



Italy-USA academic relations

Short report on double degrees

Prof. Carlo Naldi

The IEE and Uni-Italia in the General agreement signed in Rome October 2, 2019 in order to promote the exchange of activities, experiences and people between USA and Italy in every relevant area of higher education and research, consider that the present level of academic cooperation among the Higher Education Institutions of USA and Italy is not developed enough, considering the strong, cultural, friendly and everlasting ties.

In order to promote the exchange of American and Italian students, Ph.D. students, researchers and faculty staff **it can be helpful** to start from the knowledge on the present state of integration between the institutions of the two countries. A survey was carried out with the goal to reproduce the state of the art of the academic relations between US and Italian higher education institutions, focusing on the present agreements about a Double Degrees, Joint Degrees and “Co-Tutelle” (Joint supervision) for PhD thesis.

Double Degree DD is a mobility pattern between two institutions that are very similar for teaching typology and qualities; they fully trust the educational path given by the partner and therefore, under an agreement, they accept to assign their own educational qualifications to a student in mobility even if he attended only part of his educational way by their institution. At the end every student will have two national diplomas by two different institutions, recognized in two different countries.

Joint Degree is a much more integrated form of partnership. Two, or more than two, higher education institutions that have been knowing one another very well through past experiences in cooperation and academic mobility, plan a new educational path jointly. All the students follow

their courses together and their studies are not prolonged. At the end every student has only one qualification with the signatures of the presidents of the institutions involved.

Co-Tutelle (Joint supervision) for PhD Thesis. Two institutions, or two research teams or two teachers in two institutions that carry out a research activity on the same subject and with mutual respectful procedures can follow and direct jointly the research activity of two or more PhD students together. The students are supervised by two tutors, one for each institutions. The discussion is held in front of a commission of teachers from the two countries. The students can receive one or two diplomas.

In lack of other exhaustive data perhaps not so easy to be found, the joint supervision agreements are indicative of tight relations in scientific cooperation among laboratories and research groups.

The agreements

In Italy there are:

- 97 University institutions of which
 - 67 State Universities
 - 19 non-State Universities legally recognized by the State
 - 11 non-State telematic Universities legally recognized by the State

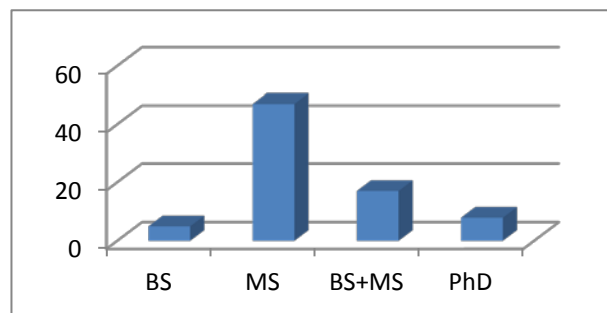
The data collection was almost totally carried out through direct interactions with the higher education institutions. The survey involved all the State institutions. Among the others only the ones lacking in meaningful experiences in international relations were excluded. 80 institutions were analyzed in total.

At present 72 agreements are active with the USA Higher Education institutions (adding one that doesn't provide qualification but simply assure a mutual acknowledgment of academic credits acquired).

Tipology

The number of agreements divided according to type of educational path are

- 5 Bachelor of Science
(Italian name “Laurea”)
- 47 Master (2 years)
(Italian name “Laurea Magistrale”)
- 17 BS+MS integrated
(Italian name “Laurea Magistrale a Ciclo Unico”)
- 8 PhD
(Italian name “Dottorato di Ricerca in co-tutela”)

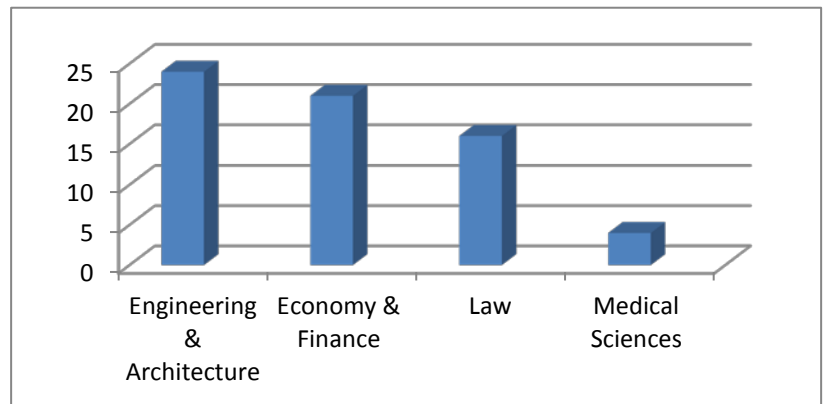


Areee Disciplinary Areas

The agreements never cover all the academic fields of the university , but they involve specific areas or faculties or research groups in the institutions involved.

In particular they can be classified

- 24 Engineering
- 21 Economy & Finance
- 16 Law
- 4 Medical Sciences



The lists of institutions involved

- 53 USA institutions
- 27 Italian universities

USA

1. American University Washington
2. Boston Metropolitan College
3. Boston University
4. California State University San Marcos
5. Carnegie Mellon University
6. Catholic University of America
7. Champaign University of Chicago
8. Cincinnati University, College of Law
9. City University of New York - City College
10. Columbia University (New York)
11. Darla Moore School of Business
12. Elon University Fairleigh Dickinson University
13. Fairleigh Dickinson University
14. Florida International University
15. Fordham University
16. Georgia Institute of Technology
17. Indiana University Bloomington
18. John Cabot university in Rome
19. Johns Hopkins University
20. Loyola Law School
21. Michigan State University - College of Law
22. National Cancer research Center - University of Hawaii
23. New Jersey Institute of Technology
24. New York Film Academy
25. New York State University at Albany
26. New York University – Polytechnic University
27. New York University -Baruch College

28. New York University Tandon School of Engineering
29. North Carolina State University - Raleigh
30. Northeastern University - Boston
31. Northern Illinois University
32. Nova Southeastern University - Shepard Broad Law
33. Oakland University
34. Ohio State University
35. Polytechnic Institute of New York
36. Southern Methodist University - Dallas
37. St. John's University New York City
38. Stevens Institute of Technology
39. Temple University
40. Thomas Jefferson University - Philadelphia
41. University of California
42. University of Central Florida
43. University of Colorado at Boulder
44. University of Georgia
45. University of Illinois at Chicago
46. University of Maryland
47. University of North Carolina at Charlotte
48. University of Richmond
49. University of Suffolk
50. University of Texas at Arlington
51. University of Texas at Austin
52. Washington University
53. Yale University

Italy

1. Libera Università di Bolzano
2. Libera Università Maria Ss. Assunta
3. Luiss University
4. Politecnico di Bari
5. Politecnico di Torino
6. Università Bocconi
7. Università Ca' Foscari Venezia
8. Università Cattolica
9. Università di Bari
10. Università di Bergamo
11. Università di Bologna
12. Università di Brescia
13. Università di Cassino
14. Università di Ferrara
15. Università di Firenze
16. Università di Genova
17. Università di Milano
18. Università di Padova

19. Università di Parma
20. Università di Roma 1 "Sapienza"
21. Università di Roma 3
22. Università di Trento
23. Università IULM
24. Università Politecnica delle Marche

Some well consolidated programs

There are well consolidated and long-lasting double degree agreements that show a high level of mutual acknowledgment. Thanks to these agreements there is a meaningful number of students with the qualification from both institutions.

1. TopUIC and PoliMi –UIC programs

The DD agreements for Master of Science (MSc) of University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) and *Laurea Magistrale*: of Politecnico di Torino started in 1997 or of Politecnico di Milano started in 2016, are still alive.

Departments of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, Computer Science, Electrical and Computer Engineering and Civil and Materials Engineering are involved

2. SEC program

The program started in the academic year 2010/2011 between Politecnico di Torino and a consortium of universities of South-East in USA.

- *University of Arkansas*
- *Mississippi State University*
- *University of Alabama*
- *Tennessee University at Knoxville*
- *University of Georgia*
- *Auburn University*
- *Vanderbilt University*
- *University of Kentucky*
- *Ohio State University*

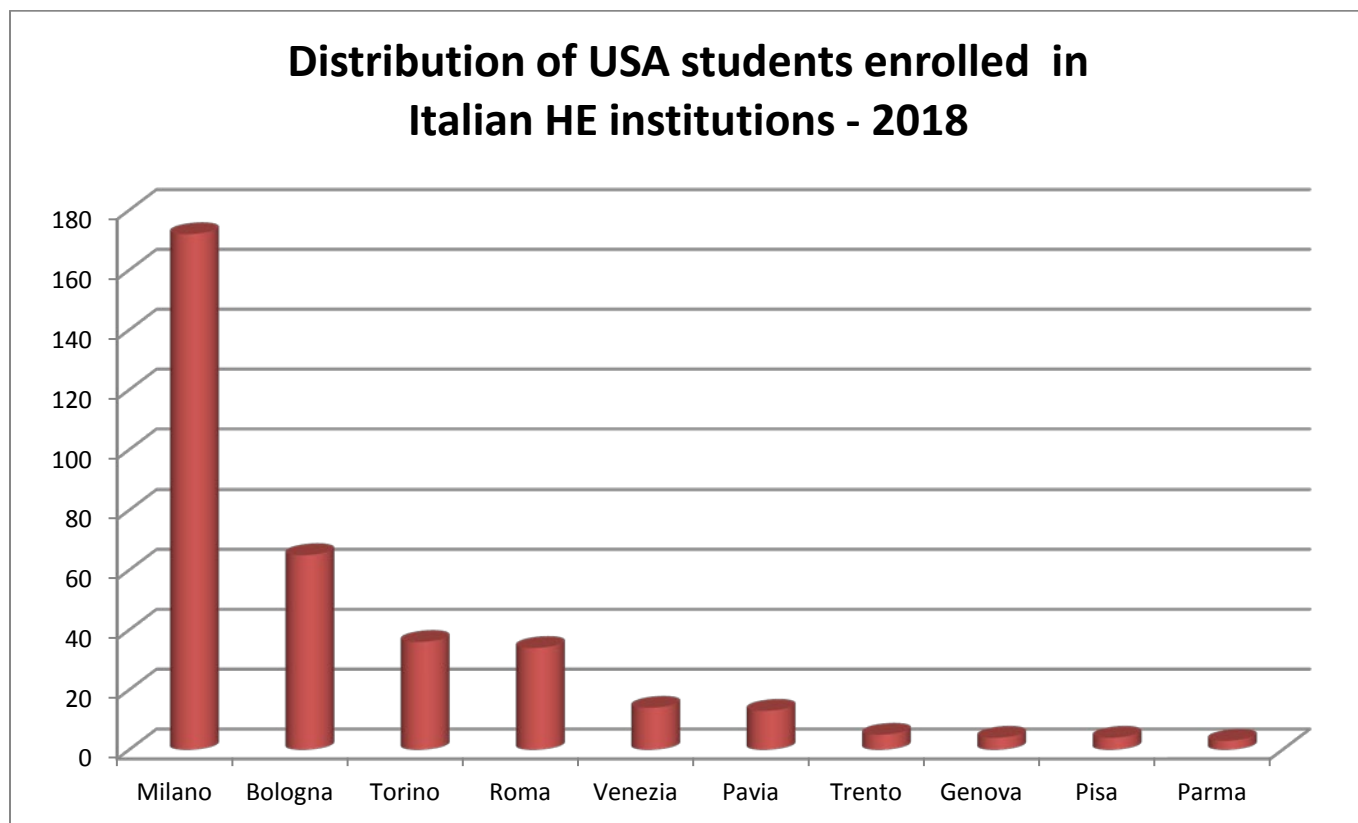
Bachelor double degrees in Mechanical Engineering, Automotive Engineering, Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Telecommunication Engineering are involved.

USA students enrolled in Italian Higher Education Institutions

If we do not analyze now formal agreements among institutions but personal choices of students, for what concerns American students in Italy (we do not have data concerning Italian students in USA) **regularly enrolled** in Italy in Universities or in Fine Arts Academies or in Conservatories so far we have complete data until 2018.

The survey does not include the students (many more) who come only for *short periods* or for *summer school*, both for the lower level of interaction between institutions in this type on mobility, and mainly for the difficulty in finding meaningful data.

Using as a criterion of distribution the host town chosen by the students, for the year 2018 we get the following graphic, that gives useful information about what US students prefer in terms of universities and perhaps in terms of degree and quality of reception services.



The institutions are:

Milano: Università di Milano, Università di Milano Bicocca, Politecnico di Milano, Bocconi, Università Cattolica, Accademia di Brera, Nuova Accademia Naba, Conservatorio “G.Verdi”

Bologna: Università di Bologna,

Torino: Università di Torino, Politecnico di Torino

Roma: Università di Roma “La Sapienza”, Accademia di Belle Art, Accademia Costume e Moda, Conservatorio “Roma Santa Cecilia”

Venezia: Università di Venezia “Ca` Foscari”, Accademia Belle Arti.

Pavia: Università di Pavia

Trento: Università di Trento

Genova: Università di Genova,

Pisa: Università di Pisa

Parma: Conservatorio