



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Executive Committee of Faculty Council (April 4, 2023)  
Faculty Council (April 26, 2023)

**From:** Professor Craig Steeves  
Vice-Dean, Graduate Studies

Professor Tobin Filleter  
Department of Mechanical & Industrial Engineering

**Date:** March 6, 2023

**Re:** **Closure of Dual Degree Program between the Department of Mechanical & Industrial Engineering and the South China University of Technology**

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### REPORT CLASSIFICATION

This is a major policy matter that will be considered by the Executive Committee for endorsement and forwarding to Faculty Council for vote as a regular motion (requiring a simple majority of members present and voting to carry).

### BACKGROUND

In 2013, a “3+2” program was created to allow students from the South China University of Technology (SCUT) to complete, consecutively, the Bachelor of Engineering at their home institution with their fourth year of undergraduate studies and the Master of Engineering in the Department of Mechanical & Industrial Engineering. The program was formalized in 2017 as a Dual Degree Program (DDP) with an accompanying MOA.

### PROPOSED

It is proposed that the Dual Degree Program be closed. It has seen very low enrolment in recent years and it is not anticipated that there will be an increase in successful applicants or enrolment from SCUT.

### CONSULTATION PROCESS

In September 2022, admissions were administratively closed to the Dual Degree Program and SCUT was informed that the program would not be renewed. The Vice-Provost, Academic Programs, the Department of Mechanical & Industrial Engineering, and the Faculty’s Engineering Graduate Education Committee have been consulted and support this proposal.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL**

THAT the Dual Degree Program between the Department of Mechanical & Industrial Engineering and the South China University of Technology, as described in Report 3741, be closed effective August 31, 2023.

# University of Toronto Proposal

## Closure of an Existing International Dual Degree Program (Graduate or Undergraduate)

This template has been developed by the Office of the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs in line with the [University of Toronto's Quality Assurance Process \(UTQAP\)](#). The process followed for the closure of any program is the same as that required for the approval of any new such program.

Closure proposed:	Dual Degree Program involving the University of Toronto's Department of Mechanical & Industrial Engineering and the South China University of Technology's School of Mechanical & Automotive Engineering
Department:	Mechanical & Industrial Engineering
Department contact:	Prof. Tobin Filleter
Faculty/academic division:	Applied Science & Engineering
Faculty/academic division contact:	Prof. Craig Steeves, Acting Vice-Dean, Graduate Studies Caroline Ziegler, Faculty Governance & Programs Officer
Effective date program was administratively suspended to new admissions:	September 2022
Effective date of full closure of program:	August 31, 2023
Version date:	March 6, 2023

### 1 Brief Summary

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- Clarify precisely what is being closed.
- Describe the relationship between what is being closed and any remaining offerings.
- If only part of a program is being closed, clarify the relationship between this and those portions of the program that will remain open.

This proposal is to close the Dual Degree Program between U of T and the South China University of Technology (SCUT) that allows SCUT students to complete, consecutively, the Bachelor of Engineering at their home institution, with their fourth year of undergraduate studies at U of T, and the Master of Engineering at U of T.

## 2 Rationale

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- You may wish to speak to when the program was first created; how long has it been offered; past success of the program.
- What has led to the decision to close the program?
- Provide a full academic rationale, referring for example to changing enrolment; changing disciplinary landscape; shifting expertise of the professoriate; poor quality of the academic offering; overlap with other existing programs.
- Where appropriate, quote from recent unit or program reviews.
- Explain alignment with the unit's academic plan.

The program was first created in 2013 as a “3+2” program under an original Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between FASE and SCUT. In 2017 a FASE/SCUT proposal and MOA was established to formalize a dual degree program. This MOA expired in December 2022. In September 2022, a letter was sent by the FASE Dean to SCUT indicating the intention to close the program. This was the result of an internal U of T leadership review of the program resulting in a recommendation to not extend or renew the agreement beyond December 2022.

In the 2017 proposal the primary goal of the program was the following:

“... the DDP will support the MIE and FASE goals of increasing the number of international undergraduate students and growing the professional MEng program, and more broadly, contribute to the University goal of strengthening and deepening key international partnerships.”

Due to the very low enrolment of this program in recent years (see section 4 below) the program has not appreciably contributed to growing the number of international undergraduate students or the MEng program. Furthermore, given that the offer rate for the MIE MEng program has reduced significantly in the last few years due to increasing general demand in the MEng program, we do not anticipate any increase in the successful applicants or enrolment from SCUT. In fact our records indicate only two successful enrolled students in the dual degree program in the last five years.

## 3 Impact on Other Programs/Units of the Proposed Closure

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- Provide evidence of consultation with any programs/units/faculties that will be affected.
- Describe the positive and negative implications that need to be considered in the closure.
- Describe the impact on the nature and quality of the division's program of study.
- Describe the impact of closure on other units including inter-divisional and inter-institutional agreements/contracts.
- Mention if the courses that supported this degree, program or program option will continue to be offered.

There is no anticipated impact on other programs/units at U of T. As indicated in the proposal's rationale section, the MOA with SCUT expired in December 2022 and the FASE Dean informed SCUT that the Faculty did not wish to renew the agreement. All courses that were available to support this program will continue to be offered as part

of the regular MIE undergraduate and MIE MEng programs. There were never any dedicated courses designed or introduced specifically for this program.

## 4 Student Accommodation

- Include the current enrolment showing breakdown, by year, in the program or option being closed.

**Table 1: Graduate Breakdown**

	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Enrollment: Undergraduate Non-degree	NA	NA	2	1	1	0	0	0
Enrollment: Special student (Year 1 of dual degree)						0	0	0
Enrollment: Master of Engineering (Year 2 of dual degree)	2	4	3	4	2	1	1	1
Total	2	4	5	5	3	1	1	1

- Provide details concerning how students in progress will be accommodated.
- Will students be allowed to complete their program or be transferred to another program? In the latter instance, comment on the ease with which they can complete the requirements of the new program and show evidence of consultation, if relevant.
- Deadline by which accommodated students must complete the program – if there are grounds for concern, what are their options if they have not completed the program by that deadline?
- Describe the capacity/course availability to accommodate affected students.
- Can inactive students reactivate to the closed program?
- What will the impact of the proposed closure be on the range of academic options available to students in the future (i.e., are there other programs or options that will fill the void that may or may not be created by the closure)?
- Provide details concerning consultation with students around the proposed change, including meetings, town halls, emails, questionnaires as well as any response or feedback received
- Describe how students will be notified of the change following approval.

There is currently only one student enrolled in the program. They will complete the program requirements in Winter 2023 prior to the planned program closure in August 31, 2023. The student has been consulted by the graduate office staff who had indicated that a proposal to close the pathway has been developed, however, this will not occur prior to the planned completion of the student’s program in August 2023.

## 5 Faculty/Staff Accommodation

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- Describe the impact, if any, on faculty and staff of the closure.

We do not anticipate any impact on faculty or staff.

## 6 Approvals Process

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The approvals pathway, including UTQAP requirements, is summarized below.

Steps	Dates
VPAP sign-off	March 6, 2023
Departmental (MIE) sign-off	March 8, 2023
Decanal (Vice-Dean, Graduate Studies) sign-off	March 8, 2023
Engineering Graduate Education Committee (EGEC) sign-off	March 10, 2023
Faculty Council approval	April 26, 2023
Submission to Provost's office for information and inclusion in annual report to Quality Council	April 2023