the XJTU, and must demonstrate evidence of English language proficiency by reaching the standard of English requirement at U of S. Students from the XJTU who are admitted to the U of S into its undergraduate degree program for further study in Sociology will be credited with a block transfer of 60 credit units corresponding to third-year standing in the College of Arts and Science at the U of S. The block transfer of credits from XJTU to the U of S shall be subject to the completion of courses as specified in Addendum to this *Implementation Plan*. In the same way, the XJTU recognizes all the courses students have taken in the third and fourth year in the Sociology degree program at the U of S and allows them to transfer all credits to the XJTU that are equivalent to 72 credit units at the XJTU. Students who transfer to the U of S must meet the degree requirements of the U of S, including the University's minimum residency requirements.
4. Students who have completed their first two years of study at the U of S and who meet the admission requirements of XJTU for transfer into the third year of the undergraduate degree program in Sociology will be granted a block transfer of credit units corresponding to third year standing in Sociology at XJTU. In the same way, the U of S recognizes courses taken in the third and fourth years of the Sociology program at XJTU and will allow the transfer of up to 60 credit units of these courses toward the completion of U of S degree requirements. XJTU students who are studying at U of S may need to take a fifth year of study (for additional credits in spring or summer terms) to meet any other U of S degree requirements.

² *Academic Agreement Between Xi'an Jiaotong University, China and University of Saskatchewan, Canada Regarding the Joint Undergraduate Degree Program in Sociology*. 2009. pp 3-4.



5. The U of S is under the obligation to assist transfer students to come and to enter the program. The XJTU is also under the obligation to provide course and program information and consulting service to the students who will transfer to the U of S.
6. If a student entering into the joint degree program in Sociology at the U of S wishes to change his or her major and transfer to another Department or College, the student must meet program transfer requirements of that Department or College and at the same time withdraw from the Bachelor's degree program in Sociology at the XJTU. The U of S does not have a standard 2 years of study in the College of Arts and Science.
7. The implementation plan will become effective at the beginning of the 2009-2010 regular academic term of the XJTU and the U of S.³

Program Articulation

XJTU students transferring into the third year of studies at the U of S will be eligible for a block transfer of 60 credit units drawn from the courses listed below. Students who have completed additional eligible XJTU courses are not eligible to receive recognition for more than 60 block-transfer credit units.

(1) Required Courses from the First Two Years of Sociology at XJTU Eligible for Credit Transfer at the U of S

<u>XJTU Course Number and Title</u>		<u>U of S Transfer Credits</u>
MLMD1005	Mao Zedong Thought; Deng Xiaoping Theory	Xssc SR.3
MLMD0002	Modern History of China	HIST JR.3
MLMD2001	Basic Marxist Philosophy	PHIL JR.3
PHLS0003	History of Chinese Social Thought	RLST SR.3
PSYL0001	General Psychology	PSYC 110.3
ECND2603	Microeconomics	ECON 111.3
PHLS2001	History of Western Philosophy	PHIL 206.3
PHLS0004	Logic	PHIL140.3
POLI2002	Introduction to Political Studies	POLS 112.3
SOCL0003	Principles of Sociology	SOC 110.3
SOCL0002	Social Survey & Research Methods	SOC 232.3
SOCL3002	History of Chinese Sociology	SOC SR.3
SOCL4003	Selected Readings in Sociology	SOC 233.3
SOCL3003	Western Sociology	SOC SR.3
SOCL2012	Legal Sociology	SOC 234.3
MATH1020	Higher Mathematics	MATH 110.3 & MATH 112.3
STAT3727	Probability Theory & Statistics	SOC 225.3
COMP1010	University Computer Fundamentals	CMPT 100.3
COMP2003	Computer Network Technology & Applications	CMPT SR.3

³ *Implementation Plan Between Xi'an Jiaotong University, China and University of Saskatchewan, Canada Regarding the Joint Undergraduate Degree Program in Sociology. 2009.*

(2) Elective Courses from the First Two Years of Sociology at XJTU Eligible for Credit Transfer at the U of S

<u>XJTU Course Number and Title</u>		<u>U of S Transfer Credits</u>
GNED0001	Introduction to Chinese Traditional Culture	Xar JR.3
HIST2001	History of Western Civilization	HIST JR.3
ENGL2011	American (Western) Culture	Xar JR.3
ENGL2012	Allusions from Greek Myths & Bible	Xar JR.3
MATH1027	Introduction to Natural Science	Xnsc JR.3
BIOL0001	Introduction to Life Science	Xssc JR.3

Recruitment

Enrolment Services is available to help in the creation of print and web materials to promote the program. The Chinese university has some recruitment materials. The unit's international recruiters can put Xi'an Jiaotong on their list of places to visit. The unit sees potential for a 'reverse' 2+2 where students take their first two years of university abroad and finish their degrees at home. Some questions to be considered concern the flexibility of the program in the future.

Admission & Registration

The Department of Sociology will be in contact with Admissions regarding the program's students throughout the program. The department will track its students and report their names, numbers, etc. to Admissions.

Housing and Residence

There are no guarantees of housing in campus residences for students. The Residence Office works to create a culturally diverse community in its housing units. Any guarantees for special program participants must be agreed to by the Residence office and the department managing the program.

Transition Supports

For those Canadian students involved in dual degree programs transition supports will likely concentrate on orientation to the University of Saskatchewan and Saskatoon. International students will require different and, likely, more sustained support.

A list of the various supports offered and suggestions to international students is available at: <http://students.usask.ca/current/international/>



Settlement

The International Student and Study Abroad Centre (ISSAC) on campus offers settlement support. This includes an 'Arrival Guide' and International Peer Leaders. The Centre ensures that international students get help with:

- Housing, banking, phones, etc
- Health coverage (bring your passport)
- Orientation registration
- Student cards
- study and work permits and regulations
- ISSAC programs and services
- Government of Canada, taxes

Orientation

There is an official Orientation for new students in September each year, just before classes begin, which occurs over two days. The ISSAC hosts an international students' welcome during the orientation. All orientation activities are posted here:

<http://students.usask.ca/new/transition/orientation.php>

Language Support

In addition to adaptation to the broader culture, many international students need to adapt to Canadian academic culture: critical reading and expression, essay formats, perceptions of plagiarism. International undergraduates in first year face enormous challenges; however, most of the "domestic" first year students also find themselves in a new and challenging environment. The playing field is not level but both cohorts usually face some struggle. By third year, however, the students that these new arrivals will be joining will have come to understand the expectations, the cultural norms, etc. of the university. Students with advanced standing and 2+2 students face an extremely steep learning curve when they begin their university studies in Canada. They must rapidly learn new ways of thinking and behaving in this foreign academic environment.⁴

Some possible support options to be considered

➤ *peer mentoring by senior "domestic" students*

- used effectively in many international programs (e.g. Britain)
- encourages intellectual community and intercultural exchange
- mentors can provide cultural, academic, personal support and some language support.
- requires limited funding
- identification and recruitment and retention of strong mentors may be a challenge

⁴ Fretz, Judith. "Some Notes on Sociology 2+2 Programming, March 9, 2011." March 2011. p 1



- *language assessment /part-time English language classes through the U of S Language Centre*
 - would allow early identification of any language issues in need of remediation
 - existing programming
 - instruction by qualified English for Academic Purposes (EAP teachers)
 - cost is moderate \$170. – 300./course
 - course content is not individually tailored
 - time is limited 2 hrs./week for 8 weeks
- *language assessment /tutoring through the U of S Language Centre*
 - would allow early identification of any language issues in need of remediation
 - instruction by qualified English for Academic Purposes (EAP) teachers
 - tutoring sessions would be tailored to the individual or small group
 - cost \$30-35 per hour
- *pre-session transition program*
 - UStart International a pilot project is currently (2011 – 2012) open to incoming international students in the College of Arts & Science. It costs \$100. (<http://students.usask.ca/current/international/arrival/ustart.php>)
 - a 2-week academic, social and cultural orientation modeled after the highly successful Jump Start program at UBC
 - would be held the last two weeks in August dovetailing into the two-day orientation program available to all incoming undergraduate students and the ISSAC Welcome afternoon
 - would require participation from the host Department in the committee and some financial commitment
- *possible adjunct class – taught by an EAP teacher in conjunction with a core [...] class*
 - EAP instruction is tailored to program and student needs
 - taught by trained EAP instructor, individual feedback provided in spoken and written English
 - participants tend to be highly motivated as the EAP skills are introduced as they are needed and immediately put into practice.
 - relatively high cost - would require a half-time EAP instructor for four months \$12,000-\$16,000 (salary plus benefits)
- *a new kind of learning community led by senior students or graduate students in conjunction with two core classes taken by 2 +2 students & possibly others*
 - encourages intellectual community and intercultural exchange
 - best if “domestic” student are also included
 - currently learning communities are only available for first year students⁵

⁵ Ibid. pp 1 - 2



Advising

All thirteen colleges have academic advisors in house. Advisors are also available to students in Open Studies and affiliated seminaries. International students have access to advisors through ISSAC. Aboriginal students can meet with an aboriginal advisor through the College of Arts & Science. Student Central is a great resource to students. It is operated by Student Enrolment Services Division. In future there may be advisors, particularly in the College of Arts & Science, who are proficient in languages other than English to be of better assistance to international students.

Academic Support

Academic support is available to all students. Developers of new programs should consider ways to ensure visiting students are aware of programs and take advantage of them. The University Learning Centre (ULC) offers workshops and tutoring in writing, math and statistics for undergraduate students. The ULC also coordinates the Learning Communities program. The University of Saskatchewan Students Union (USSU) and Student and Enrolment Services Division offer advocacy services for students requiring this service. Details can be found at: <http://students.usask.ca/current/academics/help/>

The USSU operates four support centres for students (Help Centre, Pride Centre, Women's Centre, Food Centre). While they don't address academic issues specifically having personal issues addressed in a timely manner is beneficial for academic success. More information can be accessed at: <http://www.ussu.ca/centres/index.shtml> The university also operates health and counseling services available to all students. Again, critical to academic success. Details are posted here: <http://students.usask.ca/current/life/health/>

Degree Granting

A dual degree program is where a student pursues a degree both at the University of Saskatchewan and another post-secondary institution, with the student receiving two degrees at the end of the program, one from the University of Saskatchewan and one from the partner institution. The University of Saskatchewan parchment and transcript reflect the dual nature of the program. The degree can be at the undergraduate or graduate level. Memoranda of Understanding/Agreement with other institutions must address this issue.

**Academic Agreement
Between
Xi'an Jiaotong University, China
And
University of Saskatchewan, Canada
Regarding the Joint Undergraduate Degree Program in Sociology**

I. Basic Framework

The Departments of Sociology at the Xi'an Jiaotong University (XJTU) and the University of Saskatchewan (U of S) have enjoyed a productive collegial collaboration. It was in the context of this collaboration that a Letter of Intent for the Establishment of a Joint Undergraduate Degree Program in Sociology was signed on May 11, 2007. In order to achieve the goal of further collaboration between the two universities, XJTU and U of S have reached the agreement on the Joint Undergraduate Degree Program in Sociology.

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Brett Fairburn
Provost and Vice President (Academic)
University of Saskatchewan

Guangxu Cheng
Vice-President
Xi'an Jiaotong University

Date:

Date: