

**COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL STUDIES**

**BETWEEN**

**COMISION NACIONAL DE INVESTIGACION CIENTIFICA Y TECNOLOGICA, CHILE**

**AND**

**VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND**

The Comisión Nacional de Investigación Científica y Tecnológica, from now on "CONICYT", represented by its President, Ms. Vivian Heyl, and Victoria University of Wellington, from now on "VUW", represented by its Pro Vice-Chancellor, International, Mr. Roberto Rabel, henceforth known as the "Parties", have agreed to celebrate a collaboration agreement to scientific and technological research studies.

**STATEMENTS**

- 1.- The Parties have common interests in highly qualified human resources education and research programs.
- 2.- In order to reach better outcomes in related fields, the Parties believe that it is necessary to further collaborative initiatives on scientific and technological research to strengthen this relationship.
- 3.- The Parties agree that it is necessary to establish a joint framework that allows for future highly qualified Chilean students to develop their education through collaborative initiatives.
- 4.- CONICYT and VUW, the Parties, agree to establish this Collaborative Agreement ("the Agreement").

**FIRST: AGREEMENT PURPOSE**

In order to contribute to highly qualified human resources education, CONICYT and VUW agree to establish the CONICYT/VUW Graduate Scholarship Program. The Agreement will provide shared financing (as detailed in Clause 5) to Chilean students who wish to undertake a PhD program at Victoria University of Wellington.

**SECOND: STUDENT NUMBERS**

The Parties agree to co-sponsor each year all those Chilean students selected for the CONICYT/VUW Graduate Scholarship Program.

### **THIRD: APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

1. CONICYT will launch a Call for the CONICYT/VUW Graduate Scholarship Program, and will set down the directives to the Call, establishing the requirements that the applicants must meet in order to be co-funded by the Program.
2. Each Call, VUW will provide to CONICYT a list of the graduate research programs considered for this Agreement. This information must include the web page address of each relevant department at VUW. CONICYT will include this information on its web page and its press brochures for international scholarships.
3. Chilean students interested in a CONICYT/VUW Scholarship will be required to seek admission to the graduate research programs offered by VUW departments. CONICYT/VUW Scholarship recipients must meet both CONICYT directives and VUW requirements.
4. CONICYT will provide to VUW the list of applicants who meet CONICYT directives and have expressed interest in PhD studies at VUW, including name, address and degree objectives. The named coordinator at VUW will forward this information to the appropriate departments of VUW. VUW will provide comprehensive information about programs and admission procedures directly to the applicants.
5. VUW will consider these applicants and, if they are acceptable, issue a letter of offer. This offer may be conditional on CONICYT funding.
6. The Parties agree to define the date of each Call by means of letters exchange.

### **FOURTH: PROMOTION**

In order to promote this Agreement, CONICYT will establish links on its web page directly to the VUW home page, and its academic programs.

### **FIFTH: FUNDING**

1. VUW will offer a bursary equivalent to FOUR years' fee remission of the standard tuition fee for the program undertaken by each CONICYT/VUW Scholarship holder, which amount will be agreed to each Call. Students who cease to be CONICYT/VUW Scholarship holders will cease to be eligible for this bursary.
2. CONICYT will be responsible for payment of living allowances. CONICYT will also cover appropriate medical insurance costs, established to each Call.
3. CONICYT/VUW Scholarship holders will have the same access to laboratories, libraries, computer equipment and other research facilities as all VUW PhD students.
4. To facilitate the broad development of CONICYT/VUW Scholarship holders, VUW will provide free 12-week English-language enhancement course, if required, for Scholarship holders who do not quite meet

VUW English language requirements for PhD study opportunities for all CONICYT/VUW Scholarship students to participate in its English language courses.

#### **SIXTH: STUDENT REGULATIONS**

CONICYT/VUW Scholarship students will be subject to the general regulations governing graduate students at VUW and the policies and practices of the VUW department as well as CONICYT's scholarships program rules.

#### **SEVENTH: ELIGIBILITY OF CURRENT STUDENTS**

Chilean students not included in the CONICYT/VUW Scholarship program but registered in a graduate program at VUW who wish to undertake a research degree or are in the research phase of their program may apply for a CONICYT/VUW scholarship, under the same financial terms established in the FIFTH clause above. Applications must include a comprehensive report, supported by their current academic supervisor.

#### **EIGHTH: EXTENSION OF THE COLLABORATION**

The collaboration between CONICYT and VUW may be extended by mutual agreement by the Parties signing an annexure to this Agreement, to include the following programs: Postdoctoral fellows, Researchers exchange, and Early Career Researchers exchange programs.

#### **NINTH: COORDINATOR OF ACTIVITIES**

Each Party will designate a Co-ordinator of Activities to advance and implement the CONICYT/VUW Agreement. The designated current Co-ordinators for the Agreement are:

**For CONICYT: María Teresa Marshall, Director of Human Resources and Scholarships Department**

**For VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON: Philippa Hay, Scholarships Manager**

Any changes to the details of the co-ordinators may be communicated by an exchange of letters and do not require any change to this Agreement.

#### **TENTH: MONITORING OF STUDENT PROGRESS**

Twice a year (in March and September) the designated co-ordinator at VUW will provide CONICYT with a progress report (including marks where appropriate) of CONICYT/VUW funded students enrolled at VUW.



## **ELEVENTH: BUDGET**

The financial terms of this Agreement ensure that neither Party can commit the other to additional expenses beyond those identified in this Agreement. Any other expenses incurred by either Party with regard to the implementation of this Agreement will be the sole responsibility of the relevant Party.

This Agreement will be limited to the yearly budgets of CONICYT or VUW as set down by current regulations of the Parties. In case of any changes of yearly budgets, the Parties will make efforts to allow all existing CONICYT/VUW students to complete their candidatures.

## **TWELFTH: DURATION, AMENDMENT, RENEWAL AND TERMINATION**

1. This Agreement will become effective upon the date of its signature for a period of three years. However, the Parties acknowledge that funding will be required for a period of seven years to cover all those students who commence within the three year period for the four year period of their PhD studies.
2. Upon availability of funds and as long as the applicable law permits, this Agreement may be renewed and/or extended after the three years on an annual basis by mutual agreement of the Parties.
3. Modifications to this Agreement must be agreed to and acknowledged by letter six months before such changes come into force. If the present Agreement is terminated, every effort will be made to complete activities in progress.
4. The Parties agree that scholarships offered and accepted under this Agreement will be honoured by the Parties as long as the CONICYT/VUW Scholarship holder meets the terms and conditions of the CONICYT/VUW program established by the Parties.
5. The Agreement may be modified by mutual written consent of the parties. However, such modifications shall not retroactively alter the terms or conditions of scholarships in force in such ways as to jeopardise students' successful completion of their Programs.

## **THIRTEENTH: FINAL PROVISIONS**

1. Matters not included in this Agreement or those related to it will be solved, wherever possible, by mutual discussion between the Parties. Any decisions agreed must be acknowledged by an exchange of letters between the Parties.
2. If there is any dispute with regard to this Agreement, both parties agree, wherever possible, to find a mutually agreeable solution.
3. This Agreement is to be signed in four originals, two in English and two in Spanish, both texts being equally valid.
4. CONICYT agrees to identify VUW as the provider of the student program.
5. This Agreement is intended to be legally binding on the Parties.

For CONICYT

Signature: *V. Heyl*

Name: Ms. Vivian Heyl

Title: President

For VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

Signature: *Robert Rabel*

Name: Mr Robert Rabel

Title: Pro Vice-Chancellor, International

Done in *Santiago, Chile* on *6 November*, 2007