

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
ON THE FULBRIGHT ACADEMIC EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Government of the United States of America, represented by the U.S. Department of State, and the Government of the Republic of Albania, represented by the Council of Ministers (hereinafter jointly referred to as "the Participants" and, in the singular, as "the U.S. Participant" and "the Albanian Participant," respectively);

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

Have reached the following understanding:

SECTION 1

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

SECTION 2

The Participants expect their participation in the Fulbright Program to stimulate cooperation between educational, scientific, and research institutions in both countries and to encourage improvement in the qualifications of academic professionals, scholars, educators, and students as well as the promotion of joint scientific research projects.

SECTION 3

The coordinator of this MOU on behalf of the U.S. Participant is the Public Affairs Section of the Embassy of the United States of America in Tirana (hereinafter referred to as "PAS Tirana") and, on behalf of the Albanian Participant, the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth (hereinafter referred to as "the Ministry").

SECTION 4

A. In carrying out this MOU, the U.S. Participant intends to coordinate the following: the management of the Fulbright Program in the Republic of Albania; the organization of

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the primary selection of candidates for the Fulbright Program; the development of teaching and scientific activities; and the analysis of the potential for additional academic exchanges.

B. The Participants intend that the selection of candidates for the Fulbright Program be open, based on merit, and conducted in accordance with the criteria established by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board of the United States, which are available at: <http://fulbright.state.gov/fsb/program-policies>. PAS Tirana may set more specific criteria, in line with Fulbright Program policies, which are openly announced at the time of the call for applications.

SECTION 5

A. Each year, the U.S. Participant intends to nominate students, academic staff, and professionals from higher education institutions and other institutions of the Republic of Albania to study at U. S. universities and to coordinate the participation of students, academic staff, and professionals from the United States in study, research, or academic training in academic institutions or other institutions of the Republic of Albania.

B. The Albanian Participant intends to delegate one representative to participate in the Selection Committee of the United States Embassy in Tirana to select students, academic staff, and professionals applying for the Fulbright Program.

SECTION 6

Each year, the U.S. Participant intends to nominate students from the Republic of Albania to study at United States universities for a twelve (12) to twenty-four (24) month period.

SECTION 7

Each year, the U.S. Participant intends to nominate academic staff and professionals from the Republic of Albania to lecture and/or carry out scientific research at U. S. universities and research institutions and to coordinate the research and/or lectures by academic staff from the United States at educational institutions, institutes, and inter-institutional research and development centers of the Republic of Albania for time periods ranging from between three (3) and nine (9) months.

SECTION 8

Each year, the U.S. Participant intends to nominate academic staff and professionals from the Republic of Albania to participate in professional development programs and exchange programs in the United States.

SECTION 9

The U.S. Participant intends to coordinate the funding and implementation of the Fulbright Program in the Republic of Albania. The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of

Educational and Cultural Affairs plans to fund studies, living allowances, travel costs, and health benefits for U.S. students, academic staff, and professionals participating in the Fulbright Program in the Republic of Albania.

SECTION 10

A. In coordination with the U.S. Participant, the Albanian Participant intends to offer financial support in the amount of 150,000 (one hundred and fifty thousand) Euros annually to support the costs of the Fulbright Student Program, in order to provide more opportunities for students, academic staff, and professionals participating in the Fulbright Program.

B. The Albanian Participant intends to initiate this contribution in Fall 2019 and continue through academic year 2024-2025. The Albanian Participant may consider further cooperation with the U.S. Participant through allocation of additional resources from the Excellence Scholarship Fund in the Republic of Albania for Albanian students in areas of particular interest to the Albanian Participant.

SECTION 11

In implementing this MOU, the Participants plan to exchange information on educational, cultural, scientific, and research institutions in the Fulbright Program to prioritize the educational, cultural, scientific, and research needs of these institutions.

SECTION 12

In implementing this MOU, the Albanian Participant intends to encourage governmental, educational, cultural, scientific, and research institutions to enable the most favorable conditions for carrying out the Fulbright Program in the Republic of Albania.

SECTION 13

The Albanian Participant intends to coordinate timely approval and issuance of legal documents required for U.S. students, academic staff, and professionals to participate in the Fulbright Program in the Republic of Albania.

SECTION 14

The Albanian Participant intends to work with its educational, scientific, and research institutions receiving participants in the Fulbright Program with the intention of providing appropriate work spaces and relevant equipment required for academic research, the establishment of advisers as needed, access to libraries and archives of the host institution, and to allow Fulbright Program participants to attend selected programs, courses, lectures, and workshops.

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SECTION 15

The Participants intend that the academic exchanges foreseen in this MOU be implemented in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory frameworks, including those related to the availability of funds.

SECTION 16

The Participants intend to exchange information on the implementation of this MOU.

SECTION 17

Upon implementation of this MOU, the Ministry intends to sign an agreement with the Institute of International Education (hereinafter "IIE"), regarding the modalities and procedures for the disbursement of funds contemplated in Section 10 of this MOU. IIE is in charge of administering all U.S. Department of State funds for the Fulbright program in Albania.

SECTION 18

- A. This MOU is intended to commence after notification by the competent authorities of the Participants of the completion of all necessary internal procedures, and to continue for a period of five (5) years.
- B. This MOU may be modified in writing by the mutual consent of both Participants.
- C. This MOU may be discontinued by either Participant at any time by giving written notice to the other Participant. The discontinuing Participant should endeavor to provide the other Participant with at least twelve (12) months' notice of its intent to discontinue.

Signed at _____, this 25 day of September 2019, in duplicate, in the English and Albanian languages. The Participants intend for the English language text to be the official version of the MOU.

For the Government
of the United States of America


Marie Royce, Assistant Secretary of State
for Educational and Cultural Affairs

For the Government
of the Republic of Albania


Gent Cakaj, Acting Foreign Minister