

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

**South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
Rapid City, South Dakota, USA**

and

**Azerbaijan State Oil Academy (ASOA)
Baku, Azerbaijan**



Azerbaijan State Oil Academy, in Baku, Azerbaijan (hereafter referred to as "ASOA"), and the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology of Rapid City, South Dakota, USA (hereafter referred to as "SDSMT"), believe the development of collaborative academic, educational, and scientific goals are of mutual value, which are set forth in this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

All collaborative efforts will be entered into with due diligence given to ethical and professional considerations and standards. Cooperative activities will be developed on the basis of equality and reciprocity, and promoting sustainable partnerships.

Within fields that are mutually acceptable, the following general forms of cooperation will be pursued:

- Staff exchange and collaboration
 - The two institutions agree in principle to the possibility of exchanges by general staff (administrative and technical) and faculty members. The details of such arrangements will be negotiated at the appropriate time and will be governed by the institutional staffing rules and relevant approval processes. The participating institutions shall not be responsible for any private arrangements made by participating staff members concerning exchange of accommodation, vehicles, etc.
- Joint research activities and publications
 - Cooperative research is to be encouraged as individual scholars establish contact and develop mutual interests.
- Each party will encourage continuing education and professional development for teachers, professors, and academic staff, which may include
 - Visits for studying teaching principles and methods
 - Exchange of academic materials and other information
 - Participation in seminars, congresses and meetings
- Student exchange
 - Each party will recommend potential students to participate in an exchange for the matriculation of the other university's appropriate academic programs on a reciprocal basis. The student's acceptance is subject to approval by the host university. The host institution will provide guidance and identify options for students in locating living accommodations and will place the students in appropriate academic programs. Unless otherwise agreed, students will be responsible for meeting their own costs of living and pay tuition and fees to the host institution.

- Dual degree bachelor program
 - Under this program, students will attend ASOA for two years and South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (SDSMT) for two or more years, during which time the student will have the opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree at SDSMT.

ASOA and SDSMT agree to continue discussions on further cooperative activities as opportunities arise. Both institutions recognize that collaborative efforts will be of mutual benefit and will contribute to an enduring institutional linkage for cooperation in education and research.

Detailed descriptions of additional activities shall be defined in a separate addendum to the MOU. The addendum will include detailed information on the activity, including legal considerations for each university's home country and governing body.

Both universities agree that all additional activities are dependent on the availability of funds. Both universities agree to seek financial support for the activities stated in this MOU.

This Memorandum of Understanding becomes effective on the date of signature. It is valid for five years with the understanding that it can be terminated by either party with six months notice, unless an earlier termination is mutually agreed upon. Revisions or modifications may be proposed at any time, effective from the date of written agreement signed by both parties.

Signed on behalf of
Azerbaijan State Oil Academy
by




The seal of the Azerbaijan State Oil Academy is circular, featuring a central oil drop and a star, surrounded by text in Azerbaijani and English.

Ramiz Hazanov
Vice-Rector

Date: 15.10.2014

Signed on behalf of
South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
by



Heather Wilson
President

Date: Aug 29, 2014