

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

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the United States of America (hereinafter jointly referred to as “the Participants” and, in the singular, as “Lithuanian Participant” and “U.S. Participant”);

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

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

Considering that the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania and the Public Affairs Section of the Embassy of the United States of America in Lithuania have carried out academic exchange programs pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the United States of America on the Fulbright Academic Exchange Program signed at Vilnius January 31, 2008;

Seeking to develop cooperation between higher education and research institutions of the Republic of Lithuania and the United States of America, in addition to promoting mutual understanding and friendship between the two nations;

Have reached the following understanding:

Section 1

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 (hereinafter referred to as “Fulbright Program”) in higher education, science and research based on circumstances that are mutually beneficial.

Section 2

The coordinator of this Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Lithuanian Participant, the Ministry of Education and Science, which may be represented by a designated representative of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as “Lithuanian coordinating institution”) and on behalf of the U.S. Participant is the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in Vilnius, which may be represented by a designated U.S. Embassy representative (hereinafter referred to as “U.S. coordinating institution”).

Section 3

The Participants plan to exchange information about the participation of their respective country’s higher education and research institutions in the Fulbright Program in order to prioritize their higher educational, scientific and research needs.

Section 4

The Participants intend for their participation in the Fulbright Program to stimulate the cooperation of higher education and research institutions in their respective countries and encourage improvement in the qualifications of academic professionals, scholars’ knowledge, competencies and skills of students, and the promotion of common scientific research projects.

Section 5

In carrying out this Memorandum of Understanding, the U.S. Participant, through the U.S. coordinating institution, intends to coordinate the management of the Fulbright Program in the Republic of Lithuania, organize the primary selection of candidates for the Fulbright Program, as well as the development of scientific and teaching activities, and investigate the need for additional academic exchanges. Selection of candidates is expected to be open and merit-based, consistent with principles established by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

Section 6

Each year, the U.S. Participant, through the U.S. coordinating institution, intends to nominate the top ranked candidates from Lithuania, for the Fulbright Student Program, to study at U.S. universities and to coordinate the sending of U.S. students to higher education and research institutions in the Republic of Lithuania for study, research, or academic internships.

Section 7

Each year, the U.S. Participant, through the U.S. coordinating institution, intends to nominate scholars from the Republic of Lithuania to lecture and/or conduct research at U.S. universities and scientific institutions and to coordinate the sending of U.S. scholars to higher education and research institutions in the Republic of Lithuania for three (3) to nine (9) months of research or instruction.

Section 8

The U.S. Participant, through the U.S. coordinating institution, intends to coordinate the funding and implementation of the Fulbright Program in the Republic of Lithuania and in

the United States of America. The U.S. Participant, through the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, intends to fund stipends, living allowances, and health insurance for students and scholars (including lecturers and researchers) participating in the Fulbright Academic Exchange Program, depending on the availability of funds.

Section 9

To further assist with the management and administration of the Fulbright Program in Lithuania, the U.S. and Lithuanian Participants, through their coordinating institutions, plan to create selection committees to handle matters related to Lithuanian scholars' and Lithuanian students' application review, interviews, and selection of candidates.

The Lithuanian Participant is intended to have one seat, which carries with it one vote, on each selection committee for the Lithuanian scholar and Lithuanian student programs. The Lithuanian Participant's representative(s) may be appointed at the discretion of the Lithuanian Participant (or through its coordinating institution), but each position is to be filled by a new representative annually. All representatives are expected to have strong English language skills and a background (e.g., education and working experience) in education or educational administration.

Section 10

In carrying out this Memorandum of Understanding, the Lithuanian Participant, consistent with laws and other legal acts that are valid in the Republic of Lithuania, intends to encourage governmental, higher education and research institutions to provide the most favorable conditions for the implementation of the Fulbright Program in the Republic of Lithuania.

Section 11

The Lithuanian Participant intends to ensure the timely approval and issuance of residency permits and other legal documentation necessary for U.S. students and scholars (and their accompanying spouses and dependents) to participate in the Fulbright Program in the Republic of Lithuania.

Section 12

The Lithuanian Participant intends to encourage Lithuanian higher education and research institutions receiving participants in the Fulbright Program to provide adequate 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 13

The Lithuanian Participant intends to furnish international airline tickets for all Lithuanian scholars and Lithuanian students participating in the Fulbright Program, not to exceed ten per year unless this number is increased in writing by mutual consent of the Participants.

Section 14

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

Section 15

The Lithuanian Participant intends to strive toward further cooperation with the U.S. Participant by seeking the allocation of additional resources for Fulbright scholarships for

Lithuanian students in fields of special interest for Lithuania. Arrangements for such opportunities should be worked out separately.

Section 16

The Participants intend to exchange information about the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding and to resolve any disputes or ambiguities amicably through consultation or negotiation between them.

Section 17

This Memorandum of Understanding may be modified in writing by mutual consent of the Participants. This Memorandum of Understanding is intended to commence upon its signing by both Participants and to continue for a period of five (5) years. If neither Participant objects, it is to be automatically extended for another five-year period.

The Participants may review and decide to continue their cooperation at regular intervals. This Memorandum of Understanding may, at any time, be discontinued by one of the Participants upon informing the other Participant of its intention to discontinue this Memorandum of Understanding, which should be communicated in writing. The Participant wishing to discontinue its participation should provide the other Participant with at least six (6) months' prior notice in advance of its intent to do so.

Upon signing, this Memorandum of Understanding replaces the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the United States of America on the Fulbright Academic Exchange Program signed at Vilnius January 31, 2008.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed this Memorandum of Understanding.

SIGNED at Vilnius this 30th day of March, 2017, in duplicate, in the Lithuanian and English languages, both texts being equally valid.

**For the Government of the
Republic of Lithuania**

**For the Government of the
United States of America**