

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF SCOTLAND
ON THE PROMOTION OF STRATEGIC COLLABORATION IN EDUCATION**

Introduction

1. In this Memorandum of Understanding, the Ministry of Education of the Peoples' Republic of China and the Scottish Government are hereinafter referred to as "both sides".
2. Both sides recognise that this Memorandum of Understanding, hereinafter referred to as the "MoU", is established under the auspices of the Framework Agreement on Educational Co-operation Partnership between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the People's Republic of China signed on 18 January 2008 in Beijing.
3. It is recognised by both sides that exchange and collaboration in the field of education is mutually beneficial and contributes to the continuing development of school education, vocational education and skills, and higher education in Scotland and China. Both sides agree that they are well placed to learn from each other's experience and wish to strengthen links that support and enhance teaching, learning and research.

Activity under the current Memorandum of Understanding

4. Both sides recognise that they have been enthusiastically involved in a programme of activity since they signed their first Memorandum of Understanding on Promotion of Educational Collaboration in Beijing on 25 January 2005. Examples include:
 - 4.1 establishing the Confucius Institute for Scotland – a partnership between Edinburgh and Fudan Universities with support from the Hanban and the Scottish Government;
 - 4.2 establishing the Scottish China Education Network to promote the learning and teaching of Chinese language, culture and links between Scottish and Chinese schools;
 - 4.3 holding a Quality Forum in Edinburgh for Scottish policy makers and institutions and representatives of the Ministry of Education;
5. Both sides agree that the rich experience gained from these, and other, collaborative activities in which they have been engaged has delivered valuable benefits and they are committed to continuing to develop their relationship for mutual benefit.

Activity which is re-affirmed under the current Memorandum of Understanding

6. Both sides continue to believe that education provides an essential contribution to the development of individual chances for life and work, while it also sustains the socio-cultural, economic and technological development of societies.

7. It continues to be recognised by both sides that exchange and collaboration between outstanding scientists in higher education institutions are conducive to the establishment of long-term academic relationships, particularly in scientific research.

8. With regard to forming links between the education and economic sectors, both sides continue to encourage their respective educational organisations and agencies to carry out collaboration on vocational education qualifications, certificates and courses in the spirit of equal partnership and mutual benefit.

Future areas of collaboration

9. Both sides recognize that many changes and challenges have been brought by the economic and social development. Education will play an important role in solving the challenges facing China and Scotland.

10. To prosper in the future both sides agree the importance of lifelong learning and the need to develop successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors to society.

Schools

11. Both sides are determined to increase opportunities for all young people to experience international education in schools. Both sides therefore wish to increase exchange and collaboration between Chinese and Scottish teachers and their pupils to ensure there are more opportunities to learn about each other's language, traditions and culture.

12. Both sides agree to support collaboration between Learning and Teaching Scotland (LTS) and the Hanban under a Memorandum of Understanding to be signed later this month in order to:

12.1 promote Chinese language learning and culture in Scottish schools;

12.2 develop a series of Confucius classrooms in Scotland;

12.3 take forward language immersion courses and visits for Scottish teachers in China; and

12.4 establish joint working relationships to allow Chinese school pupils to learn about Scotland, its history and culture.

13. Both sides will provide financial support to support this.

Undergraduate summer schools in universities

14. Both sides wish to increase the opportunities for Scottish and Chinese undergraduate students at university to gain an experience of each other's country.

15. Twenty students at Scottish universities took part in the 2008 Undergraduate Easter School, organised by Manchester University on behalf of the UK Government. There are also similar undergraduate schools being planned by Scottish universities.

16. Both sides wish to build on this and will establish a programme of regular undergraduate summer schools between Scotland and China contributing to a more equal balance for student mobility between both sides. The possibility of a reciprocal arrangement in Scotland for Chinese students will also be explored.

Higher education scholarships

17. The Scholarships for Excellence programme has provided full scholarship opportunities for Chinese PhD and post doctoral students to study in the UK since its launch in 2005.

18. In recognition of the mutual benefit both sides receive from such programmes, Scotland and China will commit funding towards Sino-Scottish scholarships for PhD studies. The number of scholarships will be identified following detailed discussion between both sides.

19. Both sides will work together to develop an appropriate model for PhD scholarships. This will seek to exploit business/university links and opportunities will be explored for work placements to be developed as part of the model. Both sides agree to explore putting reciprocal arrangements in place for Chinese students to study in Scotland and for Scottish students to study in China.

20. Scotland agrees to continue funding scholarships for Chinese students at Masters level (one-year, both taught and research). This will focus on 5 sectors: creative industries; technology; financial services; life sciences and renewable and clean energy.

Quality enhancement and policy exchanges in higher education

21. Both sides recognise the value of the meetings that have taken place between the two countries to discuss higher education policy on management, governance and quality enhancement. These include a Quality Forum held in Edinburgh in December 2006 and a study visit on national higher education policy to Scotland in July 2007. Both sides recognise the importance such events play in developing understanding of each other's higher education systems.

22. Both sides note the increasing emphasis being placed on improving the quality of higher education in China and the role of the Scottish Quality Enhancement Framework in enhancing Scottish higher education. Both sides recognise the benefit of deepening their dialogue in the area of quality enhancement and improvement.

23. Both sides agree to expand exchanges on higher education policy in areas such as:

- management and governance of the higher education system; and
- the role of higher education in lifelong learning.

24. To that end, both sides agree to hold a series of workshops in Scotland and China to foster this dialogue. Both sides agree to provide appropriate personnel to take part in such events, support travel to Scotland and China, and facilitate visits to relevant organisations. The Scottish side undertakes to explore the possibility of a Chinese individual being invited to observe a review in the ongoing programme of quality reviews of Scottish universities. Both sides agree to explore the possibility of reciprocal arrangements including inviting an observer from the other side to participate in its own quality review programmes.

Research collaboration between academics

25. Both sides are keen to support the ambitions of researchers in Scottish and Chinese universities to collaborate on research opportunities which focus on areas of excellence and niche fields that are relevant to both sides and offer potential for mutual benefit and technological advancement.

26. Both sides are willing to facilitate increased collaboration between both countries respective scientific research bases and will stimulate this with exchanges, workshops and joint projects. Both parties believe that while immediate areas of focus may be in the life sciences and clean energy they will seek to stimulate wider partnership working.

27. Both sides noted the support for the development of long-term research links through Scottish International Scholarships, the Scholarships for Excellence programmes and PhDs.

28. The Scottish side intends to work in partnership with a range of science stakeholders towards the possible delivery of a science PhD scheme with China. In the first instance the Scottish side will fund two joint workshops in China for senior Scottish academics to explore in which areas collaboration may take place for the mutual benefit of both sides.

Vocational education and skills

29. Both sides acknowledge the importance of assisting people of all ages and circumstances to access appropriate education over their lifetime, to fulfil their personal, social and economic potential. Both sides also accept that different types of qualifications and certificates can contribute to improving the skills of the workforce.

30. Both sides understand that their shared demographic challenge provides a unique opportunity for China and Scotland to explore together approaches to lifelong learning and vocational education and skills.

31. Both sides therefore wish to increase exchanges of policy on employability, skills and lifelong learning, in the context of the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) and similar developments in China.

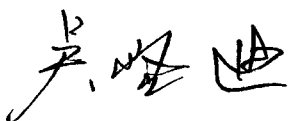
32. To this end, both sides agree to hold a series of workshops in Scotland and China to foster these policy dialogues. Both sides agree to provide appropriate personnel to take part in such events, support travel to Scotland and China and to facilitate visits to relevant organisations in each country.

33. Both sides wish to develop shared understanding of each other's systems. As part of this process they will explore the feasibility of mapping Scottish qualifications and certificates (in the context of the SCQF) to Chinese certificates and agree to share information and provide support to progress this work. Both sides recognise the positive impact this will have on increasing opportunities for Scottish and Chinese students to study and work abroad.

Monitoring progress under this Memorandum of Understanding

34. Both sides recognise the importance of maintaining regular and effective communication and agree that it is necessary to maintain and strengthen the current working relationships, in order to implement the collaboration on the matters covered herein. Therefore, both sides will designate a contact person to meet six-monthly to review progress. Where appropriate, progress will also be reported to the joint steering committee and/or associated groups being established under 'Sino-UK Partners in Education'.

Signed in Beijing on 7 April 2008 in duplicate in the Chinese and English languages, both texts having equal validity.



Wu Qidi
Vice Minister

**For the Ministry of Education of
The People's Republic of China**



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For the Scottish Government