**The Concept of the Bachelor’s Double Degree Programme in Economics,**

**NRU HSE and the University of London**

**General characteristics of the educational programme**

The aim of the Bachelor’s Double Degree programme of the University of London and HSE at ICEF is to prepare highly qualified specialists in the field of Economics and Finance, that have knowledge of modern economic theory and practical skills on the modern world-class level. The programme provides a unique integrated curriculum that includes the educational standards of HSE and the University of London. ICEF implements the programme with the academic support of the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

ICEF graduates have the necessary training, knowledge and skills to develop professional and academic careers in the modern global world in various language, cultural and professional environment.

The programme is based on the academic principles of intellectual freedom and the creation of conditions for self-realization, critical approach to socio-economic phenomena and processes, focus on quality education and research, openness and transparency of education and knowledge assessment, equal and high student selection criteria and equal opportunities for all students and teachers.

**Academic management**

The programme is academically managed by ICEF International Academic Committee which includes HSE and LSE representatives. IAC is responsible for teachers’ selection, approval of courses’ curricula and syllabi, monitoring course content and the quality of teaching. The IAC delegates a part of academic responsibilities to the Programme Council. The daily academic management is carried out by the Programme Academic Subcommittee.

**Programme Schedule**

The undergraduate ICEF programme is designed for 4 year full-time studies. Completing the study programme provides 240 credits. The curriculum of the Bachelor’s degree in economics includes the courses of the University of London International Programme, and the courses required for Russian state BSc degree. Teaching is provided in the form of lectures, classes, and most importantly self-studies. In their self-studies students use educational resources and learning methods of the University of London and HSE.

The programme graduates receive the HSE Bachelor's degree in economics and the Bachelor's degree from the University of London in chosen specialization. There are 6 specializations in the Programme: "Economics", "Economics and Finance", "Economics and Management", "Banking and Finance", "Mathematics and Economics" and "Accounting and Finance". The programme development includes extension of the list of specializations in Economics, Finance and related areas.

**Features of the educational program**

Double Degree Programme in Economics of the University of London and HSE is based on the unique integrated curriculum, teaching methods, knowledge evaluation criteria and information resources of the two universities.

Teaching is done in English. On the basis of some optional courses students have the opportunity to get skills of professional communication in Russian as well.

The teaching of core professional subjects is provided by teachers with PhD degrees received in the world's leading universities, and selected on a competitive basis by ICEF IAC.

Double system of students’ knowledge evaluation provides independent assessment of their knowledge. Along with internal HSE knowledge control system it includes the external independent examinations of the University of London, as well as international examinations on the first year and the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Internal exams are held 3 times a year, and international exams are held at the end of the academic year: ICEF International Exams and the IELTS for the year 1, and the University of London exams for the years 2-4.

Continuous monitoring of students’ progression: academic essays, group assignments, written homework.

Active involvement of students in ICEF research activities via their work in international laboratories, research projects, writing term papers and final Degree papers under the supervision of ICEF teachers hired on the global job market. ICEF teachers publish in the best international refereed journals.

Students’ access to the educational resources of two universities: teaching materials, online information systems VLE (University of London), ICEF-online (ICEF), LMS HSE, electronic library collections of the educational materials including study guides, problem sets, examination tasks, video lectures, slides, online forums with tutors and other resources. University of London supports the International programme with the materials, study methods and information resources in the online format.

**The Structure of the Educational Process**

The year 1 BSc students follow basic economic and mathematical disciplines, and take ICEF International Examinations in Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Calculus and Statistics, as well as the IELTS exam in English. On the Year 1 they also have electives in the areas of Information Systems and Programming, and in Intellectual History and Philosophy. After successful completion of the Year 1 programme, the students are transferred to the second year and admitted to the International Programme of the University of London (UoLIP). Students are free to choose any of UoL 6 programme specializations.

Every year at the UoLIP students study 4 subjects of chosen specialization and take international exams set by the University of London. In parallel, the students study the courses required for the HSE degree, the elective and optional courses.

The programme includes the following subject groups:

1. Economics: Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Econometrics

2. Mathematics: Calculus, Statistics, Mathematics for economists, Mathematical methods in Economics

3. Professional specialization courses: Accounting, Corporate Finance, Banking, Management Accounting, International Economics, Investment Management, Financial Intermediation, Quantitative Finance, Abstract Mathematics, Auditing, Financial Reporting, Optimization Theory, Financial Mathematics and Valuation, Monetary Economics, Industrial Economics, International Economics, Economics of Labour and other disciplines. Students can take other specializations’ courses as elective ones.

4. Humanities: Sociology, Intellectual History, Philosophy, Political Science, Jurisprudence, and other disciplines.

As a rule, the number of subjects that are studied simultaneously does not exceed six.

On the years 2-4 students’ research seminar is available, and students may do their research and prepare the term/degree papers under the supervision of internationally recognised researchers who publish in the international refereed journals.

ICEF provides special ICEF Academia programme for the most prepared, motivated and academically oriented students. For years 1-2 programme includes teaching key subjects at advanced level and professional elective courses, while for the years 3-4 students engage in research activities within the Advanced Research Programme.

A wide range of optional courses are available for the students of the Programme. These courses are aimed at development of additional knowledge and skills in accordance with the students’ preferences and interests. There are second foreign language programme (5 languages), development of soft skills, practical skills for activities on the financial markets, information computer technology skills and other courses. Specialists from the leading Russian and international companies and organizations working in the corresponding field are invited to teach these courses.

The integrated programme curriculum provides ICEF graduates with wide professional knowledge, enhances competencies for admission to MSc and PhD programmes of leading universities in the world, and extends the freedom of choice of the future profession.

**Teaching Faculty**

The full-time academic staff at ICEF is formed on the basis of open competition under the international procedures. The programme teaching staff includes highly qualified professionals with PhD degree, leading researchers in their professional areas. Main ICEF professional courses are taught by academics with confirmed international qualifications (PhD), recruited from the global academic job market. They obtained their PhD degrees in the best universities of Europe and North America. All teachers’ appointments for the programme is done by ICEF IAC which also provided regular assessment of their scientific and pedagogical activities. Teachers invited from the leading Russian and foreign universities, including the visiting lecturers from the London School of Economics and Political Science, are also a part of the faculty.

**Graduates of the Programme**

During their studies ICEF students acquire knowledge and skills for both professional and academic careers. They receive all needed competencies, both professional and personal (analytical, academic, managerial, pedagogical). International level education allows graduates to become employed in largest international commercial and investment banks, auditing and consulting companies, real sector corporations and enterprises, Government and other organizations. ICEF BSc graduates that want to pursue academic career are admitted to the leading graduate programs (MSc, PhD, MBA) in the best Russian and foreign universities, such as LSE, University of Oxford, MIT, Princeton, Stanford, Harvard, London Business School and others (about one-third of all graduates).

**Admission**

Russian and international candidates are admitted to the BSc programme with a diploma of completed secondary education and after they pass the entrance tests. The best candidates’ selection is done by the results of the Unified State exams or own HSE exams in Russian or English. The prize winners of Olympiads in Economics and Mathematics are also admitted to the programme. The Students admitted to the program are capable to successfully complete it. In terms of the Unified State Exams’ grades the admission standards usually correspond to 80 or more points for a subject (Math, English, Russian) on average.

**Tuition fees, discounts and scholarships**

The education is paid. The best students get discounts up to 100% for the whole period of study, and the scholarships. All students have equal conditions for paying the tuition fees and opportunities for discounts and scholarships. 1st year discounts that are calculated according to the results of the entrance exams and Olympiads may be extended to the next year in accordance with students’ progress on the programme.