MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

Maaref University of Applied Science, Sarmada, North Syria

AND

IQRA National University, Peshawar, Pakistan

Preamble

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is made between **Maaref University of Applied Sciences (MUAS)** and **IQRA National University** (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties"). Recognizing the importance of international collaboration in education, research, and academic excellence, the Parties agree to enter into this MoU with the aim of establishing a framework for mutual cooperation, academic exchange, and joint initiatives that foster innovation, learning, and the sharing of knowledge.

1. Objectives

The primary goals of this MoU are to:

- Establish a strong partnership and develop a long-term relationship between both universities.
- Promote academic and research collaboration.
- Support the professional and academic growth of faculty members, researchers, and students.
- Facilitate mutual sharing of administrative and academic expertise.
- Enhance the quality of education and research at both institutions through cooperative efforts.

2. Areas of Collaboration

The Parties agree to collaborate in the following areas:

2.1 Exchange of Administrative and Academic Experiences

- Organize exchange programs for administrative staff and faculty members to share best practices in university management, teaching methodologies, and student services.

- ❖ Conduct joint workshops, seminars, and training sessions for faculty development and administrative skills enhancement.

2.2 Collaborative Academic Programs and Projects

- ❖ Develop joint degree programs, dual-degree initiatives, and certificate courses in areas of mutual academic interest.
- ❖ Facilitate the transfer of credits and recognition of academic qualifications for students participating in joint programs.
- ❖ Launch collaborative academic projects, including the development of new curricula and educational materials.

2.3 Enhancement of Research and Academic Publications

- ❖ Support the exchange of research scholars and the establishment of joint research projects in fields of shared interest.
- ❖ Promote co-authored publications, joint research articles, and participation in collaborative research grants.
- ❖ Facilitate the creation of research networks and centers of excellence in areas such as artificial intelligence, applied sciences, business, and humanities.

2.4 Organization of Mutual Academic Conferences and Events

- ❖ Host joint academic conferences, symposiums, and seminars on topics of mutual interest, involving faculty members, students, and external experts.
- ❖ Encourage the participation of students and researchers in international conferences organized by both institutions.
- ❖ Collaborate on organizing workshops and special sessions on emerging trends in higher education and research.

2.5 Academic Support and Development Initiatives

- ❖ Provide academic support and mentoring programs for students, including exchange opportunities, guest lectures, and collaborative research projects.
- ❖ Share resources such as online learning platforms, library access, and academic databases to enhance the learning environment for students and faculty members.
- ❖ Establish joint student exchange programs to enable students from both universities to gain international exposure and intercultural experience.

2.6 Development of Joint Research and Innovation Projects

- ❖ Establish collaborative research centers focusing on innovation in applied sciences, technology, business, and social sciences.
- ❖ Encourage the development of joint projects in emerging fields such as sustainable development, renewable energy, artificial intelligence, and digital entrepreneurship.





- ❖ Promote the sharing of research facilities, laboratories, and equipment to enhance the capabilities of both institutions.

2.7 Enhancement of Quality Assurance and Accreditation Efforts

- ❖ Work together on developing quality assurance frameworks and accreditation processes that meet international standards.
- ❖ Share best practices in curriculum development, program evaluation, and student assessment.
- ❖ Collaborate in preparing joint proposals for international accreditation and recognition.

2.8 Faculty and Student Mobility Programs

- ❖ Establish faculty exchange programs to promote international teaching experiences and professional development.
- ❖ Develop student exchange programs that allow students from both universities to study at each other's campuses, fostering cultural exchange and academic growth.
- ❖ Facilitate virtual mobility programs and online collaborative courses for students and faculty members.

2.9 Community Engagement and Social Responsibility Initiatives

- ❖ Collaborate on community outreach programs and social responsibility projects that address local and regional challenges.
- ❖ Jointly organize events, workshops, and activities that engage the wider community and promote the role of universities in societal development.
- ❖ Share experiences in implementing sustainable practices and promoting environmental awareness on campus.

3. Duration and Renewal

This MoU is valid for a **period of five (5)** years from the date of signing. The MoU may be renewed upon mutual agreement by both Parties for an additional term of five (5) years. Either Party may request amendments to the MoU during its term, subject to mutual consent and formal written agreement.

4. Confidentiality

The Parties agree to maintain the confidentiality of any proprietary or sensitive information shared under the scope of this MoU. All research data, materials, and information exchanged between the Parties shall be used solely for the purposes outlined in this MoU and shall not be disclosed to third parties without prior written consent.

5. Financial Arrangements

This MoU does not create any financial obligations for either Party. Each university shall bear its own costs associated with the implementation of activities under this agreement unless otherwise specified in separate agreements or project proposals.

6. Termination

Either Party may terminate this MoU by providing a written notice at least six (6) months in advance. In the event of termination, the Parties agree to fulfill all ongoing commitments and activities initiated prior to the termination date.

7. Dispute Resolution

Any disputes arising from the interpretation or implementation of this MoU shall be resolved through mutual consultation and negotiation in good faith between the Parties. If a resolution cannot be reached, the matter may be referred to mediation by a mutually agreed third-party mediator.

8. Legal Status

This MoU is a non-binding agreement and does not create any legal or financial obligations. It is intended to establish a framework for cooperation and collaboration between the Parties. Any legally binding agreements arising from this MoU shall be set forth in separate, formal contracts signed by authorized representatives of both universities.

9. Signatories

In witness whereof, the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective institutions, have signed this MoU on behalf of **Maaref University of Applied Sciences** and **IQRA National University.**

For Maaref University of Applied Sciences:

Name: Dr. Mahdi Alkol

Title: President

Date: 10/01/2025

Signature:

Maaref University of Applied Sciences · MAS · President

WITNESSED BY:

Name: Dr. Mustafa Kayyali

Title: Manager of Quality Assurance Directorate

Date: 10/1/2025

Signature:

Maaref University of Applied Sciences · MAS · Q. A. Directorate

For IQRA National University:

Name: Dr. Malik Taimur Ali

Title: Vice Chancellor

Date: 10th December 2024

Signature:

IQRA NATIONAL UNIVERSITY · DR. MALIK TAIMUR ALI · Vice Chancellor

WITNESSED BY:

Name: Sardar Abdul Wasay Khan

Title: Manager Marketing, Events & Linkages

Date: 10/12/2024

Signature: