

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

Università Iuav di Venezia

And

American University of Sharjah

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Università Iuav di Venezia, hereinafter "Iuav", tax code 80009280274, VAT 00708670278, represented by the rector pro tempore prof. Benno Albrecht, domiciled for the office at the Università Iuav di Venezia – Santa Croce, 191-30135 Venice, legitimized for the signing of this act by resolutions of the Academic Senate on July 16, 2025, and the Board of Directors on July 23, 2025.

and

American University of Sharjah, hereinafter "AUS", represented by Nooraa Sultan Saqer Al Suwaidi, Director - International Exchange Office American University of Sharjah, domiciled for the office at the University City, Sharjah 26666, United Arab Emirates, legitimized for the signing of this act.

Both Iuav and AUS shall also be collectively referred to as "Parties" or individually as "Party".

Whereas

- Iuav that, pursuant to article 3, paragraph 2 of the Statute, in the exercise of its functional autonomy, can promote, organize and manage in collaboration with other public and private actors operating at local, national, supranational and international, activities of common interest in fields related to its institutional purposes;
- Iuav, whose activity is institutionally devoted to teaching, training and research on the disciplines of Architecture, Urban Planning, Physical Planning, Restoration, Arts, Theatre and Design, is a qualified research and training centre with specific expertise in the field of climate change, sustainability, territorial management, and planning, also with regard to the network of relationships with numerous Italian and international specialised organizations, with whom Iuav maintains collaborative relationships in research, teaching, internships and other activities related to the primary functions of the University;

Whereas

- AUS aims to achieve and maintain pre-eminence as a coeducational institution based upon the American model of higher education and grounded in the history and culture of the United Arab Emirates and the wider Arab Gulf region. AUS intends to acquire, develop and apply research methodologies in the field of **climate change, sustainability, territorial management, and planning**;
- AUS and Iuav, recognizing the value of international cooperation, seek to expand scholarly ties, facilitate academic cooperation, and promote mutual understanding between Iuav and AUS, and intend to cooperate in all fields and disciplines of common interest and have scientific expertise in the field of **sustainable development, urban planning, and environmental management**;

Now, therefore, the parties hereto agree to cooperate as follows:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 Through this Memorandum of Understanding ("**MOU**"), both Iuav and AUS agree to explore an academic and scientific collaboration between Iuav and AUS based on the principles of mutual equality and the reciprocity of benefits. This MOU establishes guidelines for possible collaboration between the parties, but is not intended to create any specific commitment or obligation of either party to the other. Iuav and AUS recognize the interest to activate forms of cooperation in order to develop and promote research on topics concerning **climate change, sustainability, territorial management, and planning**.

2. Areas of Cooperation

- 2.1 The parties agree to develop collaborative activities across two main areas of mutual interest, encompassing research, and teaching initiatives.

- In the field of research, the collaboration will focus on facilitating the mutual exchange of academics for visiting periods, including PhDs, Post Docs and researchers, while promoting co-curated special issues in international journals addressing climate change, sustainability, territorial management, and planning. The partnership will also involve sharing methodologies and resources for empirical research through access to laboratories and infrastructures, with particular attention to facilitating interaction with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC);
- The teaching dimension of the collaboration will encompass exchange workshops and learning activities for bachelor and master students conducted on-site at both institutions. The partnership will establish semester exchange seminars and courses for Ph.D. and Master students, while developing combined activities that enable Iuav and AUS students to share knowledge and experience. Additionally, both parties will explore the development of double degree programs for undergraduate and graduate students;
- These collaborative objectives may be pursued through various forms of academic cooperation, including joint research projects, organization of lectures, symposia, international meetings, conferences and workshops, visits of faculty members, students and administrative staff, and shared use of research equipment and facilities under terms established by both parties;
- Other activities may be developed as mutually agreed upon by the institutions.

3. Communication and Exchange of Information

- 3.1 The parties shall, on a regular basis, keep each other informed of and consult on matters of common interest, which in their opinion are likely to lead to mutual collaboration. Further, each party will nominate members of its senior staff to be responsible for overseeing matters pertaining to this MOU.

4. Implementation Arrangements, Commitment and Economic Aspects

- 4.1 The specificity of individual activities, as referred to in the previous article, will be identified through separate and specific implementing agreements, in which specific mention must be made to the present MoU, in which the timetable for implementation and the distribution of any respective economic burdens will be determined.
- 4.2 The implementing agreements will also regulate the economic and insurance aspects between the parties, as well as the intellectual property rights and the publication of materials generated by programs undertaken by the parties.
- 4.3 When the parties wish to enter into a further specific co-operation (projects, special events etc.) within the framework of the MOU, the parties will sign a separate project- specific agreement, which will stipulate the obligations of the parties with respect to such co-operation. Any project-specific agreement will be concluded and carried out in accordance with this MOU, and will include a provision referring to the MOU, which is applicable to such agreements and the programs / projects resulting there-from.
- 4.4 In itself, this MOU will not carry any financial obligations for either party.

5. Branding and Communications

- 5.1 Neither Party shall use the name, logo or trademarks of the other party or any abbreviation thereof, in connection with its business or otherwise without the express prior written approval of the other Party in each case.
- 5.2 The parties agree that neither party shall gain by virtue of this MOU any rights of ownership or any other interest, right, or title of copyrights, patents, trade secrets, trade marks, or any other intellectual property rights owned by the other party.

- 5.3 The parties agree to recognize and acknowledge this MOU as appropriate. The parties shall share with each other all the publications and marketing materials prior to their use and/or public display and shall obtain the written approval/signoffs of each other prior to printing / publication or public distribution.
- 5.4 Any external communication with the media or any other external party regarding this MoU by either party should be agreed upon and approved in writing.
- 5.5 Neither party shall speak nor make any public statements on behalf of the other party, nor claim to represent the other party, except in specific cases where express agreement is given in writing.

6. Statutory Compliance

- 6.1 Each party will cooperate in the activities envisaged under this MOU in accordance with their own internal regulations, rules, and directives. Specific activities envisioned under this MOU that require financial commitments or liabilities of either party will be subject to separate written agreements.

7. Duration of the MOU, Termination and Modification

- 7.1 This MOU will enter into force for an initial period of three (3) years, on the date of its signature by the duly authorized representatives of the parties.
- 7.2 Either party may terminate the arrangements described in this MOU upon six month's notice in writing to the other party. In the event of termination, the parties will take steps to bring the activities under the MOU to a prompt and orderly conclusion. Activities commenced under separate arrangements concluded under the MOU may also be terminated as agreed between the parties. In the event of breach of any terms of the MOU, it may be terminated without notice.
- 7.3 This MOU cannot be in any case automatically renewed, unless explicit declaration of all parties.
- 7.4 This may be amended by mutual consent provided that one of the parties notifies the other in writing of the proposed amendment.

8. Miscellaneous Provisions

- 8.1 Nothing in or relating to this MOU shall be deemed to be a waiver, expressed, or implied of any of the privileges.
- 8.2 **Confidentiality:** Neither party shall disclose any provision of this MOU or its existence or any information disclosed or shared by the other party pursuant to this MoU without the prior written consent of the other party.
- 8.3 **Governing Law:** This MOU is subject to the laws and regulations of the UAE.
- 8.4 Except for section 5 (Branding and Communication), section 8.2 (Confidentiality), and section 8.3 (Governing Law), which are binding obligations on the parties, this MOU is not a legally binding document and only defines the intentions of the parties to work together as detailed in the document. The MOU does not impose any liability on the parties regarding performance or non-performance of obligations. The only remedy for non-performance is termination of the MOU.

9. Scientific Officers Contacts

- 9.1 AUS identified as responsible for the implementation of this MoU: **Ms. Noora Sultan Saqer Al Suwaidi, Director - International Exchange Office**
- 9.2 Iuav identified as responsible for the implementation of this agreement: **Prof. Benno Albrecht, Rector**

10. Registration and Stamp Duty

- 10.1 The registration of this Memorandum of Understanding will be made only in case of use, in accordance with current legislation. All related expenses shall be borne by the party requesting the recording. This Memorandum of Understanding is

subject to stamp duty from the outset and is paid by Iuav in virtual mode by authorization of the Revenue Agency - Territorial Office of Venice n. 29074/1999.

11. Liaison Offices

11.1 The offices in charge of the execution and possible amendment or extension of this MoU are:

American University of Sharjah

International Exchange Office

University City, Sharjah 26666

United Arab Emirates

Ph.: +971 6 5154018

Email: ixo@aus.edu

Università Iuav di Venezia

Servizio Segreteria del rettore e del direttore generale

Tolentini 191 – S. Croce

I – 30135 Venezia

Ph.: +39 041 2571750

Email: rettorato@iuav.it

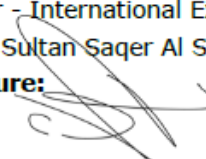
The present Memorandum of Understanding will be executed in one original copy in English and digitally signed according to Italian law (D. Lgs. n. 82/2005, L. n. 241/90).

The present Memorandum of Understanding is signed by:

American University of Sharjah

Director - International Exchange Office

Nooraa Sultan Saqer Al Suwaidi

Signature: 

Date:08/09/2025.....

Università Iuav di Venezia

The Rector

Benno Albrecht

Signature: 

Date:23.07.2025 19:01:19 GMT+02:00.....

Benno Albrecht
UNIVERSITA' IUAV DI
VENEZIA/00708670278

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the representatives of IUAV and AUS do affix their signatures. The present MoU will be executed in one original copy in English and digitally signed according to Italian law (D. Lgs. n. 82/2005, L. n. 241/90).

American University of Sharjah

Name: Dr. Tod A. Laursen

Designation: Chancellor

Signature: 

Date: August 11, 2025

Università Iuav di Venezia

Name: Prof. Benno Albrecht

Designation: Rector

Signature: 

Date:

Benno Albrecht
UNIVERSITA' IUAV DI
VENEZIA/00708670278
23.07.2025 19:01:19 GMT+02:00

Communications in regard to any changes / renewal of this MOU should be done through:

American University of Sharjah

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost

Telephone: +971 6 5152020

Email: provost@aus.edu

Università Iuav di Venezia

Servizio Segreteria del rettore e del direttore generale

Telephone: +39 041 2571750

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