



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between the
UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA
and the
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
of Aruba

The parties to this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) are The University of West Florida, for and on behalf of the University of West Florida Board of Trustees, a public body corporate, hereafter referred to as (UWF) and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sustainable Development of Aruba (MESSD) hereby agree to implement an exchange program between the two institutions for the following purposes deemed to be mutually beneficial to both parties.

This Agreement sets forth the entire agreement of the Parties and supersedes all previous agreements, prior negotiations, discussions and proposals.

I. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The parties believe that it is in their best interests to encourage direct contact and cooperation between their leadership, faculty members, departments, institutes and other centers in order to foster the development of possible collaborative programs in educational areas to be agreed upon. This will be subject to availability of funding and the development of specific binding agreements. The parties have entered into this MOU for the purpose of setting forth their mutual understanding and agreement, with respect to such direct contact and the development of potentially sustainable collaborative programs.

University of West Florida is a leading comprehensive, accredited, public state University situated in Pensacola, Florida amid a nature lover's paradise with 25 miles of trails perfect for hiking, biking and marine research, distinguished for providing educational excellence in a small, personalized setting. It currently offers 70 undergraduate and graduate programs. UWF builds champions for life through their intercollegiate athletics program. UWF also offers over 1000 classes online and in the classroom per year. UWF also offers dual enrollment offering students the possibility to jump start college while finish High School.

Aruba's unique social-economic resources, a diverse multilingual population, and its commitment to invest in developing her human capital, provides valuable learning and opportunities for collaborative programming with University of West Florida. The current population of Aruba is about 110,000, together representing more than 90 nationalities. The economy of Aruba is mainly based on tourism, and almost all products are imported. Aruba is undergoing a transition period balancing the economic growth with a human centered approach. With its people's first approach Aruba is committed to the implementation of the sustainable development goals and has included nine accelerators in its National Strategic Plan. Aruba can provide research, exchange programs and collaboration opportunities in a safe and beautiful environment.

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II. DISCUSSION AND DEVELOPMENT OF POSSIBLE COLLABORATION

Within the fields of teaching and student mobility to be mutually designated, both parties agree to discuss and explore the development of any of the following general forms of cooperation:

1. The parties will encourage and develop cooperation and exchanges in the fields of applied technology, teacher education, curriculum/program development, STEM, sustainability programs, research, and other collaborative opportunities that may arise.
2. Collaborate on the development of program articulations for seamless transfer of students with a HAVO, VWO, MBO, GED Diploma by providing the information necessary to successfully develop, promote, and maintain the collaboration.
3. Encourage and facilitate closer relationships between University of West Florida; the Country of Aruba; University of Aruba (UA); Ministry of Education, Science and Sustainable Development; secondary and other post-secondary institutions; appropriate educational organizations; economic organizations; and the private sector establishments involved in education.
4. Exchange of information in fields of interest to both parties.

The parties anticipate that specific collaborative projects or activities that the parties wish to implement will, as appropriate, be undertaken pursuant to future agreements entered into according to applicable laws and rules of each party. Themes of joint activity and the conditions for utilizing the results achieved and arrangements for all forms of cooperation including visits and exchanges will be negotiated for each specific case. Both institutions understand that all financial arrangements will be negotiated and identified in an agreement prior to the commencement of the associated activities listed above.

III. TUITION REDUCTION AND ENROLLMENT COSTS

Tuition Discount. UWF will consider all Aruba students that have earned a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 (Dutch-system equivalency of 6,75) or higher in their last institution to be eligible for an out-of-state tuition waiver plus an additional USD 500.00 scholarship each semester, Fall and Spring semesters only. There is an annual maximum of five (5) students to be awarded per academic year. Aruba students shall be charged a reduced tuition rate equal to the Florida resident tuition rate. The Florida resident tuition rate is currently about a 66 percent (66%) reduction of the non-resident tuition rate. UWF shall charge Aruba students the same rate as charged to other UWF students for fees, on-campus housing, and food services. Aruban students will also receive an amount of USD 500.00 in scholarship from UWF to be deducted from their tuition fee. Students from Aruba shall be eligible for UWF scholarship for which they meet eligibility criteria and complete scholarship application procedures as published on the International Affairs website (<https://uwf.edu/academic-engagement-and-student-affairs/departments/international-affairs/scholarships-and-linkages/latin-american-caribbean-scholarship/>)

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IV. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP

All: To be eligible for the UWF resident tuition rate, all applicants from Aruba must:

1. Meet all requirements for international student admission to UWF as published on their website.
2. Must have a cumulative GPA of 2.75 (Dutch-system equivalency of 6,75) or higher during the whole education period.
3. Must provide proof of medical insurance that complies with the requirement of University policy, AC-6.00- 08/08 "Medical Insurance Coverage for Enrolled International Students"
4. Complete and comply with procedures for the release and reporting of their student records from UWF to the Ministry or its designee as established by UWF and the Ministry or designee.
5. Complete and comply with procedures and deadlines for fee payment to UWF as established by the Ministry or designee and UWF.
6. Must have finished a program that is not an online program.
7. Must acquire an F-1 Visa.
8. Must not be a student on an Athletic scholarship.
9. Meet eligibility requirements for a student loan awarded by the Government of Aruba.

V. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Term and Termination of Agreement. It is understood that this Memorandum of Understanding is not binding and the implementation will commence on the date of later signature, and will continue thereafter for five years, subject from time to time to revision or modification by mutual agreement. Representatives from both institutions will discuss the terms of a renewal at least six months prior to the natural termination of the current Memorandum of Understanding. Any student enrolled at UWF at the moment of termination and meeting all renewal academic requirements, shall be able to complete the program under the same conditions as stipulated under Section III.
2. Amendment of Agreement. This Agreement may be amended at any time by the written agreement of both Parties. Any amendments to this Agreement shall be in writing and approved in the same manner as was used to approve this Agreement.
3. The two institutions will undertake, individually and jointly, to identify external sources of support for joint projects.
4. Indemnification. Each party assumes any and all risk of personal injury and property damage attributable to the negligent acts or omissions of that party and its own officers, employees and agents while acting within the course and scope of their employment or agency. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed or interpreted as denying the University or other state entity any remedy or defense available under the laws of the State of Florida; the consent of the University to be sued; or a waiver of sovereign immunity of the University beyond the waiver provided in section 768.28, Florida Statutes.
5. The designated representatives of the parties for the purposes of monitoring and oversight of this Memorandum of Agreement are: the Director of the Department of Education (Aruba) and the Executive Director International Affairs (University of West Florida).

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have hereunto set their hands and seals as of the day and year below.

University of West Florida

Ministry of Education, Science and Sustainable Development of Aruba

By:

By:

DocuSigned by:
Martha Saunders
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Dr. Martha Saunders, President
University of West Florida

Armando Lampe
Dr. Armando Lampe,
Minister of Education, Science and Sustainable Development

04/03/2020
Date:

27 MAR 2020
Date:

By:

DocuSigned by:
Kim LeDuff
00644F05742D4B8...
Dr. Kim LeDuff, Vice President
Division of Academic Engagement
04/03/2020
Date:

By:

DocuSigned by:
Rachel Hendrix
07C0CAE0E2044C5...
Rachel Hendrix, Executive Director
International Affairs
03/31/2020
Date:

[Signature]
APPROVED AS TO
FORM AND LEGALITY
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL