

# The University of Pennsylvania, College of General Studies Dual Degree Program

## Program Description

### I. Introduction

The purpose of the Dual Degree Program (DDP) is to provide highly qualified students from abroad the opportunity to take advantage of Penn's excellence as a top-ranked teaching and research university by combining undergraduate study from their home institution with advanced undergraduate and graduate coursework from the University of Pennsylvania. The DDP leads to a Bachelor of Science (BS) or Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree from the home institution and a Master's of Science (MS) or Arts (MA) degree from the University of Pennsylvania. The DDP will admit annually a mutually agreed upon cohort of undergraduate students from the home institution. These students will have already completed the majority of the requirements of their BS or BA studies at the home institution in three years. In the fourth year they will come to the University of Pennsylvania for intensive English language and academic preparation training followed by two years of study at the advanced undergraduate and graduate level. At the completion of the five-year program, students will receive degrees from both universities: a BS or BA from the home institution and an MS or MA from the University of Pennsylvania. This program is offered through the College of General Studies, in Penn's School of Arts and Sciences. Students who wish to earn a master's degree can do so through several options including:

- Master of Environmental Studies
- Master of Liberal Arts
- Master of Science in Applied Geosciences
- Master of Applied Positive Psychology
- Master of Urban Spatial Analytics
- Master of Mathematics
- Master of Linguistics
- Master of Criminology
- Master of Anthropology
- Master of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures
- Master of South Asia Regional Studies

*The DDP will have the following characteristics:*

1. The initial target is a program cohort of (*number*) highly academically qualified students each year. This cohort will participate in the language/academic

- preparation program together and will continue to convene as a group throughout their experience at Penn for organized academic support and social activities.
2. Students will study at the home institution for the first three years and will then study at Penn for the next two years of the program.
  3. The program will lead to dual degrees: a BS or BA conferred by the home institution and an MS or MA conferred by Penn.

The DDP program will be an important step in both the University of Pennsylvania and the home institution's internationalization efforts, aiming to create a global cohort of graduates with an excellent multi-disciplinary education, a deep and fundamental cross-cultural understanding and substantial bi-lingual/bi-cultural skills. As far as we know, there is no other international dual degree program now in existence that offers a five year BS/MS degree and as ambitious a program of language and cultural competence development as Penn's DDP.

### *Why partner with the College of General Studies at Penn?*

As an integral part of Penn, a top-ranked major research and teaching university located in the city regarded as the birthplace of US democracy, the College of General Studies makes available to its clients a rich range of university and community resources, including:

- excellent urban campus location surrounded by trees, monuments, and historic and modern buildings, yet within walking distance to the city's rich array of theaters, museums, art galleries, and other attractions;
- access to world-class libraries, computing facilities and academic and language support resources;
- decades of experience providing high quality student services to international guest students including: accommodations in campus residence halls and with home-stay families; orientation to Penn and Philadelphia; organized social and cultural activities; opportunities to join student clubs and organizations; as well as recreational facilities;
- a diverse student body of undergraduate and graduate students and opportunities for cultural and language exchange with them;
- a rich array of historic, cultural, intellectual and commercial resources available in and near Philadelphia, the second largest city on the East coast, that offer many opportunities for learning and research.

## **II. Proposed Program**

The details of the articulation of degree requirements between Penn and the home institution programs will be mutually agreed upon by Penn's College of General Studies and the participating divisions of the home institution, subject to each institution's sub-matriculation and degree-granting requirements. This section describes the general structure of the DDP.

### *BS Degree from the home institution*

Students will complete the home institution's requirements for the undergraduate degree. The larger share of these credit hours will be taken in the first three years of the program at the home institution. Any upper division courses required to complete the degree will be taken at Penn in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the program.

### *English Language Training and Academic Preparation/Support*

Students will participate in pre-arrival assessment, skill workshops and advising sessions online, seven to fourteen weeks of face-to-face intensive pre-academic English language training as well as ongoing support activities that include:

- individualized program planning and monitoring of progress
- intensive academic language and study skills preparation
- academic, social, and cultural orientation to the US university

### *MS or MA Degree from Penn*

Students will complete the requirements for one of the following participating Master's degree programs:

- Environmental Studies
- Liberal Arts
- Science in Applied Geosciences
- Applied Positive Psychology
- Urban Spatial Analytics
- Criminology
- Linguistics
- Mathematics
- Anthropology
- Near Eastern Languages and Cultures
- South Asia Regional Studies

### *Instruction*

Courses at Penn will be taught in English by Penn faculty.

### *Academic Advising*

Students will be strongly encouraged to avail themselves of the university's advising services. The counsel of advisors will be provided for clarification of SAS/CGS policies

and procedures; for assistance in the selection and registration of courses; for aid in identifying campus resources; and for assistance with academic questions and problems.

### *Maintaining Academic Standing*

Participating students will be expected to maintain the minimum academic standing required for continuation in Penn's graduate programs (currently a cumulative GPA of 2.0) and make adequate progress toward the degree (completing six courses in each twelve month period).

Some students may fall behind their cohort. Where this lag is minor, every reasonable effort will be made to keep the student in the same cohort. If this is impossible, the student should be able to join the next year's cohort.

### *Program Completion*

Upon successful completion of the program, a BS or BA degree will be conferred by the home institution and an MS or MA degree will be conferred by Penn.

## **III. Admissions Procedures**

The home institution selects the most competitive applicants in their 3<sup>rd</sup> year of study at the home institution according to the following academic criteria: GPA of 3.3 on a 4.0 point scale or higher; TOEFL iBT of 108 or higher; academic rank in the top 10% of the class. The home institution will submit the following application materials to the College of General Studies for review and decision. :

- translated official transcripts (with all equivalencies)
- official statement of academic rank
- official score reports from the TOEFL iBT

The University of Pennsylvania will review all applications and make final selections. Students will be admitted to DDP in the early spring prior to the fall start of Penn's academic year.