

# NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier  
University



## Laurier partners with Chinese institute to offer sequential degree

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WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University is forging new links with one of China’s top software engineering schools by launching an initiative that will allow students from the Nanchang Institute of Aeronautical Technology (NIAT) to earn a Laurier science degree.

Representatives from the two universities will sign a partnership agreement today establishing the Academic Sequential Mobility Program. This program will create the first 2+2 sequential degree for Laurier’s faculty of science, which allows Chinese students who have completed their first two years at NIAT to finish the last two years of their degree at Laurier. The Chinese students will graduate with a Laurier bachelor of science degree in computer science.

“Laurier Science is making a proactive effort to enter into such agreements with high quality institutions outside of Canada in order to offer a global perspective,” said Arthur Szabo, dean of science. “Our students and faculty will benefit considerably from their interactions with students and researchers from other cultures and educational systems.”

The partnership agreement between Laurier and NIAT allows for joint research activities and the exchange of faculty members. Laurier’s department of physics and computer science will be collaborating with NIAT’s newly established school of software engineering, which has been identified by the Chinese Department of High Education as one of the leading schools of its type in China.

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Laurier will also be signing similar agreements with two other Chinese institutions, the Chongqing University of Posts and Telecommunications and Jiangsu University. These partnerships will allow Chinese students to enter Laurier's photonics program.

Laurier International co-ordinates the agreements and provides ongoing support to the international students after their arrival. Services involve admission to the sequential degree, document support for obtaining a visa, orientation to Canada, housing and social support.

Laurier International fosters the university's international activities by developing linkages for students, faculty and staff with international academic institutions and government agencies. In 2005-2006, students from more than 60 countries studied at Laurier. For more information on Laurier International, visit [www.wlu.ca/laurierinternational](http://www.wlu.ca/laurierinternational).

NIAT is located in Nanchang, a city in the southeast Chinese province of Jiangxi. With an enrolment of more than 23,000 students, NIAT is a comprehensive university that specializes in engineering, science, arts, and management programs. NIAT has partnerships with universities in France, Australia, Japan, Ukraine and Korea. Visit [www.niat.jx.cn](http://www.niat.jx.cn) for more information.