Michigan State University (MSU) is proud to announce the formation of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources International Scholars (CANRIS) program. The goal of the CANRIS program is to facilitate and sustain higher education experiences for scholars from countries in the Middle East. Under this program, students will be admitted provisionally to MSU. However, the student must meet the required GRE and TOEFL scores for full admission to a graduate program within the college. The TOEFL requirement may be waived if the student successfully completes the MSU English Language course curriculum. Failing to meet the GRE and TOEFL requirements will result in termination of student status at MSU. MSU has a long and successful history of educating and working with scholars and faculty from countries throughout the Middle East. Some of these countries include Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. This letter outlines expectations between CANRIS at MSU, participating Middle Eastern academic institutions and the visiting scholars.

A. PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES OF MSU FACULTY AND STAFF ASSOCIATED WITH CANRIS INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

1. Pre-Arrival
   (a) Answer any questions and provide information to visiting scholars and/or their home academic institution about MSU, CANRIS program, the State of Michigan and/or the Greater Lansing area;
   (b) Provide housing information to the visiting scholar; and
   (c) Provide any and all necessary information to visiting scholar for purposes of obtaining the necessary visa for study at MSU.

2. Visiting Scholar Arrival
   (a) Make arrangements to have the visiting scholar met at the airport (Lansing Capital Regional Airport or Detroit Metropolitan Airport) upon arrival;
   (b) Provide the visiting scholar with initial transportation to local store(s) to obtain necessary living necessities;
   (c) Assist the scholar in setting up a bank account with a U.S. banking institution;
   (d) Give the visiting scholar a general tour of MSU campus and an overview of the Greater Lansing area;
   (e) Assist the visiting scholar in enrolling in English language course, if necessary;
   (f) Assist the scholar with any visa and/or immigration matters, post-arrival;
   (g) Provide the visiting scholar with a welcome packet that will include information on MSU, CANRIS program, academic programs, contact information, campus activities, campus map and other helpful information; and
   (h) Provide MSU faculty/staff contact information to visiting scholar in case of emergency.

3. On-Going MSU Program Mentor Responsibilities
   (a) Make themselves available to the visiting scholar/home institution throughout the course of the scholar’s stay at MSU;
Promptly return any telephone calls or emails from the visiting scholar/home institution regarding any questions or concerns about their stay at MSU;

Introduce visiting scholars to MSU faculty who will assist in identifying the pertinent MSU academic programs based on the visiting scholar’s interests and skills;

Conduct workshops for MSU faculty/staff that will assist in enhancing knowledge about working with international scholars including but not limited to cultural briefings, academic needs and behavioral health and safety;

Create a series of workshops for visiting scholars periodically throughout their stay at MSU. Some of the topics will include but not be limited to returning to visiting scholars home institution, CV development and establishing collaborative research portfolios; and

Provide updates to visiting scholar’s home institution, upon request.

4. MSU Faculty Advisor
   (a) Visiting student will be matched with an appropriate MSU faculty member based on the visiting scholar’s area(s) of study; and
   (b) Regularly communicate with the MSU CANRIS program mentor about visiting scholar’s progress.

B. THE DUTIES OF THE PARTICIPATING MIDDLE EASTERN ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

1. Scholar Information
   Will provide MSU with any and all available and/or known information pertaining to the visiting scholar, including but not limited to:
   (a) Academic record and achievements;
   (b) GRE and TOFL test results; and
   (c) Funding details

2. On-Going Involvement
   Provide continued cooperation and assistance to MSU with regards to the visiting scholar throughout the course of their entire stay at MSU.

C. THE DUTIES OF THE VISITNG SCHOLAR INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

1. Program Costs*
   The visiting scholar shall be responsible for all costs related to tuition and board, health insurance, transportation, bench fee and books/materials.
   All payments must be received by MSU prior to the visiting scholar’s arrival

2. MSU Mentor/Faculty Advisor
   (a) Contact MSU CANRIS Mentor before departing home country and provide travel itinerary for travel to MSU;
   (b) Meet with their MSU Mentor and/or other designated MSU faculty/staff, as required; and
   (c) Immediately update MSU Mentor/Faculty Advisor on any change in circumstances that could adversely affect the visiting scholar’s participation in the CANRIS program.

3. Assimilation
   (a) Familiarize themselves with the relevant MSU academic programs based on their academic interests;
(b) Scholars will need to demonstrate that they are building a social network with peers and with the broader campus environment; and

(c) Enroll in an English class, if requested by the visiting scholar or deemed necessary by MSU Faculty Advisor.

Miscellaneous

This letter is not considered to be a binding contract creating legal and financial relationships between the institutions. Rather, its purpose is to outline what the expectations are for the institutions and scholars involved in the CANRIS program. The engaging institution shall designate a person as liaison to CANRIS program.

Michigan State University subscribes to a policy of equal opportunity, non-discrimination and affirmative action. University programs, activities and facilities are available to all without regard to race, color, gender, religion, national origin, political persuasion, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, height, weight, veteran status, age or familial status.

We look forward to training graduate students in many cutting-edge research programs in our College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Michigan State University.

Sincerely yours,

Muraleedharan G. Nair, Ph.D., CChem., FRSC.
Senior Associate to the CANR Dean
Professor, Department of Horticulture
1066 Bogue St., Room 420
East Lansing, Michigan 48824, USA
Telephone: (517) 355-5191 ext. 1406
Facsimile: (517) 353 0890
nairm@msu.edu
www.hrt.msu.edu/muralee-nair

This letter is written both in English and in Arabic.