



郑州西亚斯学院  
SIAS UNIVERSITY

## Sino-U.S. Dual Degrees & Double Diplomas

### Introduction to the Cooperative Educational Project with Fort Hays State University (Kansas, U.S.A.)

In 2000, with the approval of the Academic Degree Committee of the State Council, Sias University was given the approval to implement an overseas Bachelor's Degree in a cooperative education project with Fort Hays State University (FHSU). In 2006, Sias passed the qualification review of Chinese and foreign cooperatively-run universities by China's Ministry of Education. In July 2007, with the approval of the Ministry of Education, 3 cooperative undergraduate programs were implemented at Sias - Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA), Bachelor of Arts (BA), and Bachelor of Science (BS). They included 6 majors - Business Administration, Finance, International Economy & Trade, English, Information Management and Information Systems, and Nursing. They require students to complete credits recognized by China and the United States (different credit requirements for each major). Before taking the 5th American course (the 13th American course credit), students are required to pass one of the 3 language tests - TOEFL (61), IELTS (5.5), or the HLI.

In addition to the graduation certificate and the bachelor's degree certificate issued by Sias University, students who meet the requirements of the graduation regulations of both China and the United States can also obtain a bachelor's degree certificate, for relevant academic majors, from [Fort Hays State University](#).

The cooperative educational project with Fort Hays State University has produced over 10,000 graduates. They are often highly praised by their employers for their English, professional knowledge, and communication skills. Some graduates have gone on to pursue degrees at Peking University, Tsinghua University, the University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University, New York University, Birmingham University, the University of Sydney, and the University of Melbourne.



## **Introduction to the Cooperative Educational Project with the University of Arizona (Arizona, U.S.A.)**

The [University of Arizona \(UA\)](#), founded in 1885, is a "public Ivy League" university in Arizona, U.S.A. The National Science Foundation (NSF) ranked the University of Arizona 21st among public universities in the United States, and its Arts & Humanities were ranked 11th by Thames Higher Education. The university has top teachers, that have included 5 Nobel Laureates and 2 Pulitzer Prize winners. The Fred Fox School of Music at the University of Arizona has also won several honors.

In 2020, the cooperative undergraduate education program in Music Performance between Sias University and the University of Arizona was approved by the Ministry of Education. Among the 44 Sino-foreign cooperative educational projects approved by the Ministry of Education, this is the only music and art project in China. Sias University is also one of two universities with such programs among all the private colleges and universities in China.

The project offers undergraduate education in music performance. It plans to recruit 120 students every year with 480 students in the 4-year program. It adopts the "4+0" double degree training method and international teaching system. The University of Arizona will provide nearly 80% of the course content for the professional courses, which is far higher than the requirements of the Ministry of Education, which requires no less than 1/3rd of all professional course material to be provided by the international partner. Several teachers from the University of Arizona teach at Sias, and many are taught one-on-one.

Students can obtain an overseas undergraduate degree in 4 years without going abroad. During the degree, students are given access to high-quality educational resources from both China and abroad. The bachelor's degree will be in Music Performance and a graduating student will receive a certificate from Sias University and the University of Arizona.



## **American Degree Program**

### ***1. Introduction to Fort Hays State University***

Fort Hays State University (FHSU), founded in 1902, is a public university funded by the Kansas State Government with tax, and recognized by the North Central University Management Committee. It mainly implements 4-year undergraduate degrees and postgraduate degrees in Arts, Science, and Applied Disciplines. There are over 10,000 registered students, and the ratio of students to professors is 17:1. The students come from across 103 counties in Kansas, 36 states in the United States, and 33 countries and regions across the world. The university covers an area of over 2,600 acres, with 35 teaching buildings.

## *2. Sino-U.S. Cooperation for Bachelor's Degree Program*

The Kansas International School at Sias University is responsible for the implementation of the cooperative Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA), Bachelor of Arts (BA), and Bachelor of Science (BS) degrees, with academic majors in Business Administration, Finance, International Economy & Trade, English, Information Management and Information Systems, and Nursing. The Kansas International School has more than 4,600 students and 230 faculty members, which include more than 40 foreign teachers. Teachers with Doctoral and Master's degrees form the backbone of the faculty and have laid a solid foundation for academic course creation at the school.

In terms of teaching management, the Kansas International School integrates the teaching resources of Sias University and Fort Hays State University to combine the reality of China's social and economic development, create teaching content, and refine the teaching management, according to international standards and practices. One-third of the course is taught in English by American teachers employed by Fort Hays State University, and the remaining two-thirds are taught by teachers from Sias University. The school is equipped with modern teaching hardware facilities and has set up a campus internship base that helps students combine their theory with practice.

## *3. What is the Practical Significance of Awarding Overseas Degrees at Sino-Foreign Cooperative Universities?*

For the province of Henan, the significance of awarding overseas degrees, as stated in Henan Daily (July 28, 2000) and the Zhengzhou Evening News (July 29, 2000):

- a. It fills gaps in Henan's higher education system.
- b. It makes up for the relative shortage of colleges and universities in Henan and opens up a new path for nurturing high-quality professionals that are needed by the country.

For individuals:

- a. The bachelor's degree certificate from Fort Hays State University has been recognized in China and internationally. It has advantages concerning employment, particularly in foreign-funded enterprises.
- b. All students who are in bachelor's degree programs at Fort Hays State University are required to pass the TOEFL (61), IELTS (5.5), or the HLI examination so that they can understand their American teachers and their American textbooks. Graduates show a high fluency in English compared to graduates from other universities. This is an obvious career advantage.
- c. Since Henan and Kansas have existing ties, the state government offers preferential treatment to students from Sias, with certain project expenses and tuition fees potentially covered by Kansas government tax subsidies (up to 2/3 of tuition fees). Chinese students who complete 42 credits can complete the degree requirements of Fort Hays State University for a Bachelor's Degree. Compared with studying abroad in other universities, students who study for the Sias-FHSU degree not only save on tuition but also travel and living expenses. The bachelor's degree certificate is the same as those obtained by students studying in the United States.

#### *4. Graduation Requirements for Students (BBA, BA, BS)*

- a. Students must complete a total of 124 credits in a specified course, including 82 credits from Sias University and 42 credits from Fort Hays State University.
  - b. Students are required to prove their English language proficiency after completing 12 credits of American courses. This requires a student to take the TOEFL (no less than 61), IELTS (no less than 5.5), or the HLI exam (two scores of 80 or more, or one score of 70 or more in 3 parts). If a student fails to meet these requirements, and therefore cannot prove that they have the required fluency in English to continue studying the remaining courses, the student's study of American courses will be suspended. Only when a student passes the requirements for English fluency can they continue studying their American courses. The credits obtained before the suspension are valid.
  - c. The GPA of all subjects is above 1.0. The GPA of all American courses is greater than or equal to 2.0. The GPA of all Sino-U.S. courses is greater than or equal to 2.0. If these requirements have not been met within 4 years, the student may extend their time to remedy the situation.
- The concept of the GPA (Grade Point Average) is as follows: A = 4.0 ; B = 3.0 ; C = 2.0 ; D = 1.0.

#### *5. Rules and Regulations for Studying FHSU Courses*

- a. Students studying FHSU courses must abide by all the rules and regulations of Sias University, such as the 'Code of Conduct for University Students', 'Relevant Provisions on Student Status Management', 'Examination System', and 'Leave System'. If they violate the rules and regulations of the university, they shall be dealt with according to the regulations, with a maximum punishment of expulsion.
- b. TOEFL, IELTS, and Michigan examinations must be passed on time, otherwise the student's American courses will be suspended.
- c. Students who fail American courses are not permitted to take make-up examinations and must take the course again.
- d. The required GPA of a Chinese course in the first semester is  $\geq 2.0$ . Students studying for the FHSU bachelor's degree can begin to study FHSU courses in the third semester. If the GPA of a student's Chinese courses does not meet the requirements ( $\geq 2.0$ ), they must apply to start studying American courses in the next semester, after their GPA reaches a minimum of 2.0.
- e. The semester in which students begin studying American courses is called the first FHSU semester. Students who have started studying American courses will be put in the warning period if their GPA is in the following range: 6-12 FHSU credits, GPA between 1.40 - 1.99 ; 13-21 FHSU credits, GPA between 1.70 - 1.90 ; 22-33 FHSU credits, GPA between 1.80 - 1.94 ; over 34 FHSU credits, GPA between 1.86 - 1.95. During the warning period, students can still take FHSU courses, but they should improve their language level and make their GPA reach the graduation standard (2.0 or above). If their grades continue to be low, they may be suspended from taking FHSU courses.
- f. Students who have completed at least 12 credits of FHSU courses will be suspended by FHSU if their GPA fails to meet the following standards: 12 FHSU credits, GPA less than 1.4 ; 13-21 FHSU credits, GPA less than 1.7 ; 22-33 FHSU

credits, GPA less than 1.8 ; over 34 FHSU credits, GPA less than 1.86. During the suspension period, students are not allowed to take any FHSU courses, but can continue to study Chinese courses. The suspension period is for one semester. After the suspension period, students can automatically resume their FHSU courses. If, in the second attempt, the GPA meets the criteria for suspension, the student will be dismissed by FHSU and will no longer be allowed to take FHSU courses.

Note: The GPA is the standard by which a student is stopped from their FHSU course, so the student may be stopped from their course without warning.

*6. After 4 Years of Study, a Student's Learning Quality can be Guaranteed*  
Improving the teaching quality is a constant theme of colleges and universities. A high teaching quality leads to graduates who can meet the needs of the development of society. For students who are willing to put in the effort, Sias provides excellent teaching services.

1. Flexible mechanisms

- a. Students choose their majors according to their interests and specializations within the scope of cooperative educational projects.
- b. Students can enroll for double degrees in one place at the same time. This is not possible with other colleges and universities in Henan.

2. A good team of teachers. The faculty includes over 90 foreign teachers and has over 70% associate professors. This is rare in colleges and universities in Henan. The level of teachers is key to ensuring a high quality of teaching.

3. Continuously improving teaching conditions include the facilities, computers, multimedia classrooms, language rooms, a large number of Chinese and foreign textbooks, sports venues, and so on. They provide a guarantee for improving the teaching quality.

4. Superior educational environment. In addition to the beautiful campus environment, there are frequent visits by foreign delegations for students to have more opportunities to access the rest of the world, understand the world, broaden their horizons, and expand their knowledge.

5. Standardized teaching management. The university has standardized various teaching rules and regulations which have given clear provisions for both rewards and punishments, from enrollment to graduation and the awarding of degrees. The focus is particularly on the reform of the student examination and assessment scoring standards, the GPA system, teaching leadership, and foreign teachers' teaching of American courses. It provides a base for guiding students to improve their enthusiasm for learning.