Lehman College Department of Latin American & Latino Studies (LALS) &
The City College of New York (CCNY), Master's in the Study of the Americas
Bachelor's-Master's Accelerated Graduate Program
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

I. Purpose

Lehman College's Department of Latin American & Latino Studies (LALS) and The City College of New York's Department of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences (IAS) agree to establish a Bachelor's-Master's accelerated graduate program that permits eligible Latin American and Latino Studies majors (as defined below) to take up to 12 credits of graduate level courses in the MA in the Study of the Americas while completing their undergraduate degree at Lehman, with such courses counting toward both their undergraduate and graduate degrees, and secures their provisional admission to CCNY's MA in the Study of the Americas while still undergraduates, enabling the completion of both the undergraduate and Master's degrees in as few as five years rather than six. Lehman's LALS majors will apply to the program in Spring for admission in the Summer or Fall term, or in Fall for admission in the Spring term.
The program will be known as the LALS—MA Americas Accelerated MA program ("the accelerated graduate program").

II. Term

The term of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) shall be for the period beginning with the date of execution of this MOU and ending on May 25, 2028, and will be automatically renewed for successive two-year periods corresponding with the pertinent academic year. This MOU may be terminated by either party by providing written notice of such termination within thirty (30) days to the other, in which event the program shall terminate after the last cohort of students accepted into the program has completed all graduate coursework at CCNY that may be credited toward the undergraduate degree at Lehman

III. Scope

Lehman LALS students who have completed 75 undergraduate credits or more, including at least 30 credits earned at Lehman, who have maintained a cumulative CUNY GPA of 3.0 in the major and overall or higher, will be considered eligible to apply for the program. Students must complete at least 50% of their major or minor in residency at Lehman. To be eligible LALS students must have completed 21 major credits with a GPA of 3.5 or higher and have only major electives remaining. Students who have taken 21 credits in LALS courses but have not completed the major distribution requirements may be considered eligible for admission upon consultation with the department.

Applicants who successfully complete the admissions process (outlined below) will be informed of provisional admittance to the program by the end of the Spring semester for admission the following Summer or Fall, or by the end of the Fall semester for admission in the following Spring. In sequential years of the accelerated graduate program, different maximum enrollment standards may be agreed to by the Director of the MA Program and the Chair of LALS at Lehman.

Up to five applicants will be admitted per year. Additional applicants may be placed on a waiting list and the waiting list may be used to fill the place of any student who leaves the accelerated graduate program prior to commencing or during the first semester in the accelerated graduate program. Accepted students may earn up to **12** credits in CCNY graduate credit that will apply toward both their bachelor's degree at Lehman and their master's degree at CCNY: Of these 12 overlapping credits, up to 6 credits may apply toward the major (from LAC/LTS elective courses)

and an additional 6 credits may be taken as elective liberal arts credits through the partnership. Lehman students must register for IAS sections for cross-listed courses in order for these courses to count for IAS graduate credit.

Accepted students will be admitted to CCNY MA in the Study of the Americas pending successful completion of their bachelor's degree and earning a GPA of 3.0 or higher for the cumulative undergraduate coursework and the cumulative CCNY graduate coursework. Once students have received their undergraduate degree from Lehman, they will be admitted to CCNY MA in the Study of the Americas the following semester, and they will have to submit a graduate application. All other requirements applicable to CCNY students generally will also apply to accelerated graduate program students.

IV. Admissions Process

LALS majors who wish to apply to the accelerated graduate program should first notify their **Major** Advisor to receive advisement and information about the application process if they meet the minimum eligibility criteria in conjunction with the MA advisor. To apply for admission, students will be required to submit a one-to-two-page personal statement outlining their personal and academic rationale for joining the accelerated graduate program in the Study of the Americas. Students should demonstrate a commitment to pursuing a master's degree based upon their current program of study and/or work experience. With support from their **major advisor**, the student will submit their application, personal statement, and unofficial undergraduate transcripts to the joint LALS–CCNY Admissions Committee, which shall include the LALS Major Advisor and the MA Program Director (or their designees), who will review the materials together. Final decisions regarding provisional acceptances to the MA program will be made jointly by LALS and the MA Admissions Committee. LALS and CCNY will jointly issue a letter of acceptance, rejection, or waitlist status during the Spring and Fall semesters. CCNY will accept LALS undergraduate students to the MA program provisionally, with final acceptance to the MA program granted when the students have successfully completed IAS courses taken while they are undergraduates, maintained a CUNY GPA of 3.0 or higher for both cumulative undergraduate and graduate coursework, completed their bachelor's degree through Lehman. Following completion of their BA, students will need to resubmit their application to the MA in the Study of the Americas program as a formality to confirm transfer credits and confirming they have received their Bachelor's Degree.

V. Program of Study

Select courses in the Master's in the Study of the Americas will be offered as part of the accelerated MA program including:

IAS 52004	The Dominican People in the United States
IAS 60400	Religion in the Americas
IAS 60600	Music of the Americas
IAS 62400	Literary Landscapes of Slavery and Freedom
IAS A5000	Inventing the Americas
IAS A5010	Graduate Research Methodologies
IAS A5090	Urban Sustainability in the Americas
IAS A5104	Dominican Society: From African Slavery to Trujillo
IAS A6010	Gated Cities, Gated Communities, Gated Minds
IAS A6011	Populism & Popular Culture in the Americas
IAS A6111	Race and Nation in the Americas
IAS A6118	Indigenous Visions
IAS A6119	Cultures of Capital
IAS A6122	Power and Black Life: the Caribbean

IAS A6123 International Institutions
IAS A6130 Contemporary Gender Activism in the Americas
IAS A6140 Forced Migrations in the Americas
IAS A6170 The Power of Place: Youth and the City
IAS A6180 War and Justice in the 21st Century
IAS A6190 Who Cares? Self-Care and Caregiving in the Americas
IAS A6200 Women's Revolutionary Fiction in the Americas
IAS A6210 Postcolonial Caribbean Thought and Aesthetics IAS
A6230 Inequality and Social Mobility in the Americas IAS
A6280 Education and Race(ism) in the Americas
IAS A6290 Political Violence and Justice in Latin America
IAS A6300 Urban Security & Social Justice in the Americas
IAS A6400 Pandemic & Epidemic Narratives of the Americas
IAS A7010 MA Capstone Seminar

As well as additional courses as proposed and approved for inclusion by LALS department. The LALS department will review IAS course offerings each semester and identify the courses approved for Lehman students to take toward major and elective requirements.

VI. Tuition

All IAS graduate courses taken by Lehman undergraduate students participating in the 4+1 program will be e-permit courses, with credits that may be applied to their undergraduate degrees. As specified by the CUNY Fees Manual, the CCNY IAS permit courses that are applied toward the undergraduate degree will be covered by the student's undergraduate tuition at their home college. It is the parties' understanding that the University Budget and Finance Office will credit CCNY according to the rate set CUNY policy for e-permit courses taken by Lehman undergraduate students.

VII. Obligations of Lehman LALS:

1. Develop and maintain written materials and an informational webpage about the accelerated graduate program and provide an email point of contact for general inquiries.
   Conduct outreach and online information sessions (by invitation as needed) to educate students about the accelerated graduate programProvide advisement services to students interested in the 4+1 program and support the application processDesignate a coordinator/liaison to manage the program at Lehman and serve as the primary point of contact for the MA program
2. The coordinator/liaison is responsible for ensuring that the student is put forward for graduation review as soon as the undergraduate degree requirements are met.
3. LALS shall approve course offerings for the program each semester and advise students of newly available or updated courses.

VIII. Obligations of CCNY MA in the Study of the Americas:

1. Participate in outreach and information sessions to educate Lehman students about the Accelerated program
2. Waive the application fee
3. Process applications and provide general enrollment management services
4. Provide advisement services to students interested in the Accelerated program
5. Monitor the progress of the students in the Accelerated program

6. Work with the CCNY Registrar to ensure that credits associated with graduate IAS courses taken while a student is an undergraduate transfer and are appropriately applied to the student's master's degree at CCNY.
7. Promote the graduate sections of LALS courses offered through this program to all MA in the Study of the Americas students, not only those enrolled through the accelerated program at Lehman College.

IX. Joint Obligations

1. Draft outreach materials
2. Create an Accelerated program application
3. Conduct at least one online student information session per academic year
4. Coordinate key dates for events, including the information session, and application deadlines
5. Assist in processing e-permits and equivalencies to allow the undergraduate students to earn credit (as appropriate) for the graduate courses they take as undergraduates
6. Understand and agree that each party is responsible for providing the above-allocated and enumerated responsibilities and resources to meet the needs of this program as a whole
7. Further agree that except as set forth in this MOU, the parties are under no obligation to provide financial resources to one another
8. Review the terms of this agreement every five years

X. Entire Agreement

This MOU contains all of the terms of understanding between the parties and shall not be binding until signed by the CCNY Provost, CCNY Americas MA, Lehman LALS, Lehman Provost. All previous communications between the parties, whether written or oral, relating to the subject matter of this MOU are superseded.

Signed,

October 9, 2026 Signature Date Alyshia Gálvez, Department Chair, Latin American and Latino Studies	11/11/26 Signature Date Jorge Silva-Puras, Provost, Lehman College
October 29th, 2026 Signature Date Juan Carlos Mercado, Dean, Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences	11/3/26 Signature Date Tony M. Liss, Provost, City College