

# AGREEMENT ON DOUBLE DEGREE PROGRAMME

*between*

*IPCA Instituto Politécnico do Cávado e do Ave, Portugal*

*and*

*FHV Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences, Austria*

*concerning the degree programme Master in Informatics Engineering and the degree programme Master Computer Science*

*Valid as of April 2023*

# Introduction

The universities Instituto Politécnico do Cávado e do Ave, Portugal (IPCA) and Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences (FHV) agree to launch a Double Degree Programme in the field of Computer Engineering – Computer Science. Within this RUN-EU Double Degree Programme, the students from IPCA and FHV complete a Double Degree Programme at both universities in the following degree programmes:

Master in Informatics Engineering, 120 ECTS, Instituto Politécnico do Cávado e do Ave, Portugal (IPCA)

and

Master Computer Science, 120 ECTS, Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences, Austria (FHV)

By signing this agreement, the above-mentioned institutions agree to issue national degree diplomas for students fulfilling the conditions set forth in this agreement.

## University information and contact persons

### Instituto Politécnico do Cávado e do Ave, Portugal (IPCA)

President/rector

Maria José Fernandes  
Serviços Centrais do IPCA  
Campus do IPCA, Edifício C  
Av. Professor Doutor João Carvalho  
4750 - 810 Vila Frescaíinha S. Martinho  
4750-810 Barcelos I Portugal  
Email: [gapresidencia@ipca.pt](mailto:gapresidencia@ipca.pt)  
Phone: +351 253 082 191

Head of study programme

Nuno Lopes, PhD  
Programme Director of the Masters in Informatics Engineering  
Campus do IPCA - Lugar do Aldão, 4750-810  
Vila Frescaíinha (São Martinho)  
Email: [nlopes@ipca.pt](mailto:nlopes@ipca.pt)

International Office

Paula Tavares  
Vice-President for Internationalisation,  
Communication and Culture  
Campus do IPCA – Edifício P  
Vila Frescaíinha S. Martinho  
4750-810 Barcelos I Portugal  
Email: [gri@ipca.pt](mailto:gri@ipca.pt)  
Phone: + 351 253 802 207

Mag. Stefan Fitz-Rankl, CEO  
Hochschulstrasse 1, 6850 Dornbirn, AT  
Email: [stefan.fitz-rankl@fhv.at](mailto:stefan.fitz-rankl@fhv.at)  
Phone: + 43 5572792 2001

Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Regine Kadgien  
Programme Director Computer Science Master  
Hochschulstrasse 1, 6850 Dornbirn, AT  
Email: [regine.kadgien@fhv.at](mailto:regine.kadgien@fhv.at)  
Phone: +43 5572 792 5101

Katharina Devich  
Head International Office  
Hochschulstrasse 1, 6850 Dornbirn, AT  
Email: [katharina.devich@fhv.at](mailto:katharina.devich@fhv.at)  
Phone: +43 5572 792 1201

## Management and Coordination of the Double Degree Programme

The partner universities will manage and coordinate the Double Degree Programme ("DD Programme"). For this purpose, each university will nominate a contact person responsible for the DD Programme. It is expected that the person is or reports to the Head or the Director of the Degree Programme. The Appendix I on programme structure and the modules is validated yearly by the assigned person responsible for the DD Programme.

The partner universities commit to implement regular evaluation according to the RUN-EU guidelines.

## Number of Students

A maximum of 3 students per institution is accepted per academic year.

## Programme Language

All study courses are taught in English. The applicants must have an English proficiency equivalent to level B2 or higher of CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages). This must be proven by a language test, e.g., TOEFL, IELTS, Cambridge ESOL, CEFR or equivalent. As an equivalent, a certificate from the university's English language teacher is also acceptable.

- Proof of English proficiency is also considered fulfilled if the applicant obtained their qualification for university entrance in English, and/or has completed a first academic degree in English, and/or speaks English as a native language.

In order to promote multilingualism and cultural diversity among the participating students, when possible, additional course offerings (for example language courses and courses in the national language, RUN-EU Short Advanced Programmes) should be offered to the Double Degree Programme participants. The additional course offerings are listed in the Annex.

## Tuition Fees and Other Charges

The RUN-EU double degree programme students will be subject to the normal regulations of the host institution. When applicable, the students pay the tuition fees to their home institution during the double degree studies period in the host institution. Since the students remain enrolled at their home institution, in addition to the normal tuition fee, the following administrative or service fees apply:

IPCA students at host university FHV are required to pay

- Membership fees for the Österreichische HochschülerInnenschaft (Austrian National Union of Students). Currently this fee is 21,20 Euros per semester.

FHV students at IPCA are required to pay

- School insurance. Currently, the cost is 3,00 Euros per year.
- Degree Certificate (including Diploma Supplement). Currently this fee is 50 Euros.

Besides the fees listed above, there will be no other charges between the institutions due to these arrangements. Students are responsible to cover their own living and accommodation costs themselves.

## Student Application, Prerequisites and Selection

Students will submit their applications for Double Degree Programme according to the instructions of their home institutions. The home institution nominates the students to the host institution. The host institution provides relevant information regarding the application process.

Required application documents:

- Transcript of Records (ToR)
- Motivation letter
- Learning Agreement

To meet the application requirements, the applicants must have an adequate study performance at the home university and must have the required language skills. The applicants must have successfully passed all studies at the home university as follows:

- IPCA: 1 semester / 30 ECTS
- FHV: 1 semester / 30 ECTS

The selection is made by the Head or the Director of the Degree Programme of the home university, based on the application documents.

# Enrolment and Registration

**Home University:** Students remain enrolled at their home institution during their study at the host university and they must re-register independently each semester at the home institution.

**Host University:** Students will be enrolled at the host university during their stay and will be subject to the normal regulations of the institution.

Students in the Double Degree Programme must take out compulsory insurance (health insurance, liability insurance) in accordance with the laws and regulations in force in the country where they are staying.

## Double Degree Programme Structure

The degree programme structures of the degree programmes in the scope of Double Degree Programme as determined in this agreement are described in Appendix 1. The Appendix 1 is reviewed and updated when necessary, at each academic year by the contact person responsible for the DD Programme.

| Academic years       | IPCA students                             |                              | FHV students                              |                          |
|----------------------|---|------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> year | Autumn semester<br>(October – February)   | Acquired at IPCA 30 ECTS     | Autumn semester<br>(September – February) | Acquired at FHV 30 ECTS  |
|                      | Spring semester<br>(March – July)         | Acquired at IPCA 30 ECTS     | Spring semester<br>(March – July)         | Acquired at FHV 30 ECTS  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> year | Autumn semester<br>(September – February) | Acquired at FHV 27 – 30 ECTS | Autumn semester<br>(September – February) | Acquired at IPCA 30 ECTS |
|                      | Spring semester<br>(March – July)         | Acquired at FHV 30 – 33 ECTS | Spring semester<br>(March – July)         | Acquired at IPCA 30 ECTS |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>2 years / 120 ECTS</b>                 |                              | <b>2 years / 120 ECTS</b>                 |                          |

Depending on the national and the institutional requirements, the students are required to study 2 semesters at the host university and meet the academic criteria.

In order to obtain the Master Degree in Informatics Engineering from IPCA, FHV students must

- Obtain 60 ECTS credits at Master level from FHV and 60 ECTS from IPCA
- Write a Master thesis. The thesis is written in English. Master thesis will be supervised and graded by IPCA and FHV. Final presentation at IPCA will be recognized as final exam from FHV.

In order to get the Master Degree Master Computer Science from FHV, IPCA students must

- Obtain 60 ECTS credits at Master level from IPCA and 60 ECTS from FHV
- Write a Master thesis. The thesis is written in English. Master thesis will be supervised and graded by IPCA and FHV. Final exam at FHV will be recognized as final presentation from IPCA.

## Completed Degree

Final degrees will be awarded after the student has successfully completed the required studies in each university. Each university will issue a diploma based on the forwarded transcript of records from the home institution added by the courses passed at the host institution, showing that the student has passed all required courses. At the end the students will have two degrees. The titles of degrees are:

- IPCA: Master in Informatics Engineering
- FHV: Master of Science in Engineering (MSc)

Upon graduation, the student will receive the Degree Certificates, Transcripts of Records (includes the recognition of the studies undertaken) and Diploma Supplements (includes the information of the Double Degree Programme). In addition, in the case of Austria, the Bridging Document.

## Applicable Law and Settlement of Disputes

In the event of difficulties in interpreting or implementing the agreement, the institutions concerned shall endeavour to settle their dispute amicably. The legal remedy should be the last resort after all other remedies have been exhausted. In this case, the litigation shall take place at the defendant's place of jurisdiction.

Students are required to comply with local regulations. In case of a complaint, the conflict between the university concerned and the student will be resolved in accordance with local regulations.

## Data Protection

The parties process the data required for the processing and execution of the stay abroad in compliance with the data protection regulations, in particular the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the data protection laws based thereon. The respective partners themselves are responsible for the data protection lawfulness of the processing of personal data and the fulfilment of the associated obligations.

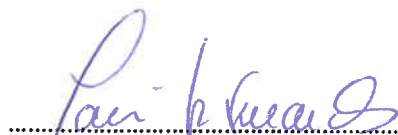
## Duration and Termination of the Double Degree Programme

This agreement shall enter into force upon its signature and shall initially apply for 3 years from the date of its entry into force. After the expiry of this period of 3 years, the agreement shall continue in 3 years periods, if not terminated. The agreement can be amended by written amendments signed by both universities.

Any institution may request termination of the contract, but only if the partners are informed in writing of the decision within six months.

If this agreement is terminated, the participating institutions shall ensure that students who have already begun their studies at the time of termination of the agreement can complete them in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.

## Dates and Signatures

  
.....  
(Signature and Stamp)

**IPCA Instituto Politécnico do Cávado e do Ave,  
Portugal**  
Name and Function:  
Maria José Fernandes, President

Date: 26.04.2023.....

  
.....  
Signature and Stamp)

**FHV Vorarlberg University of Applied  
Sciences, Austria**  
Name and Function:  
Mag. Stefan Fitz-Rankl, CEO

Date: 26.04.2023.....



# Agreement Appendix

The Appendix 1 is reviewed and updated, when necessary, each academic year by the contact person responsible for the DD Programme.

## Degree Programme Structure for IPCA students attending the DDP with FHV

| Semester | Courses to attend  | Comments   |
|----------|--|--|
| 1        | <b>Courses to attend at IPCA:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cloud Computing Systems = 6 ECTS</li> <li>• Advanced Databases = 6 ECTS</li> <li>• Architecture and Systems Integration = 6 ECTS</li> <li>• Advanced Interfaces Design = 6 ECTS</li> <li>• Cloud Computing Project = 6 ECTS</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course Descriptions: <a href="https://est.ipca.pt/en/curso/informatics-engineering/">https://est.ipca.pt/en/curso/informatics-engineering/</a></li> <li>• IPCA students study semester 1 = 30 ECTS at IPCA</li> <li>• FHV recognizes the courses from semester 1 = 30 ECTS</li> </ul>   |
| 2        | <b>Courses to attend at IPCA</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced Web Programming = 6 ECTS</li> <li>• Advanced Mobile Devices Programming = 6 ECTS</li> <li>• High-Performance Computing = 6 ECTS</li> <li>• Computer Engineering Research = 6 ECTS</li> <li>• Multimodal Project = 6 ECTS</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course Descriptions: <a href="https://est.ipca.pt/en/curso/informatics-engineering/">https://est.ipca.pt/en/curso/informatics-engineering/</a></li> <li>• IPCA students study semester 2 = 30 ECTS at IPCA</li> <li>• FHV recognizes the courses from semester 2 = 30 ECTS</li> </ul>   |
| 3        | <b>Courses to attend at FHV</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experts Talks in Software Engineering = 4 ECTS</li> <li>• Storytelling with Data = 4 ECTS</li> <li>• Project Master Informatics = 8 ECTS</li> <li>• Refactoring and Migration = 4 ECTS</li> <li>• Seminar Masters Thesis = 4 ECTS</li> </ul> <b>Plus two of the following options</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Machine Learning (1st semester) = 3 ECTS</li> <li>• Neural Networks (1st semester) = 3 ECTS</li> <li>• Reinforcement Learning = 4 ECTS</li> <li>• Context Studies = 3 ECTS</li> <li>• Architectures and Security in Distributed Systems (This is a second semester course at FHV, which IPCA students can take <b>during their 4th semester</b>) = 3 ECTS</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course descriptions <a href="https://www.fhv.at/en/studies/engineering-technology/computer-science-msc/information-on-educational-components/">https://www.fhv.at/en/studies/engineering-technology/computer-science-msc/information-on-educational-components/</a><br/><i>A few courses might be listed as being taught in German but will be taught in English if there are DDP participants.</i></li> <li>• IPCA students study semester 3 = 30 - 31 ECTS at FHV</li> <li>• IPCA recognizes semester 3 = 30 ECTS from FHV</li> <li>• Research question for Masters Thesis will be developed within the Seminar Masters Thesis, agreed upon by both universities</li> </ul> |



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|   |  | and will be supervised and graded by both universities.  |
| 4 | <b>Courses to attend at FHV</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Master Thesis = 27 ECTS</li> <li>• Masters Exam = 3 ECTS</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course descriptions<br/> <a href="https://www.fhv.at/en/studies/engineering-technology/computer-science-msc/information-on-educational-components/">https://www.fhv.at/en/studies/engineering-technology/computer-science-msc/information-on-educational-components/</a> </li> <li>• IPCA students study semester 4 = 30 ECTS at FHV</li> <li>• Master's thesis will be supervised and graded by both universities.</li> <li>• Final exam at FHV will be recognized by IPCA as their final presentation (Final exam with representatives of both universities)</li> <li>• IPCA recognizes 30 ECTS from FHV (or 33 ECTS from FHV in case the course from the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester is chosen)</li> </ul> |

## Degree Programme Structure for FHV students attending the DDP with IPCA

| Semester | Courses to attend   | Comments   |
|----------|---|--|
| 1        | <b>Courses to attend at FHV:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teambuilding – 2 ECTS</li> <li>• Functional Programming Concepts – 5 ECTS</li> <li>• Formal Methods – 4 ECTS</li> <li>• Database System Internals – 4 ECTS</li> <li>• Computer Organization and Design – 3 ECTS</li> <li>• Embedded Programming – 3 ECTS</li> <li>• Human-Machine-Interaction in Context – 3 ECTS</li> <li>• Progressive Webapplications – 3 ECTS</li> <li>• Desktop Webapplications – 3 ECTS</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course Descriptions: <a href="https://www.fhv.at/en/studies/engineering-technology/computer-science-msc/information-on-educational-components/">https://www.fhv.at/en/studies/engineering-technology/computer-science-msc/information-on-educational-components/</a></li> <li>• FHV students study semester 1 = 30 ECTS at FHV</li> <li>• IPCA recognizes the courses from semester 1 = 30 ECTS</li> </ul>  |
| 2        | <b>Courses to attend at FHV</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Software Processes – 5 ECTS</li> <li>• Parallel and Concurrent Programming – 4 ECTS</li> <li>• Contextual Studies – 6 ECTS</li> <li>• Communication Systems – 3 ECTS</li> <li>• Domain Specific Software Engineering Process – 3 ECTS</li> <li>• Concepts of Advanced Web Architectures and Software Design – 3 ECTS</li> <li>• Applied Advanced Web Architectures and Software Design – 3 ECTS</li> <li>• Architectures and Security in Distributed Systems – 3 ECTS</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course Descriptions: <a href="https://www.fhv.at/en/studies/engineering-technology/computer-science-msc/information-on-educational-components/">https://www.fhv.at/en/studies/engineering-technology/computer-science-msc/information-on-educational-components/</a></li> <li>• FHV students study semester 2 = 30 ECTS at FHV.</li> <li>• IPCA recognizes the courses from semester 2 = 30 ECTS</li> </ul> |
| 3        | <b>Courses to attend at IPCA</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced Topics on Application Security – 6 ECTS</li> <li>• Applied Artificial Intelligence – 6 ECTS</li> <li>• Coding for Data Visualization – 6 ECTS</li> <li>• Cloud Computing Project (from 1. Semester) – 6 ECTS</li> <li>• Preparation for Thesis/Project/Internship – 6 ECTS</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course descriptions <a href="https://est.ipca.pt/en/curso/informatics-engineering/">https://est.ipca.pt/en/curso/informatics-engineering/</a></li> <li>• FHV students study semester 3 = 30 ECTS at IPCA</li> <li>• FHV recognizes semester 3 = 30 ECTS from IPCA</li> </ul>  |
| 4        | <b>Courses to attend at IPCA</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thesis = 30 ECTS</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course descriptions <a href="https://est.ipca.pt/en/curso/informatics-engineering/">https://est.ipca.pt/en/curso/informatics-engineering/</a></li> <li>• FHV students study semester 4 = 30 ECTS at IPCA</li> </ul>   |

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Master's thesis will be supervised and graded by both universities.</li> <li>• Final presentation at IPCA will be recognized by FHV as the final exam. (Final presentation with representatives of both universities)</li> <li>• FHV recognizes semester 4 from IPCA = 30 ECTS</li> </ul> |
|--|--|--|

## Course Supplement for students

In order to promote multilingualism and cultural diversity among the participating students, when possible, additional course offerings (for example language courses and courses in the national language, RUN-EU Short Advanced Programmes) should be offered for the Double Degree Programme participants.

### Optional course offer for promoting multilingualism and cultural diversity (if available)

- **FHV** Language course offer in the national language German
  - German Basic = 3 ECTS
  - German Basic Fast Track = 3 ECTS
  - German Intermediate = 3 ECTS
  - German Advanced = 3 ECTS
  - German for Business = 3 ECTS
- **FHV** Participation in courses in the national language (if linguistically suitable): not applicable
- **FHV** Participation in RUN-EU Short Advance Programmes (SAPs): Depending on the offer – needs to get decided individually.
- **IPCA** Language course offer in the national language Portuguese
  - beginner's level courses (A1/A2) = 4 ECTS
- **IPCA**: Participation in courses in the national language (if linguistically suitable): not applicable
- **IPCA**: Participation in RUN-EU Short Advance Programmes (SAPs): Depending on the offer – needs to get decided individually.

## Conversion Table of Grades

Grade Conversion is done according to the ECTS Users Guide 2015 (see Annex II, page 79, [https://education.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/document-library-docs/ects-users-guide\\_en.pdf](https://education.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/document-library-docs/ects-users-guide_en.pdf))

The Transcript of Records is produced in the valid grading system of the respective institution. The conversion necessary to produce the diplomas is carried out by the study secretariats or examination offices of the respective degree program at both institutions. Students are responsible for sending the required Transcript of Records to the relevant study secretariats and examination offices.

### Failure to Pass an Examination

The student will follow the regulations of the institute at which the student is studying at the moment of examination.

### Information and services for Double Degree Programme students

The universities IPCA and FHV provide up-to-date information and support for the double degree students in relation to their DD studies. The information for the double degree students is available as follows:

**IPCA:** Information for incoming exchange/Double Degree Programme students:

<https://ipca.pt/en/incoming-students/>

**FHV:** Information for incoming exchange/Double Degree Programme students:

<https://www.fhv.at/en/studies/international/exchange-students-incomings/>