



KERALA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

Abstract

KAU -Education -Articulation Programme of Dual Bachelor's Degree between Kerala Agricultural University and Western Sydney University -Orders issued-reg.

No. KAUEDU/1047/2024-EDU B2

Dated. Vellanikkara, 18-04-2024

- Read:-
- 1.Partnership Agreement for Dual award and Higher Degree Research Candidature between WSU and KAU dtd. 21/11/2019 (Doctoral Programme)
 2. Memorandum of understanding between KAU and WSU dtd.29.11.2018 and renewed on 21.09.2023.
 3. Partnership agreement for dual award and higher degree research candidature between WSU and KAU dtd. 03.10.2022 (Master's programme).
 - 4.Order No. KAUEDU/153/2024-EDU B2 dtd.23.01.2024 of DoE.
 5. Work Plan between ICAR and Western Sydney University signed on 06/03/2024
 6. KAU Act Clause 18(2)(a)
 - 7.Detailed programme proposals –ANNEXURE A
 8. List of current students undergoing dual programme-ANNEXURE -B
 9. Minutes of meeting held on 28.11.2023 at RRS Vytilla (Orientation on Articulation of dual Bachelors programme for KAU officials)
 - 10.Minutes of the meeting held on 15.03.2024 and 16.03.2024 at CoF, Vellanikkara and CoA Vellayani to finalise the dual degree programmes)
 11. Decision of the Special Academic Council meeting held on 15.04.2024
 12. Decision of the Executive Committee meeting held on 17.04.2024.

ORDER

1. Through references 1 and 2, the KAU and Western Sydney University (Sydney, Australia) had entered into a memorandum of understanding to allow candidates enrolled in KAU to pursue dual degrees for Doctoral Research in shared strategic research areas. Research students nominated by KAU and duly accepted by WSU will be awarded Ph.D. Degrees by both the Universities exposing them to a global career in agricultural research. Subsequently the programme (ref: 2 and 3) was also extended to the Master of Science (KAU) and Master of Research (WSU) Programmes also. Six Doctoral Scholars and two Postgraduate Scholars from KAU are presently undergoing respective WSU programmes. All the Ph.D. Scholars have been provided with Research Fellowships and full fee waivers by the WSU based on their merit.
2. The Kerala Agricultural University has 52 years of creditable meritorious educational research experience in Agriculture and allied subjects and has been consistently rated highly by the ICAR and the National Accreditation Bodies in Agriculture and allied

sciences. The University has excelled with several varietal releases and agricultural technologies which have significantly contributed to enhanced productivity and incomes in the agricultural sector in its command areas and contributed to the intellectual process in the agricultural sector.

3. The Western Sydney University, established in 1989 has been named number one in the world for its social ecological and economic impact in the latest Times Higher Education (THE) University Impact Rankings. WSU programmes in core agricultural and allied sectors like soil sciences, plant biology, forestry ecology, ecological applications, and microbiology have also been rated at five stars ranking above world class by the Australian Research Council.
4. Noting the above academic potential and after detailed deliberations conducted in-person by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Kerala Agricultural University, on 6-3-2024 with the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of the Western Sydney University, Prof. Barney Glover, and Prof. Deborah Sweeney, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Research, Enterprise and International), Western Sydney University, with all senior officers of that University, administrative and regulatory changes suggested by both sides to remove difficulties in the Ph.D. programme with respect to evaluation of thesis, etc. were also resolved as per reference No 4. A tentative work plan agreed between the Universities through discussions held with Dr. Nisha Rakesh, Senior Advisor, (Research and Strategy partnership), WSU, for making the dual degree/articulation possible in the 2024-25 academic year itself. KAU has thus taken all necessary steps to formulate suitable dual/articulation proposals for all its four year under graduate degrees, such that one year of instruction is offered by the WSU and opportunities for Master's and Ph.D. open up thereafter.
5. Later, a detailed Work Plan has been agreed upon for Student exchange under joint Undergraduate program and integrated UG plus Master's program by Dr. R. C. Agrawal, Deputy Director General (Agri Education), ICAR and Prof. Deborah Sweeney, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice – President, (Research, Enterprise and International), Western Sydney University on 6 March 2024 for All India adoption. The work plan envisages State Agricultural Universities to onboard more partnership programmes.
6. Simultaneously, following the success of the dual Ph.D. degree and dual Master's Degree collaboration with WSU, Kerala Agricultural University and Western Sydney University have mapped out five new UG articulation programs. WSU officials and KAU officials discussed in detail the articulation proposals at a meeting held at RRS Vyttila on 28.11.2023 (reference-9). Again, discussion was held on 15 and 16 March 2024 for finalizing the articulation proposals (reference-10).

The above detailed process has provided the blueprint for the following programmes to be offered in dual/articulation mode from academic year 2024-25.

The 3 + 1 Articulation proposals for the dual Bachelors programme are detailed below:

- I. **BSc (Hons) Agriculture to BSc (Agrifood)**
- II. **BTech (Agricultural Engineering) to BSc (Agrifood)**
- III. **BTech (Food Technology) to BSc (Innovative Foods)**
- IV. **BTech (Biotechnology) to BSc (Biology)**
- V. **BSc (Hons) Forestry to BSc (Sustainable Environmental Futures)**

7. Some leading Masters programmes of WSU have also been identified to be 'pathway programmes' to be offered in one year formats immediately after the final year of the Undergraduate programme at WSU so that the participating students complete two Undergraduate Degrees and one Master's Programme in a matter of two academic years to be spent in Western Sydney University. The Postgraduate programmes are listed as follows:

**I. BSc (Hons) Agriculture to BSc (Agrifood) + MRes
Natural and Physical Science)**

**II. BTech (Agricultural Engineering) to BSc (Agrifood) + MRes (Natural
and Physical Science)**

**III. BTech (Food Technology) to BSc (Innovative Foods) + MRes (Natural
and Physical Science)**

8. The Deans Committee reports have been considered by the competent authorities of Kerala Agricultural University and the Western Sydney University and a Memorandum of Understanding/Agreement is necessary to be arrived between the competent authorities of the Universities to facilitate the student progression as stated above.
9. The competent authorities are fully convinced that the proposed Dual Bachelor's degree programs and integrated programs between KAU and WSU do offer a transformative educational experience, combining academic excellence, practical training, and global perspectives. This collaboration will foster future leaders in agriculture and allied fields equipped with a strong foundation in theory, practical skills, and intercultural competence.
10. The proposed dual degree/articulation programmes shall have the following broad features.

- **Duration:** The programme will span for four years, with students spending the first three years at KAU and the fourth year at WSU
- **Admissions:** KAU will handle the admission process, selecting qualified students for the Dual Bachelors programme based on their academic performance, aptitude, and potential for cross cultural learning:
- **Curriculum Structure**

Years 1-3 (KAU): Students will complete the core curriculum prescribed by KAU, covering fundamental and core courses of respective degree programmes identified in the 5th Deans Committee report.

Year 4 (WSU): Student will spend two semesters at WSU, where they will have the opportunity to apply their knowledge through hands on training, internships, and specialized course work in areas of their interest.

- **Hands on Training and internship**

During the fourth year, the students will engage in practical training and internships at WSU.

WSU will provide a range of options in agricultural research facilities, extension centres, farms and industry partnerships to expose students to various aspects of modern agricultural practices and technologies.

- **Mentoring and Support**

Dedicated faculty mentors from KAU and WSU will be assigned to students to provide guidance and support throughout the programme.

Regular meetings, workshops and mentoring sessions will be conducted to address academic, cultural and personal concerns.

- **Assessment and certificate**

Student performance and progress will be evaluated jointly by faculty members from KAU and WSU. The credits earned at WSU will be shared as per the requirement of KAU, for successful completion of the degree.

3 years at KAU (160 credit points) and 1 year at WSU (80 credit points). Upon

successful completion, the student will receive a dualdegree.

- **Fees:** The student shall bear all the expenditure including the tuition fee, living and travel cost (The current approximate cost: Living expenses -\$24505 AUD, Travel cost – \$2000 AUD, Overseas Health Cover – \$1000 AUD, Tuition fees-\$36000AUD per annum)
 - The student will be eligible to receive the fellowship honoured by KAU and other government agencies during the six semester at KAU
 - WSU may provide some concession in the tuition fee based on merit.
 - **Award of degree:** The student completing the dual undergraduate programme will receive degree from KAU and WSU separately. KAU can include the marks obtained at WSU.
 - Upon completion of one year at WSU, the students will have the opportunity to transition to 2nd year of M.Sc. with an option for second elective major at the WSU via (3+1+1) articulation. This way, the students gain advantage of fast tracking to M.Sc.
 - Those students in the 2nd year of M.Sc. (Agriculture) degree programme have the option to select extended Research subject to be eligible to pursue a PhD degree at WSU.
11. On detailed deliberations, the following additional concerns raised have been answered as follows:
- a. The KAU will correspond to all its public scholarship authorities, availed by its students, such as Government, to ensure support to eligible candidates particularly OBC, SC/ST and eligible forward community candidates eligible for State support to seamlessly avail those scholarships from Government Departments/Agencies for undertaking the dual degree programme.
 - b. Engage with the institutional commercial bankers of KAU to ensure the most economical student loans with relaxed terms for supporting students requiring student loans.
 - c. Institute a partial and full merit-cum-means scholarship from the University's revenue sources and Government grants who do not enjoy other scholarships and ensure a net minimum support to the candidates.
 - d. Those students who for valid reasons discontinue the WSU-offered part of the programme will be upon specific application re-admitted to the KAU and after taking into account the successfully completed and evaluated credits in WSU and offer a complimentary remedial programme including work experience/internship upon which they shall be awarded the corresponding KAU Undergraduate Degree as originally registered for in KAU. The complimentary work programme in such cases will be approved by the respective Board of Studies on proposal from the Dean and the Degree shall be awarded upon specific approval of Kerala Agricultural University. Those re-admitted students will be required only to remit the KAU fee schedule as per the extant fee schedule applicable for that programme.
12. Upon detailed consideration of the proposal of WSU, the recommendation of the respective Deans Committees, deliberations of the Board of Studies and the Academic Council, the competent authority of Kerala Agricultural University is pleased to approve and order the validity of the credit points (minimum 80) imparted by the Western Sydney University in lieu of the seventh and eighth semester courses as per the curriculum of KAU whereupon they shall be admitted to Degrees as prescribed in the following schedule.

KAU Degree	Credits imparted in KAU.	WSU Degree.	Credits imparted in WSU.
BSc (Hons) Agriculture	160	BSc (Agrifood)	80
BTech (Agricultural Engineering)	160	BSc (Agrifood)	80
BTech (Food Technology)	160	BSc (Innovative Foods)	80
BTech (Biotechnology)	160	BSc (Biology)	80
B.Sc (Hons) Forestry	160	BSc (Sustainable Environmental Futures)	80

13. Articulation proposal for B.Sc. (Cooperation and Banking) programme shall be proposed for early approval by Dean of that Faculty.
14. Registrar and Director of Education, KAU will take all necessary steps to notify, communicate and ensure enough student interest and participation in the dual programme well in time for admitting interested students in 2024-25 academic year itself.
15. An Inter-University Coordination Committee chaired by Vice Chancellor, KAU, Director (Education), Director (Research), International Student Coordinator and respective senior colleagues of WSU will be formed in due course to provide coordination and support to the student admission process and related issues.
16. Vice Chancellor, KAU and other Officers of KAU are duly authorised to approve the execution of all related instruments and take necessary steps to effect the programme under information to the Academic Council and Executive Committee of the Kerala Agricultural University as stipulated/agreed.

// By Order of Executive Committee//



REGISTRAR
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Kerala Agricultural University
KAU P.O., Thrissur - 680 656

To

1. Deans of Faculty/Deans of all colleges under KAU
2. The International Student Coordinator, KAU
3. The Controller of Examinations
4. Academic Officers of all colleges under KAU
5. Programmer (Edu), KAU (for publishing in the website)

Copy to:

PS to VC/PA to Registrar/ Steno to Director of Education/Joint Registrar (Edu)/All Section Officers of Directorate of Education /SF/Spare.