

**An Agreement Between  
Columbia International University  
and  
AWM gGmbH  
Concerning the European School for Culture and Theology in Korntal, Germany**

Columbia International University (CIU) and the AWM gGmbH (AWM) are independent legal organizations, each governed by its own board of directors. The two organizations share the mutual goal of providing internationally recognized and accredited biblical/theological education along with ministry formation for the primary purpose of equipping those who engage in cross-cultural ministry.

The AWM is a legal entity created by the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Evangelikaler Missionen (AEM), Germany, and underwritten by the AEM Germany, the AEM Switzerland and the Evangelische Brüdergemeinde in Korntal. The AEM Germany and the AEM Switzerland are consortiums of mission agencies representing the German-speaking world that exists for the purpose of establishing and enhancing advanced cross-cultural ministry training in the interest of their own missionaries and the European evangelical world. AEM Germany and AEM Switzerland hold majority representation on the AWM board.

The AWM provides financial and physical resources to support CIU courses and educational programs offered through the European School of Culture and Theology (ESCT) at Korntal. In addition to ESCT, the AWM offers continuing education programs (Weiterbildungen) and operates other ministry endeavors in the campus facilities. These activities are clearly distinguished in character and identity from CIU's educational programs offered through ESCT.

Cooperation between the AWM and CIU is manifestly consonant with CIU's mission to educate people from a biblical world view to impact the nations with the message of Christ. This mission is encapsulated in the motto "To know Him and to make Him known." Such cooperation is also demonstrably consonant with AWM's corporate mission, constitution, and bylaws.

This cooperation makes it possible for evangelical students, mainly in German-speaking Europe, to pursue accredited, internationally recognized degrees within their native language and cultural context. It also serves members of the international cross-cultural missionary community throughout Western and Central Europe by providing contextualized, in-service theological and ministry leadership education.

#### **Article 1**

Curricula and degree programs offered through ESCT are governed through the permissions granted by the applicable accrediting agencies and will correspond in nomenclature, course work, and other degree requirements to their counterparts on the Columbia campus.

#### **Article 2**

Ultimate authority for the educational programs covered by this agreement resides with CIU. Implementation of those programs takes place within the academic structure of CIU with ESCT relating directly to the respective colleges in which the educational programs it offers are housed.

CIU is responsible to insure the quality and integrity of all educational programs offered through ESCT. CIU is also responsible to insure that those programs are essentially comparable in content, resources, and outcomes to parallel programs on the Columbia campus while at the same time assuring that appropriate contextual sensitivity and cultural adaptations are incorporated.

ESCT is responsible to insure that all educational programs it offers conform to CIU policies and standards as well as the standards of the appropriate accrediting agencies (SACS, ATS and ABHE). In cases where ESCT programs are similar to programs offered in the colleges on the Columbia campus, ESCT will take no unilateral action affecting programs or policies in these colleges.

ESCT is responsible to conduct assessment of the educational programs it offers as directed by the CIU Provost and may recommend policy and/or curricular changes resulting from that assessment to the appropriate academic or administrative unit officer.

ESCT has the authority to initiate the review and modification of specific policies, procedures, and curricula related to the CIU programs it offers. This authority includes making appropriate cultural and contextual adaptations appropriate for the European/German context. It also includes recommending modifications to requirements for admissions, graduation, and student learning outcomes. Such modifications are forwarded to the ESCT Dean. The Dean has the prerogative, as appropriate or necessary, to approve/endorse the decision, remand the decision to the ESCT faculty for further review, and/or forward the decision to the CIU Provost as appropriate for further approval.

ESCT may also propose the creation of new programs, the implementation of major curricular changes, and the discontinuance of existing programs. Such proposals are referred to the CIU Curriculum Committee for review before they are recommended to the University Faculty for consideration. The University Faculty forwards its decision to the Provost for further action.

When ESCT proposes changes to any degrees such proposals are reviewed by the faculty of the respective school at CIU before they are referred to the Curriculum Committee or the Provost as appropriate under CIU policy.

### **Article 3**

The AWM board employs a full-time Rector (President) to oversee activities and operations, including matters pertaining to ESCT.

In consultation with the CIU Provost, the AWM Rector and board employ a Dean who is responsible to implement all CIU educational programs (i.e., bachelor's level, master's level, and doctoral level). The ESCT Dean is a member of the University Faculty and the Academic Council.

In consultation with the Rector, the ESCT Dean may appoint Program Directors to assist in supervising the CIU educational programs.

#### **Article 4**

CIU and AWM acknowledge the need for clear lines of authority in relation to governance and administration.

The AWM Rector consults with the CIU Provost in matters related to the administration of ESCT.

The ESCT Dean reports to the Provost in all matters pertaining to CIU educational programs. In matters of educational program policy, procedure, curriculum, and instruction, the Dean works in cooperation with the deans of the respective colleges in which the educational programs are housed. In matters of policy and administration related to support programs, the Dean works in cooperation with the directors of the appropriate departments on the Columbia campus.

As the legal entity in Germany, the AWM is responsible to manage facilities, employ and supervise support staff and faculty, and conduct business affairs. The AWM exercises administrative oversight through its Academy Leadership Team.

In personnel matters pertaining to CIU higher education programs, neither the AWM nor CIU will act unilaterally. Rather, they will act together with final approval in such matters resting with CIU.

#### **Article 5**

ESCT faculty members are approved and appointed according to the procedures governing faculty selection, documentation, evaluation, and retention as set forth in CIU's Educational Philosophy and Responsibilities Guide.

Faculty members are appointed by CIU's President in consultation with the Provost upon recommendation by the AWM Rector and the ESCT Dean. Such appointments are effective for one-year periods subject to renewal for effective service.

The originals of faculty application materials, appointment/contract documents, transcripts and professional vitae will remain on file with ESCT. Validated copies of all faculty credentials will be provided to the Office of the University Registrar on the Columbia campus.

Faculty interchange between the two campuses will take place on a regular basis to the fullest extent possible in light of available resources, language considerations, and scheduling factors.

#### **Article 6**

CIU recognizes that AWM's German and Swiss mission agency stakeholders (AEM), along with others, heavily subsidize ESCT's operation in recognition of its vital importance and unique contribution to their ends. Local tuition and fees reflect the economic and social context of European postsecondary education as well as the financial subsidy provided by AWM's stakeholders.

ESCT will submit a copy of the annual budget for its operation for review by the CIU administration and governing board in light of its responsibility to insure that financial and other resources are adequate to support the educational programs offered.


**Article 7**

AWM owns and operates an academic library collection and facility, appropriate information technology, and other learning resources necessary to support ESCT. Credentialed library staff work in consultation with CIU's learning resources professional staff to provide appropriate services.

CIU's learning resource collection, its on-line database capabilities (e.g. FirstSearch), and all of the personnel and resources of its division of Information Resources and Services are fully accessible to AWM library staff and ESCT students.

**Article 8**

This agreement is effective beginning on the date of the last signature below, and will be reviewed in four years. Prior to renewal, both parties will review the agreement and make any changes necessary. Other changes may be made during the agreement period by mutual agreement and with adequate time for implementation.

  
Peter Westphal, Rektor, Akademie für Weltmission  
**Authorization**  
9/10/2021  
Date

  
Tobias Menges, Dean, Akademie für Weltmission  
12. Sept. 2021  
Date

  
Mark Smith, President, Columbia Int'l University  
8/10/21  
Date

  
James E. Lanpher, Provost, Columbia Int'l University  
Aug. 11, 2021  
Date