

**A COLLABORATIVE ACADEMIC  
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**BETWEEN**

**DEMOCRITUS UNIVERSITY OF THRACE, GREECE  
NATIONAL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS, GREECE  
YORK UNIVERSITY, CANADA  
UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS, CYPRUS  
AND  
HOLY METROPOLIS OF LARISSA AND TIRNAVOS, GREECE**



**DEMOCRITUS  
UNIVERSITY  
OF THRACE**



In the spirit of international education and research cooperation, Democritus University of Thrace (Greece), National Technical University of Athens (Greece), York University (Canada) on behalf of the Lassonde School of Engineering, University of Cyprus (Cyprus) and Holy Metropolis of Larissa and Tirnavos (Greece), agree to develop collaborative academic cooperation activities in areas of mutual academic interest.

### **1. Academic Cooperation**

Democritus University of Thrace (Greece), National Technical University of Athens (Greece), York University (Canada), University of Cyprus (Cyprus) and Holy Metropolis of Larissa and Tirnavos (Greece) (the "Parties") shall encourage co-operation in the field of engineering regarding transferring of know-how and utilization of innovative ideas in the context of seismic assessment and protection of historical monuments in Greece and Cyprus. This Memorandum of Understanding also aims to develop methods for the structural assessment and valuation of Special Monumental Buildings, such as the Orthodox Churches of the Metropolis of Larissa & Tirnavos, combining the use of specialized technologies to verify the quality characteristics of load-bearing masonry.

It is to common understanding that as far as the Holy Metropolis of Larissa and Tirnavos is concerned, the monuments that are to be studied are acknowledged as active religious places, therefore they are accordingly respected.

The Parties shall seek to promote collaborative activities that may include the following areas:

- Mobility of faculty members and researchers
- Cooperative research and joint project development for external funding support
- Joint teaching or supervision of graduate students (*co-tutelle*)

- Joint seminars, conferences, and academic meetings
- Exchange of scientific and information materials that are of mutual interest.

Activities will be mutually agreed upon by the Parties and will require specific arrangements that will be detailed in protocols supplemental to this Agreement. The implementation of such activities is subject to approval in accordance with the policies of each institution and availability of resources.

## **2. Principles**

This Agreement is not intended to create binding or legal obligations on either Party.

The implementation of this Agreement and any supplemental protocols will be in accordance with the policies, procedures and regulations of all parties.

All Parties subscribe to the policy of equal opportunity and will not discriminate on the basis of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, family status or disability.

Any violation of these principles will be considered grounds for immediate termination of this Agreement.

## **3. Intellectual Property**

Unless explicitly agreed to the contrary in writing for a specific activity, each Party retains all right, title and interest to its own work and any intellectual property rights therein. This agreement does not give either Party any license of use or right over the intellectual property of the other Party. The use of trademarks and/or denominations representative of either Party is strictly prohibited without the other Party's prior written consent.

## **4. Logo Use**

The Parties intend to require the prior written permission of the opposite party for all public use of such opposite party's name or logo.

## **5. Privacy and Confidentiality**

Non-disclosure. The Parties acknowledge that in the course of participating in these activities, the Parties may have access to and the need to exchange Confidential Information including personally identifiable information, and that such information is subject to reasonable privacy and confidentiality obligations. The Parties agree to maintain reasonable security measures in respect of any documents or information in any form identified by the owner as confidential, and shall take all reasonable precautions to limit internal disclosure to those persons who are required to access such documents or information.

FIPPA Obligations. The Parties acknowledge that York is subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The Parties shall assist York in meeting its obligations to protect all personally identifiable information of its students, and shall treat all such information as strictly confidential. For further clarity, nothing in this MOU or in any activities commenced thereunder will be construed to require either Party to breach any obligation imposed by *FIPPA*.

## 6. Institutional Contacts

The Parties will encourage direct contact and co-operation between their faculty and administrative staff, departments, schools and research centres. Oversight and facilitation of this Agreement will be through York International at York University.

Academics and researchers leading collaborative activities are: Assistant Professor Sousana Tastani at Department of Civil Engineering, Democritus University of Thrace (DUTH), Associate Professor Anastasios Sextos at School of Civil Engineering, National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), Professor Stavroula Pantazopoulou at Lassonde Faculty of Engineering, York University, Professor Ioannis Ioannou at Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Cyprus and DIC Civil Engineer Dimitrios Nikolaidis (PhD candidate DUTH), technical consultant on behalf of Bishop Ieronymos of the Holy Metropolis of Larissa and Tirnavos, Greece.

## 7. Insurance

Each Party will at all times during the Term of this MOU maintain insurance coverage and limits appropriate for their operations and at least equivalent to industry standards. The Parties shall provide proof of coverage upon reasonable request.

## 8. Effective Date, Renewal and Termination of Agreement

The Agreement will remain in force for a period of five years. Amendments to this Agreement may be made at any time, in writing, and only when agreed upon by all Parties.

After the initial five-year period, the Parties will review and evaluate the Agreement and determine whether to renew the Agreement and stipulate in writing the terms upon which this Agreement may be renewed.

The Agreement may be terminated by either Party giving six (6) months' notice in writing to the other Party or such earlier termination date as is mutually agreed between the Parties. In the event of a termination, the Parties will honor all commitments to students participating in the program at the time of the termination.

This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which will constitute an original, and all of which together will constitute a single agreement.

Signed by:

### DEMOCRITUS UNIVERSITY OF THRACE (GREECE)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Professor Fotios Maris  
**Rector**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS (GREECE)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Professor Ioannis K. Chatjigeorgiou  
**Rector**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**YORK UNIVERSITY**



\_\_\_\_\_  
Professor Lisa Philipps  
**Provost & Vice-President Academic**

Date: April 18, 2024 \_\_\_\_\_

**UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS (CYPRUS)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Professor Tasos Christofides  
**Rector**

Date: \_\_May 13 2024 \_\_\_\_\_

**HOLY METROPOLIS OF LARISSA AND TIRNAVOS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ieronymos  
**Bishop**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_