Agreement of Cooperation for a Strategic Partnership
between the
Université de Montréal
and the
University of Cologne

I. Strategic Partnership
In accordance with their long standing and successful research cooperation and based on the mutual agreement of 2008, Université de Montréal and the University of Cologne are determined to structure and enhance their areas of collaboration in order to reach a sustained level of academic partnership, which includes both teaching and research activities. For both universities this cooperation is part of an international network of highly-sought partners, among whom multilateral cooperation is also welcome.

II. Concrete measures of cooperation
Université de Montréal and the University of Cologne hereby state their mutual commitment to not only fostering and supporting joint projects, but actively encouraging and stimulating cooperative activities. To this end, both partners agree upon the principle of continued cooperative activities described below and upon supportive instruments and financial measures, which shall be applied in defined areas of mutual interest.

III. Spirit and type of cooperative activities
In particular, the University of Cologne and Université de Montréal intend to promote those cooperative activities in research and teaching which are:
1. of long standing and target-oriented character
2. embedded in long-term cooperative structures
3. part of a sustained and international teaching program
4. focused on raising third party funds for joint teaching and research projects
5. aimed at establishing/preparing a new long term activity determined by one or more of the details given in Appendix 2.
Cooperative activities may notably include:

a) Exchange of faculty members
b) Exchange of students at all levels (B.Sc., M.Sc., and Ph.D.)
c) Joint research projects
d) Joint Ph.D. mentoring (e.g. exchange of PhD students; development of a cotutelle PhD program)
e) Joint conferences, symposia, or workshops

IV. Supportive instruments and measures
The following measures aim to promote and support long standing cooperative activities. They are designed to foster students and researchers in bilateral exchange activities and they encourage university departments in collaborative research activities and in jointly applying for third party research funding.

a) Exchange of faculty members
   Both partners will promote the exchange of researchers and faculty members. Faculty exchange is open to any postgraduate scholar officially nominated by the home university, provided the exchange is part of an activity according to the following paragraphs b)-e).

b) Exchange of students at all levels (B.Sc., M.Sc., and Ph.D.)
   Student exchange parameters are specified in Appendix 1. Both partners agree to prefer student exchange within coordinated programs (see paragraph d) over individual student exchange.

c) Joint research projects
   Both partners will be committed to promoting collaborative research as well as individual areas in which collaboration may be stimulated.

d) Joint student mentoring
   Both universities encourage institutes and departments to cooperate in PhD supervision by facilitating the exchange of students, by developing a cotutelle program, by jointly organizing PhD workshops and by striving towards joint or double degree PhD programs.

   Both universities will provide comprehensive resources and administrative support for facilitating student mobility. The partner will also be informed about postdoctoral fellowship vacancies, deadlines and application procedures for Graduate Schools and PhD programs.
e) Joint conferences, symposia or workshops
   Joint conferences should result from joint research projects and teaching seminars.

V. Commitment
Both universities will commit resources and administrative support in order to foster a sustained and comprehensive academic exchange partnership. This may include the introduction of special incentives, target agreements and compulsory duties or minimal standards in the field of internationalization for chairholders, new appointees, departments, faculties, as well as graduate schools and single research centers.

The partner universities will waive tuition for exchange students and will grant them exchange student status, providing they are enrolled in their respective universities.

VI. Contract period
This agreement is valid for three years (2017/09/16) and becomes effective on the date that it is signed by the official representatives of both institutions. This agreement may be reviewed at any time and any modifications concerning the present agreement may be made only by mutual consent in writing between authorized representatives of the parties. If either institution desires to terminate the agreement, it must inform the other in writing at least one year before. Otherwise the agreement will be automatically extended by another three years.

At least every three years, authorized representatives of both universities will define new objectives for selected fields of cooperation, which will be annexed to this agreement in the form of a letter of intent.

September 16, 2014

On behalf of
Université de Montréal

Prof. Dr. Guy Breton
Rector of the Université de Montréal

On behalf of
University of Cologne

Prof. Dr. Axel Freimuth
Rector of the University of Cologne
Appendix 1

Terms of the student exchange program

All candidates admitted to either educational system with the purpose of following a duly authorized study program must comply with the following terms:

- Have completed the equivalent of at least one year of full-time study in the program in which the candidate is enrolled in the home institution and remain enrolled in said program during their stay in the receiving institution;
- Possess an excellent academic record;
- Meet the specific requirements of both the home and host institutions.

Candidates accepted into the exchange program:

- Remain enrolled full-time in the home university to which they pay their tuition fees. The participating institutions agree not to require the payment of tuition fees from the students they welcome;
- Will study full-time for at least one semester but no longer than one academic year in the host institution, in a study program approved by the home institution;
- Will generally be accepted by the host university, while the host university retains the right to review the students nominated for exchange and to make final admission decisions. The host university shall provide formal letters of admission and other documents for the students to enrol and study in the host university. Participating students will need to apply within the host university abiding by local procedures and application deadlines;
- Are responsible for:
  a) various costs required by the host institution (administration, student activity and health insurance), said costs to be made known in advance. For Cologne, a liability insurance and an insurance against accidents is highly recommended.
  b) transportation and living expenses (room and board) for themselves and their dependents;
- Must qualify for the financial assistance programs to which their enrollment in the home institution entitles them.

For the students, these exchanges will result in an academic transcript issued by the host institution making it possible to validate this training by the home institution.
Appendix 2

IRTG/CREATE “Functional Materials and Surfaces”

For the current contract period (2014/09/16 to 2017/09/16), the Faculté des Arts et des Sciences of the Université de Montréal and the Faculty of Mathematics and Sciences of the University of Cologne (specifically through its key profile area “Quantum Matter and Materials”) are currently preparing a joint proposal for an International Research Training Group (IRTG) with the working title “Functional Materials and Surfaces”. The application will be jointly submitted to the DFG (Germany) and NSERC (Canada) through a CREATE program. Additional partners will be University of Bonn (Bonn, Germany), Polytechnique Montréal (Montreal, Canada), McGill University (Montreal, Canada), and INRS-Énergie, Matériaux et Télécommunications (Montreal, Canada).

For the current contract period, both universities will intensify their cooperation in terms of graduate student supervision within the planned IRTG “Functional Materials and Surfaces”, of which this is an integral part. Specifically, all members of the IRTG will spend about 6-12 months abroad (i.e., UdeM graduate students in Cologne and Cologne PhD students at UdeM). It is intended that (i) all participating graduate students will be co-supervised by a principal investigator from both countries and (ii) to eventually create a double degree within the duration of the IRTG (six years).

The University of Cologne pledges up to 7.500 € per year to support on-going activities. Université de Montréal will prioritize joint collaborative projects with funding to be evaluated yearly by a peer review committee from the Direction des relations internationales.

In addition, Université de Montréal agrees to support the 2015 NSERC/CREATE opportunities to the IRTG “Functional Materials and Surfaces”.

Dr. Geneviève Tanguay
Vice-rector, Research,
Innovation, Creation and International

Prof. Michael Bollig
Vice-rector, International Affairs
Dr. Gérard Boismenu  
Dean  
Faculté des arts et des sciences  

Prof. Ansgar Büschges  
Dean  
Faculty of Mathematics and Sciences  

Dr. André Charette  
Chair  
Department of Chemistry  

Prof. Dr. William Skene  
Canadian IRTG/CREATE-Speaker  

Prof. Dr. Klaus Meerholz  
German IRTG/CREATE-Speaker  
Vice-Speaker of the KPA “Quantum Matter and Materials”