

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA, USA

and

UNIVERSIDAD DE CUENCA
CUENCA, ECUADOR

OBJECTIVES

- To collaborate, especially in the fields of education and languages
- To promote the exchange of faculty and students
- To promote joint initiatives in the area of teaching
- To provide exchange faculty and/or students with the opportunities, facilities, and conditions needed for a successful university experience.

BACKGROUND

The Universidad de Cuenca, one of the oldest universities in Ecuador, was founded in 1867. It has played a major role in the cultural, humanitarian, and scientific development in the city of Cuenca and in the country. Currently, there are 11 Schools, which are divided into three different areas of study: technical, social, and health. There are approximately 11,000 students. Most of them come from the southern region of Ecuador and other Latin American countries as well as from some Asian countries. Universidad de Cuenca has been highly ranked academically in Ecuador and has several cooperation agreements with universities in Latin America, Europe, and the U.S.A. which enhance its academic and scientific profile.

Coastal Carolina University was founded in 1954 and has approximately 8,400 students from 44 different states of the U.S.A. and 32 foreign countries. It has 39 majors in the fields of Education, Humanities, Applied Science, and Business. It also offers four graduate programs in specific fields. Coastal Carolina University has active partnership agreements with universities in Germany, Ireland, Australia, Russia, Japan, England, and Ecuador. Coastal Carolina University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

AIM AND MANAGEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT

The aim of this exchange is the development of international understanding and the sharing of knowledge through the benefits of full-time study by undergraduate students at a foreign university. This agreement is also designed to foster relations between faculty members of Universidad de Cuenca and Coastal Carolina University.

TERMS OF THE STUDENT EXCHANGE AND INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Students will be selected by their own institution and should have completed at least one academic year of college work, have a 3.0 GPA or an 80% average from the preceding year and show proof of funding or financial resources sufficient for a semester or year of study abroad.

The numbers of students exchanged will be agreed upon by the International Offices of both institutions in April of the year preceding entry. Application deadlines will be set by the host institutions.

Student participants will pay tuition to their home institutions. Other costs, including room and board, books and supplies will be the students' responsibility at the host institution. Students are responsible for their own travel.

Students are required to be enrolled full time while participating in the exchange.

Universidad de Cuenca will admit qualified students from Coastal Carolina University for either (a) a full academic session, or (b) for one term. Within 30 days of the end of each semester Universidad de Cuenca will furnish Coastal Carolina University with the official transcript of the academic work of Coastal Carolina University students completed at Universidad de Cuenca.

Coastal Carolina University will admit qualified Universidad de Cuenca students for either (a) the academic year, or (b) one term. At the end of each semester Coastal Carolina University will furnish to Universidad de Cuenca official transcripts of the students' academic work and performance completed at Coastal Carolina University.

Each institution will make available to exchange applicants their current university catalog, prospectuses and course offerings. Students will be advised that not all courses in the catalog may be open to them or offered in a given semester.

Each institution will provide information to exchange students with regard to housing, expenses, and visa requirements.

Cuenca students attending Coastal will be required to stay in CCU housing. CCU students attending Universidad de Cuenca will be required to stay in university housing or stay with Ecuadorian host families selected by the university.

Exchange students will be eligible for the student health services. Exchange students will be required to have or to purchase health and accident insurance coverage which meets the requirements set forth by the International offices of both institutions.

Both institutions will provide orientation to incoming students as well as support throughout the term or academic year. Each institution will identify a coordinator for this cooperation and will provide to the partner institution the name, address, phone numbers, fax and internet address of this individual. The coordinators will communicate with each other regularly throughout the year as necessary on behalf of the students.

SPECIFIC PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR COASTAL STUDENTS

- Intensive Spanish Language Courses for foreigners oriented towards understanding of Ecuadorian and Latin American realities, including visits to cultural, historical, and ecological sites.

- Spanish language studies focusing on the acquisition and improvement of communicative competence in the language through enrollment in regular courses or in specific courses in different Schools during a specific semester. Students' participation in customized courses.
- Internships in different fields offered by the Universidad de Cuenca having the support of theoretical courses in Spanish to help students understand the cultural, social, ecological, anthropological, and economic realities of Ecuador and Latin America.

SPECIFIC GOALS FOR UNIVERSITY FACULTY INSTRUCTORS

- Participation of professors as instructors of undergraduate courses at either of the two universities, provided that the individuals meet the host institution's requirements relative to academic background, advanced diploma and certification (if any), and other necessary credentials.
- Organization and presentation of video conferences aimed toward the professional development of faculty members and advancement of students' knowledge in different areas.
- Joint faculty projects carried out without distinction at either of the two universities, depending on their specific objectives.

This agreement become effective January 1, 2008, is valid for three years and may be renewed by mutual agreement in writing.


While the agreement is in force, either of the parties may request an addition or a modification to the terms. If mutually agreeable, the new addition or modification may become part of the existing agreement.

The agreement may not be abrogated during an academic year when exchanging students are participating in coursework in the host institutions.

The undersigned representatives of both institutions

to the terms of this exchange as


Dr. Jaime Astudillo Romero
Rector of the Universidad de Cuenca


Dr. David A. DeCenzo
President, Coastal Carolina University

Date _____

11/20/02
Date _____