



**Collaborative Academic Agreement
by and between
School of Materials Science and Engineering,
Northwestern Polytechnical University (Xi'an, China), and
University of North Texas (Denton, USA)**

1. Agreement

This Collaborative Academic Agreement (“Agreement”) is made between:
School of Materials Science and Engineering (“SMSE”), Northwestern Polytechnical University (“NPU”), 127 West Youyi Road, Xi’an 710072, P.R. China (hereafter abbreviated as “SMSE-NPU”) and University of North Texas (“UNT”) on behalf of its Department of Materials Science and Engineering, College of Engineering, 1155 Union Circle #310440 Denton, Texas 76203-5017 (hereafter abbreviated as “MTSE-UNT”). Hereinafter individually referred to as “Party” and collectively as “Parties”.

1.1 Recitals:

WHEREAS the institutions are linked by common academic and cultural interests;
WHEREAS UNT and SMSE-NPU desire to establish an Agreement for a collaborative graduate education program involving a UNT PhD in Materials Science and Engineering degree granted solely by UNT;
WHEREAS the institutions wish to expand the basis for friendship and cooperative educational programs between People’s Republic of China and the United States of America;
and
WHEREAS this Agreement supports the UNT Mission and the SMSE-NPU Mission;
THEREFORE, in consideration of their mutual interests and the covenants set forth herein, the institutions agree as follows:

2. Definitions

2.1 Program. This Agreement enables Students from SMSE-NPU to receive a MEng degree in Materials Science and Materials Processing Engineering from SMSE and to pursue a UNT PhD degree in Materials Science and Engineering (“MTSE PhD”) that is administered by MTSE-UNT and granted solely by UNT. Students who meet all UNT degree requirements will be awarded a UNT MTSE PhD degree (“Program”).

2.2 Students. A master’s student enrolled at SMSE-NPU and pursuing SMSE’s MEng degree in Materials Science and Materials Processing Engineering. Students must seek admission to UNT as described in this Agreement and per UNT’s admission policies and procedures as well as be admitted to UNT to be eligible to participate in the Program (“Students”).

3. Period of the Agreement

3.1 This Agreement shall take effect upon signature by both institutions and, unless earlier terminated, will continue for a period of five (5) years from that date.

3.2 This Agreement may be extended by mutual agreement of the institutions, which must be reduced to writing and signed by both institutions.

3.3 This Agreement may be terminated by either institution by providing sixty (60) days advanced written notice to the other; provided, however, that any Students admitted to UNT as the time of termination may be permitted to continue in the Program.

3.4 Each year, this Program will be evaluated by both SMSE-NPU and MTSE-UNT in order to carry out and fulfill the aims of this Agreement. The evaluation committee consists of one person nominated from SMSE-NPU and one person nominated from MTSE-UNT. The evaluation will take place at the end of the UNT academic year. The result of the evaluation will include proposals for modification of this Agreement, if necessary.

3.5 This Agreement may be amended at any time by either institution upon written notice to the other, which must be reduced to writing and signed by both institutions.

4. Program Overview

4.1 Students are required to pass compulsory and optional courses in the first year of the master degree program at SMSE-NPU as well as meet any additional requirements described in this agreement to be considered for admission to a PhD degree program in Materials Science and Engineering at MTSE-UNT. After completing three (3) long semesters of graduate coursework and research at MTSE-UNT, students will return to SMSE-NPU during the winterbreak at which time they will be required to defend their master thesis written in Chinese at SMSE-NPU. After defending their master thesis and being awarded a MEng degree in Materials Science and Materials Processing Engineering granted solely by SMSE-NPU, students will return to MTSE-UNT to continue course enrollment and research requirements for their MTSE PhD, which should require three (3) to five (5) years of additional enrollment at UNT, but the time to completion may vary based on the individual progress of each Student. Upon successful completion of the requirements for the MTSE PhD, UNT will solely award students a Doctor of Philosophy in Materials Science and Engineering. Additional information about the Program is detailed in Annex 1 of this Agreement.

4.2 Each year, up to four (4) students are nominated by SMSE-NPU to join the Program.

4.3 For the Students' first year in the Program, NPU will assign a research topic to each student according to the each student's preferences and research field, enabling Students to complete coursework and research in support of their master thesis at SMSE-NPU and to continue their research at MTSE-UNT.

5. Program Requirements

5.1 The nomination of Students to join the Program will be considered on a case-by-case basis, according to their individual merits, including profile of modules studied at SMSE-NPU. Students must also meet the additional requirements described below.

5.2 Students must meet all of UNT's graduate admission standards for international students, including any other specific requirements for the UNT PhD degree program in Materials Science and Engineering as well as UNT's English Language Proficiency requirements, at the time of application. The admission decision will be made at the sole discretion of UNT.

Students who meet all UNT admission requirements except UNT's English Language Proficiency requirement have the option to enroll in UNT's Intensive English Language Institute ("IELI") and demonstrate English Language Proficiency by successfully completing level six (6) of IELI, in accordance with all regular UNT admission policies. Students who enroll in IELI must pay all tuition and fees in the amounts and in accordance with the processes and payment deadlines of IELI. For Students enrolled in IELI, the Students' eligibility to continue in the Program is dependent on the Students' successful completion of level six (6) of IELI as well as being admitted to UNT and the Program timeline may be adjusted.

5.3 Students must be in the top 33% of undergraduate students in the SMSE degree in MEng in terms of their average cumulative mark at the time of application into SMSE's MEng degree.

5.4 SMSE-NPU will solely grant a MEng degree, per SMSE-NPU policy. UNT will solely grant a UNT PhD degree in Materials Science and Engineering degree to Students who complete all of

UNT's degree requirements, per UNT policy.

5.5 Students admitted to UNT will be governed by the same policies that apply to all other students at UNT. UNT reserves the right to dismiss Students for disciplinary, academic or other reasons before the completion of the Students' degree programs, per UNT policy. A Student dismissal may result in the revocation of the visa issued for the Student to study in the United States at UNT or deportation of the Student.

5.6 Students admitted to the Program are responsible for securing their visa, and neither UNT nor NPU will assume or make statements regarding the eligibility of Students in regard to their visa. Academically eligible Students who are unable to travel to the U.S.A. due to immigration issues will not be eligible either to begin or continue the Program until the visa or immigration issues are resolved. Students are responsible for maintaining their visa status throughout the Program, in accordance with U.S. Federal Regulations.

5.7 Students must adhere to all UNT policies, including, but not limited to proving that the Students have received the meningitis vaccination and maintaining UNT's requirements for health insurance. All Students must obtain UNT-approved health insurance coverage (accident, illness, medical evacuation, repatriation) sufficient to meet the minimum requirements during the entire period of study at UNT. Students will automatically be enrolled in UNT's health insurance coverage, which will be billed to their UNT student accounts at registration. In certain limited instances, Students may be eligible to have UNT's health insurance waived, provided that their comparable health insurance meets all of UNT's requirements and/or waiver criteria.

6. Application Procedures

6.1 Each year, MTSE-UNT should send its publicity and promotional materials to SMSE-NPU by the end of May.

6.2 SMSE-NPU shall assist with the marketing and promotion of the program to the prospective undergraduate students, who submit their application for the SMSE MEng degree program in the beginning of the Students' fourth (4th) Academic Year of undergraduate study.

6.3 NPU should organize a face to face meeting, make the final decision on which students to recommend, and submit the candidates' supporting documents to UNT, including their academic transcripts and language evaluations as well as UNT's application materials by February 1st. Students submit an application to the UNT PhD in Materials Science and Engineering in the second semester of the first year of study in the SMSE MEng degree program.

6.4 UNT should make enrollment decisions and notify Students by the end of May.

6.5 Qualified Students who have completed a Bachelor of Engineering (B.E.) degree will be admitted to the UNT MTSE PhD program with a B.E. Upon completion of the SMSE-NPU MEng degree, the Students' UNT degree plans will be changed to PhD with a completed Master of Science degree.

7. Course Registration and Fees

7.1 Students will enroll in NPU coursework for a total of two-and-a-half (2.5) academic years of study in the SMSE-NPU MEng degree program, which will consist of enrollment in required NPU coursework that is completed at NPU during their first year of enrollment in the SMSE-NPU MEng degree program and enrollment in NPU research or thesis credit, as needed, that is completed remotely in the subsequent one-and-a-half (1.5) years while studying at MTSE-UNT.

7.2 Students will register and attend classes at MTSE-UNT during the duration of their participation in the Program except for their first year at NPU.

7.3 Students will pay tuition and fees to UNT in the amounts and in accordance with the processes and payment deadlines of UNT. Students will be expected to provide for their own transportation,

housing, food, and incidental expenses throughout the duration of the Program. While UNT may assist Students in securing housing, transportation, and/or food, such expenses are not within the parameters of this Agreement. UNT is not responsible for covering any expenses borne by NPU or by NPU Students.

Qualified students can apply for UNT fellowships, scholarships, grants, and awards, including Teaching and Research Assistantships, per section 8.2(d).

8. NPU and UNT Obligations

8.1 SMSE-NPU agrees to:

- (a) Nominate a member at SMSE-NPU to act as the point of contact with UNT. The point of contact is responsible for the operational details of this Agreement.
- (b) Assist with marketing and promoting the Program.
- (c) Select highly qualified students from undergraduate students at SMSE-NPU and recommend them for the MTSE PhD at UNT.
- (d) Assist Students in the application process for admission into the MTSE PhD at UNT.

8.2 MTSE-UNT agrees to:

- (a) Nominate a member at MTSE-UNT to act as the point of contact with NPU. The point of contact is responsible for the operational details of this Agreement.
- (b) Assist with marketing and promoting the Program.
- (c) Provide the students with all necessary information and materials concerning practical issues, such as regulation of health insurance, information on housing and student activities on campus, as well as an orientation program upon arrival.
- (d) Consider qualified students for department scholarships and Teaching and Research Assistantships. Assist them to apply for college and university scholarships.

9. Protection of research results and property rights

9.1 Any publication resulting from a Master thesis research project should refer to the two affiliations. The research results arising from the Master thesis research project shall be the property of both universities.

9.2 The protection of the master and doctoral thesis research results originating from the master and doctoral thesis research project, as well as any matter related to writing them, making them accessible, their publication and exploration shall be discussed and agreed by the co-supervisors and be in accordance with the national and institutional regulations in force.

10. Accreditation

10.1 UNT is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges ("SACSCOC") to award bachelor, master, and doctoral degrees. UNT's College of Engineering's Materials Science and Engineering degree is accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology ("ABET"). NPU is not accredited by SACSCOC or ABET and the accreditation of UNT or UNT's College of Engineering's Materials Science and Engineering degree does not extend to or include NPU or its students. Although UNT accepts certain NPU course work in transfer, other colleges and universities may not accept this work in transfer, even if it appears on a transcript from UNT. NPU is recognized by the Government of the People's Republic of China and this recognition does not extend to UNT.

10.2 The Program shall be executed in accordance with the requirements of SACSCOC. In the event that SACSCOC requests access to documents relating to the Program for the purpose of reviewing accreditation-related issues, the Institutions will work cooperatively to provide timely access to facilities and student support services at the physical site, materials, and personnel to facilitate a response to any SACSCOC accreditation activities. UNT will remain solely responsible for maintaining standards of its own accreditation. UNT reserves the right to take any action up to and including termination of this Agreement if the Agreement or the Program places UNT in jeopardy of loss of accreditation or sanctions by SACSCOC or any other accrediting body, in accordance with Article 2.

11. Miscellaneous

11.1 Where a Student is eligible for and/or receiving Federal Student Aid (FSA) and is registered for and attending classes at UNT, UNT shall remain responsible for the disbursement of FSA and for monitoring student eligibility for FSA. All procedures for calculating FSA awards, for disbursing aid, monitoring satisfactory progress and other student eligibility requirements, keeping records, and returning funds in the event a Student withdraws shall be determined in accordance with the policies and procedures of UNT. UNT is an eligible institution, as defined by 20 U.S.C. § 1094. NPU is an ineligible institution that has not (i) had its eligibility to participate in the Title IV, Higher Education Act (“HEA”) programs terminated by the Secretary; (ii) voluntarily withdrawn from participation in the Title IV, HEA programs under a termination, show-cause, suspension, or similar type proceeding initiated by the institution’s State licensing agency, accrediting agency, guarantor, or by the Secretary; (iii) had its certification to participate in the Title IV, HEA programs revoked by the Secretary; (iv) had its application for re-certification to participate in the Title IV, HEA programs denied by the Secretary; or (v) had its application for certification to participate in the Title IV, HEA programs denied by the Secretary.

11.2 Notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement, UNT shall release information to the extent required by the Texas Public Information Act and other applicable law. If requested, NPU shall make public information available to UNT in an electronic format.

11.3 This Agreement is set forth in English. As a general principle, the parties shall work cooperatively to resolve any disputes that may arise from this Agreement. In the event the parties are unsuccessful in resolving disputes in the ordinary course of business, the dispute may be referred to increasingly higher level officials within each institution until the parties can resolve the conflict. If the parties remain unable to resolve any dispute under this Agreement cooperatively, the parties shall submit the dispute for conciliation by two senior members from each party who shall finally resolve the disputes. Administrative costs of conciliation shall be borne equally by the parties.

11.4 This Agreement and the Program apply only to the Students and no provisions or undertakings are made for the spouses or dependents of the Students.

11.5 Each institution shall protect the confidentiality of student records as dictated by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and shall release no information except as permitted by law.

11.6 Both UNT and NPU are free to make reference to the Agreement and to use one another’s names in conjunction therewith. However, any published use of the other Institution’s name, trademark, or logo must be submitted for review and approval prior to publication. Requests for review may include but are not limited to review of printed and electronic media. Review must be completed within thirty (30) working days of such request. All media presentations created under the scope of this Agreement shall be factual, fair, and accurate. The Institutional Liaisons will be the primary point of contact regarding requests and will abide by the policy of their respective institutions regarding these requests.

Neither Institution shall use the SACSCOC logo. UNT shall ensure the role and purpose of U.S. accreditation is fairly and accurately explained in all marketing materials.

SIGNATURE PAGE TO FOLLOW

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the institutions have caused their duly authorized representatives to execute this Collaborative Academic Agreement to be effective upon signature by both parties hereto and signed in two identical copies in English, one for each of the Parties.

Northwestern Polytechnical University

Signed by: Jinshan Li

Professor Jinshan Li
Dean of School of Materials
Northwestern Polytechnical University

Date: 05/28/2018

University of North Texas

Signed by: Jennifer Evans-Cowley

Jennifer Evans-Cowley,
Provost and Vice President for
Academic Affairs
University of North Texas

Date: 5/16/18

Acknowledged by:

Wei Hong Zhang

Professor Weihong Zhang
Vice President for International Cooperation
Northwestern Polytechnical University

Acknowledged by:

Costas Tsatsoulis

Costas Tsatsoulis,
Dean of the College of Engineering
University of North Texas

Annex 1

The table below provides an overview of the Program and credit hours, as outlined in this Agreement.

SMSE-NPU Master's in Materials Science and Materials Processing Engineering	MTSE-UNT PhD in Materials Science and Engineering
<p>Year 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Education courses: 6 credits • Fundamental Theory courses: 5 credits • Comprehensive Literacy courses: 1 credit • Additional Courses: 15 credits <p>Total Credit Hours: 27 credit hours</p> <p>Year 1, Second Semester:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students submit an application to UNT's PhD in Materials Science and Engineering degree program by the end of February 1st. UNT makes enrollment decisions by the end of May. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students enroll in research or thesis credit, as needed. <p>Fall Semester of Year 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students enroll in research or thesis credit, as needed. <p>Wintermester Semester of Year 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master's thesis defense 	<p>Years 2 to Completion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core Courses: 12 credit hours • Elective Courses: 24 credit hours • Seminar in Materials Science and Engineering: 2 credit hours • Individual Research: 10-22 credit hours • Dissertation: 9 credit hours <p>Note: The time to completion may vary based on each student's pace of progression. Students are required to complete a minimum of three years of graduate study at UNT that includes completion of a minimum of 42 hours beyond the master's degree with 9 hours allocated for the dissertation.</p>