

**Memorandum of Understanding
on Education Cooperation between
the Department of Education and Youth
of the Province of Manitoba, Canada
and the Ministry of Culture
of the State of Lower Saxony, Germany**

I. PREAMBLE

Whereas the Department of Education and Youth of the Province of Manitoba, Canada (hereinafter “Manitoba”) and the Ministry of Culture of the State of Lower Saxony, Germany (hereinafter “Lower Saxony”) are committed to the facilitation of high quality language instruction in international languages in the schools of their respective jurisdictions;

Whereas Manitoba and Lower Saxony believe that reciprocal student exchange programs can enhance the quality of language instruction as well as provide important opportunities for cultural exchange, the development of global citizenship skills and the growth of intercultural understanding;

Whereas Manitoba and Lower Saxony believe that the quality of language instruction can be enhanced through the provision of opportunities for students to use language in real life situations; and

Whereas Manitoba and Lower Saxony have engaged in such educational cooperation for the past twenty-five years and would like to see such exchanges maintained and expanded;

II. PURPOSE

Therefore Manitoba and Lower Saxony hereby agree to encourage secondary schools within their respective areas of jurisdiction to engage in the reciprocal exchange of students based on the following principles:

- A. Participating students will register with their home institution and be responsible for any fees required by that institution. No tuition fees will be paid to receiving institutions.
- B. Room and board will be provided on an exchange basis among participating families.
- C. The cost of airfare, medical insurance, supplies and incidentals will be the responsibility of each participating student and his/her family.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Expenses

1. All expenses incurred by either party to this Memorandum of Understanding shall be borne solely by the party incurring them and neither party is obliged to reimburse the other unless agreed in writing.
2. Monetary or in-kind support for participating students, schools, teachers, administrators or chaperones may be provided at the discretion of each party. Arrangements for financial support made by one party to this Memorandum of Understanding do not obligate the other party to similar arrangements.

B. Duration, Renewal and Termination of the Memorandum of Understanding

1. This Memorandum of Understanding is effective on the date of signature and will remain in effect for five years from that time.
2. At the end of the five-year period, the parties can either choose to renew the current Memorandum of Understanding, amend and renew the Memorandum or terminate the Memorandum.
3. If one or both of the parties chooses to terminate the Memorandum, notification to that effect must be provided in writing as early as possible and no less than six months prior to the date of termination. Ongoing activities will be concluded as originally agreed.

C. Review and Amendment of the Memorandum of Understanding

1. The Memorandum will be reviewed on an annual basis by both parties to ensure that cooperation is progressing as planned.
2. Other mutually agreeable undertakings may be pursued in conjunction with this Memorandum. All changes or undertakings must be outlined in writing and signed by both parties.

D. Designated Contact Offices

1. Each party will designate an office that will be responsible for ensuring the integrity of the Memorandum and serve as the main point of contact for any questions or concerns arising from the Memorandum.
2. The designated contact offices for the Memorandum of Understanding are:

For Manitoba

Sheena Trimble
Director, International Education Branch
Manitoba Education and Youth
Manitoba Advanced Education and Training
330 – 800 Portage Avenue
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R3G 0N4 Canada

Tel: (204) 945-4034
Fax: (204) 945-1792
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For Lower Saxony

Burkhard Visbeck
Niedersächsisches Kultusministerium
Referat für europäische und internationale
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Referat 206

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Burkhard.Visbeck@mk.niedersachsen.de

IV. LIMITATIONS

- A. This Memorandum of Understanding is not intended to be legally binding or to impose legal obligations on either party and shall have no legal force or effect.
- B. Neither party to this Memorandum is responsible for the actions of third parties or associates who may be involved in the student exchange program.

V. RATIFICATION

Signed in duplicate in Hanover, Germany this 25th day of September 2003 in the English and German languages, each version being equally valid.

For the Province of Manitoba

For the State of Lower Saxony

original signed by

Ron Lemieux
Minister of Education and Youth

original signed by

Bernd Busemann
Minister of Culture