



**UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI TRIESTE**



## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)

Between

**UNIVERSITY OF TRIESTE**

and

**BROCK UNIVERSITY**

The University of Trieste, with legal address Piazzale Europa, 1 – 34127 Trieste (Italy), represented by its Rector, Prof. Donata Vianelli, who intervenes not on his own but as a legal representative and has been authorized to sign this document by the Board of Administration of 28/09/2023

and

Brock University, with legal address 1812 Sir Isaac Brock Way, St. Catharines, ON L2S 3A1, Canada, represented by its Provost and Vice President, Academic, Dr. Arja Vainio-Mattila, who intervenes not on her own but as a legal representative and has been authorized to sign this document by the Board of Trustees.

hereinafter named “the Parties”

agree on the importance and the usefulness of establishing cultural, scientific and educational links, in order to assert and to consolidate the ties between the two Institutions and their Countries.

This Memorandum of Understanding, hereinafter referred to as “MoU” contributes to the joint pursuit of education, learning and research and does not bind either of the two parties legally or financially.

For the University of Trieste, the proposing academic for the purposes of this MoU is Prof. Maria Chiara Passolunghi of the Department of Life Sciences.

For Brock University the proposing academic for the purposes of this MoU is Prof. Sandra Bosacki.

### **1. General purpose**

The present MoU aims to promote relations that will mutually benefit each Institution, this being the primary goal of academic collaboration.

It will be articulated in written Executive Protocols, which will establish the implementation of specific forms of co-operation which will be separately signed by both Parties, specifying the implementation of joint activities, financial aspects, if necessary and any other details.

### **2. Assistance and Support**

Each Party, in accordance with its respective statutes and regulations, shall ensure assistance and support to academics and students of the partner Institution visiting the hosting Institution.

### **3. Insurance**

Each person involved in all foreseen activities of this MoU has to provide her/himself with a suitable health and third-party liability insurance, according to the home Country’s regulations.

\* The Chancellor/Rector/President/Vice-Chancellor/Provost



#### **4. Intellectual Property**

Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the parties, each partner shall retain ownership of its intellectual property that pre-exists the effective date of this Memorandum of Understanding or is developed outside the framework of this Memorandum of Understanding.

Any intellectual property rights arising from the parties' collaboration under this Memorandum of Understanding, in which one or more of each of the parties' employees or agents have contributed, shall be addressed in a separate written agreement. Such agreement will govern the relationship between the parties regarding the ownership, protection, and use of such intellectual property, including the filing of patents or other forms of protection, and will be subject to any applicable collective agreements or institutional policies.

#### **5. Code of Ethics and Conducts**

The Parties undertake to ensure that their auxiliaries, employees, and/or co-workers comply with regulations, rules, procedures and principles, where applicable, contained in their respective Codes of Ethics and Conduct.

#### **6. Promotional Material, brand and official seal**

Neither Institution shall use name, brand, official seal or other designation of the other Party (including abbreviations) for advertising purposes, or any other promotional activity, without first obtaining the written consent of the other Institution.

#### **7. Data Protection**

The Parties undertake not to disclose to third parties any information, technical data, documents and news expressly designated as confidential referred to the other party, of which they might become aware as result of the activity carried out within the framework of the cooperation established with and under this MoU.

Any breaches of this provision shall constitute just cause for the termination of the Memorandum. Any processing of personal data carried out by the parties within this MOU shall comply with the requirements of applicable privacy and data protection legislation of their respective countries in the course of their cooperation under this Memorandum of Understanding, including, for the University of Trieste, the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR), and for Brock University, the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA).

#### **8. Equal Opportunities**

Both Institutions shall not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, skin colour, gender, marital or family status, ethnicity, religion, political opinions, national origin, or disability.

#### **9. Languages**

This MoU has been drawn up in English in two original copies. English text is the only authoritative version. If further versions in other languages are needed for internal regulations in force, an official translation is required. Therefore, the applicant university has to provide a certified or sworn translation, corresponding exactly to the full content of the original text.

\* The Chancellor/Rector/President/Vice-Chancellor/Provost



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## **10. Limitation of liability clause**

Each Party of this Memorandum of Understanding is acting always and exclusively in its own name and on its own behalf, and any liability for the obligations entered into by the other Party shall be excluded, unless expressly agreed in writing to that effect.

## **11. Validity and Amendments**

This MoU shall enter in force after legal representatives' signature of each Institution. It will be valid for six (6) years from the date of the signature of the last Institution.

Amendments to this MoU may only be made by mutual agreement in writing by the duly authorized representatives of both Institutions.

## **12. Termination**

Besides provisions envisaged in article 7, this MoU may be terminated by any of the Parties by written notice certified at least two months before the expiry date.

All protocols and/or agreements descending from this MoU shall be governed by their own terms regarding termination. Unless expressly stated otherwise, termination of this MoU shall not terminate any ongoing or separately executed protocols, agreements, or projects, except where both Parties jointly agree in writing.

## **13. Renewal**

At the expired date, parties may agree to continue the collaboration by a formal renewal of this MoU for a further period of equivalent duration, in writing, by mutual consent of the legal representatives of both Institutions duly authorized by their respective governing bodies, through an exchange of letters.

Requests of renewal should be submitted by the proposing academic of the MoU to the respective administrative offices of both Universities at least 60 days before the expiry date.

No automatic renewal is foreseen.

If not renewed, the agreement ceases its effects, without prejudice to the continuation of any ongoing activities.

## **14. Dispute Resolution**

Where a problem or dispute occur, the Parties will first seek to resolve that dispute between themselves to the best of their endeavours and will use all efforts required to settle the problem or dispute by direct negotiation. Where the Parties fail to reach an agreement, the dispute shall be referred to a Mediation Committee composed of three members: one appointed by the President/Rector of each Party, and the Chairman of the Committee, appointed by mutual agreement of both Parties. The appointed Committee shall examine the problem or dispute and provide recommendations. The parties shall share equally all expenses incurred in appointing the Committee.

If, within twenty days of sending the first notice, the dispute continues, the Parties shall refer the matter to the competent court on the territory of the defendant's country.

However, each Party's relationship with its faculties, departments, staff and students shall be governed by the laws in force in the Country of that Institution.

## **15. Liaison Offices and contact persons**

For the implementation of scientific and educational activities of this MoU the academic references are:

\* The Chancellor/Rector/President/Vice-Chancellor/Provost



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**For Brock University**

Prof. Sandra Bosacki  
Department of Educational Studies  
E-mail: [sandra.bosacki@brocku.ca](mailto:sandra.bosacki@brocku.ca)

**For the University of Trieste:**

Professors Marcella Caputi, Sandra Pellizzoni, Maria Chiara Passolunghi  
Department of Life Sciences  
E-mails: [marcella.caputi@units.it](mailto:marcella.caputi@units.it), [spellizzoni@units.it](mailto:spellizzoni@units.it), [passolu@units.it](mailto:passolu@units.it)

Professors Paolo Sorzio, Caterina Bembich, Michelle Pieri  
Department of Humanities  
E-mails: [psorzio@units.it](mailto:psorzio@units.it), [cbembich@units.it](mailto:cbembich@units.it), [michelle.pieri@units.it](mailto:michelle.pieri@units.it)

For the administrative management of this Agreement each party designates a Liaison Office.

**For Brock University**

Angelica Meigs  
International Partnerships Coordinator  
Brock International  
e-mail: [ameigs@brocku.ca](mailto:ameigs@brocku.ca), [partnerships@brocku.ca](mailto:partnerships@brocku.ca)

**For the University of Trieste:**

Unità di Staff Cooperazione allo Sviluppo e reti di università  
Piazzale Europa 1  
I-34138 Trieste  
[relazioni.internazionali@amm.units.it](mailto:relazioni.internazionali@amm.units.it)

**SIGNATURES**

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The Rector of the University of Trieste  
Prof. Donata Vianelli

Date:



Firmato digitalmente da Donata  
Vianelli  
Data: 21.01.2026 21:42:12 CET  
Organizzazione: UNIVERSITA' DEGLI  
STUDI DI TRIESTE/80013890324

Signed by:

*Arja Vainio-Mattila*

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Provost and Vice-President,  
Academic  
Dr. Arja Vainio-Mattila

Date: 1/26/2026