CASE NOTE

Concerning  Quality insurance and evaluation of exchange agreements – requirements and assessment criteria
Caseworker  International Affairs and MSc Admissions (SIK)

General requirements for exchange agreements
All bilateral exchange agreements concluded between SCIENCE and another university must comply with the following general requirements:

- The agreement must be a strong and academically relevant offer for the students. This means that the partner institution must at least comply with the academic standards applicable to SCIENCE, and match or supplement the academic profile and education offers of the faculty.
- There must be reciprocal mobility and balance between in- and outgoing students during the contract period, i.e. that SCIENCE not only will receive students through the agreement, but also send an equivalent number of students to the partner institution. Both institutions have a co-responsibility for recruiting outgoing students according to the agreements they choose to enter.

Assessment criteria
If you receive a request to establish an exchange agreement or you wish to make an agreement, please contact SIK in order to determine whether the agreement meets the requirements based on the following questions:

- Is the university a recognised and academically strong institution similar to SCIENCE in the relevant discipline – e.g. according to international rankings?
Does the university have a relevant and sufficiently wide range of courses in English so that SCIENCE students can earn 30 ECTS points per semester – even in case of cancellation of courses?

If there are only sufficient courses in English at Master’s level, is it possible for bachelor students to follow master courses?

Does the partner university operate within an academic calendar that complements ours, enabling SCIENCE students to study abroad corresponding to the academic calendar at SCIENCE – and if not, can a solution be reached?

Is it possible for students in a given subject area at SCIENCE to study abroad when the relevant courses are available at the partner institution – does it fit in with their window of mobility?

Is it possible for SCIENCE students to do research projects at the partner institution, i.e. as a substitute for a bachelor project?

Will the agreement within the given discipline provide students new opportunities for specialisation and/or further opportunities to expand their academics?

Is the agreement a good addition to the department’s existing agreement portfolio in relation to the subject area? For example, does the department already have a substantial number of partners within the given subject area – and if so, are these current agreements used by both in- and outgoing students (is there balance)?

Are there already numerous agreements within the given subject area in the geographical region? Do both in- and outgoing students use the subject area’s current agreements within the geographical region (is there balance)?

Does it make sense to accept an agreement where the study period lasts a semester or an entire academic year? Will students from the given subject area at SCIENCE have the opportunity to travel for an entire academic year?

Are there personal relationships between academic staff at SCIENCE and the potential partner university that can benefit the promotion and recruitment of the agreement?

The criteria can be used both in conjunction with the establishment of new agreements and in the evaluation of existing agreements – in the case of existing agreements, previous experiences that SCIENCE has had with the partner must be taken into account, including possible experience of outgoing students, experience with administrative cooperation etc.