

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH OF THE
REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
AND
THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
ON
THE FULBRIGHT ACADEMIC EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Estonia and the Department of State of the United States of America (hereinafter jointly referred to as “the Participants” and, in the singular, “the Estonian Participant” and “the U.S. Participant,” respectively);

Noting the continuing successful cooperation in the area of education and science;

Considering the purposes set forth in the Agreement between the European Community and the United States of America Renewing a Programme of Cooperation in Higher Education and Vocational Education and Training, with Annex, signed at Vienna June 21, 2006 and entered into force April 1, 2007; and

Seeking to develop cooperation between educational, scientific, and research institutions of the United States of America and the Republic of Estonia in addition to promoting mutual understanding and friendship between our two nations;

Have reached the following understanding:

SECTION 1

The coordinator of this Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Department of State of the United States of America is the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in Tallinn (or the designated U.S. Embassy representative) and, on behalf of the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Estonia, the European Union and International Cooperation Department (or the designated Estonian representative).

SECTION 2

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to strengthen and develop ties between the Participants in the process of implementing the Fulbright Academic Exchange Program (“Fulbright Program”) in education, science, and research based on circumstances that are mutually beneficial.

SECTION 3

In implementing this Memorandum of Understanding, the Participants intend to exchange information about the participation of each country’s educational, scientific, and research institutions in the Fulbright Program in order to prioritize their educational, scientific, and research needs.

SECTION 4

The Participants expect that their participation in the Fulbright Program will stimulate the cooperation of education, scientific and research institutions in both countries and encourage improvement in the qualifications of academic professionals, scholars, educators and students, and the promotion of common scientific research projects.

SECTION 5

In carrying out this Memorandum of Understanding, the U.S. Participant is expected to coordinate the management of the Fulbright Program in the Republic of Estonia, organize the primary candidate selection for the Fulbright Program, as well as the development of scientific and teaching activities, and assess the need for additional academic exchanges.

SECTION 6

Each year, the U.S. Participant intends to nominate Estonian citizens who are students at higher education institutions in the Republic of Estonia, to study at universities in the United States, and to coordinate the sending of students who are citizens or nationals of the United States to academic and educational institutions in the Republic of Estonia for study, research, or academic internships.

SECTION 7

Each year, the U.S. Participant intends to nominate scholars who are citizens of the Republic of Estonia to lecture and/or conduct research at universities and scientific institutions in the United States, and to coordinate the sending of scholars who are citizens or nationals of the United States to academic and educational institutions in the Republic of Estonia for three-to-nine months of research or instruction.

SECTION 8

The U.S. Participant is expected to coordinate the funding and implementation of the Fulbright Program in the Republic of Estonia. The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) is expected to fund stipends, living allowances, travel costs, and health benefits for students, lecturers, and researchers participating in the Fulbright Program in the Republic of Estonia.

SECTION 9

In coordination with the U.S. Participant, the Estonian Participant is expected to fund the airfare of Estonian Fulbright Program scholars and students traveling to the United States who have received final approval by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board of the United States. The Estonian Participant may consider cooperation with the U.S. Participant in allocating additional resources for Fulbright scholarships for Estonian citizen students and scholars in fields of special interest to the Republic of Estonia. Arrangements for such opportunities should be worked out separately.

SECTION 10

In carrying out this Memorandum of Understanding, the Estonian Participant, adhering to laws and other legal acts that are valid in the Republic of Estonia, is expected to encourage governmental, educational, scientific, and research institutions to provide the most favorable conditions for the implementation of the Fulbright Program in the Republic of Estonia.

SECTION 11

The Estonian Participant intends to work with Estonian educational, scientific, and research institutions receiving participants in the Fulbright Program, to provide adequate and appropriate work space and equipment required for academic research; to assign advisers as needed; to grant access to libraries and archives of the host institutions; and to allow participants to attend programs, courses, lectures, and seminars of their choice.

SECTION 12

A. The Estonian Participant is expected to delegate one representative to participate in the bi-national Fulbright Selection Committee that conducts interviews of all Estonian candidates and selects and submits nominations to the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board of the United States.

B. In addition to a representative of the Estonian Participant, this Fulbright Selection Committee may include additional representatives from the U.S. Participant as well as U.S. and Estonian Fulbright Program participants or alumni. The nominations should be made in an open, merit-based competition. The selection criteria used to select the most appropriate candidates for the Fulbright Program include, in addition to those stated in the Policies of The J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, a candidate's: potential positive impact on the Republic of Estonia; ability to generate a "multiplier effect" expanding the reach of the Fulbright Program; ability to serve as a good representative of his/her home country; leadership potential and initiative; and academic qualifications and English-language proficiency.

SECTION 13

The Participants expect the academic exchanges foreseen under this Memorandum of Understanding to be implemented in accordance with the laws and regulations of their respective countries, including those concerning the availability of funds.

SECTION 14

The Participants are expected to exchange information about the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding and should resolve by consensus any disputes or ambiguities that may arise.

SECTION 15

A. This Memorandum of Understanding is intended to commence upon its signing by both Participants and to continue for a period of five (5) years, renewing automatically for an additional five-year period unless one of the Participants objects in writing to the other Participant.

B. This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended in writing by mutual consent of the Participants.

C. This Memorandum of Understanding may, at any time, be discontinued by either Participant. The discontinuing Participant should inform the other Participant in writing at least six (6) months in advance of its intent to discontinue.

Signed at *TALLINN*, this *19* day of *FEBRUARY*, 2015, in duplicate, in the Estonian and English languages.

FOR THE MINISTRY OF
EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA:

FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF
STATE OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA:

