

California State University Fullerton- University of Havana (Cuba) Relationship Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How was the relationship between the University of Havana (UH) and California State University Fullerton (CSUF) created.

A: In 2010 Cuba's largest university, the University of Havana and the foreign ministry of Cuba reached out through interpersonal channels seeking a relationship with an American university that had a large communications program, a large Hispanic student population, and was located on the west coast of the United States. At that time they indicated that they knew the world was changing and they desired to start changing with it. Initial discussions began through the Maxwell Center, The College of Communications, and the University of Havana, and included several formal and informal visits and the exchange of faculty. In 2012 Dr. Lourdes Cisneros Mustelier, Dean of the UH School of Tourism lectured and provided advice on tourism curriculum at CSUF. In February 2014 CSUF Provost Dr. Jose Cruz signed the official Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the UH and CSUF.

Q: What is the new relationship with the University of Havana.

A: As of February 2014, CSUF has signed an official MOU with the University of Havana that focuses on academic exchange and cooperation between the universities, which includes exchange of faculty and students, collaboration on research and programs, and continued development of education and training opportunities.

Q: I thought it was illegal to travel to Cuba or to have relationships with organizations within Cuba?

A: Some travel and relationships are allowed as long as they follow the rules and guidelines set forth by the United States Office of Foreign Assets and Control (OFAC). There are several exceptions to the travel ban and to the establishment of relationships within Cuba; these include reasons related to education, religion, culture, and family. The relationships between CSUF and Cuba are strictly tied to education and the relationships are limited to the University of Havana, and several other potential educational partners in Cuba. Additionally, all CSUF-Cuba activities have been communicated to the U.S. Department of State. **From a diplomatic perspective globally there are a number of areas that rise above politics, these include academics and scholarship, sports, religion, and humanitarian assistance.**

Q: How is this the current digital journalism program being funded?

A: It is being funded largely through a grant from the Knight Foundation. Other funds are coming from the Maxwell Center for International Communications and Media at California State University Fullerton, which operates on grants and CSUF philanthropic donations. It uses these funds to achieve its international mission, which is focused on creating global awareness, global citizens, and global leaders through international education, engagement, research, and collaboration

Q: I read that this is part of the Maxwell Center's and CSUF's Project Americas. What is Project Americas?

Project Americas seeks to work with foreign universities, institutions, and media organizations from across the hemisphere to strengthen and develop media and participative systems through the development of communication skills, media systems, and curriculum to help build stronger communities, societies, and democracies. Given the shift towards global digital media, a large portion of *Project Americas* will focus on the sharing of strategies, techniques and the use of digital tools to tell stories and to reach diverse audiences across cities, countries, and hemispheres.

Q: How do I get more information about the relationship and programs with the University of Havana and/or with Cuba?

A: For more information please contact Maxwell Center Director Dr. Dean Kazoleas, Ph.D. APR at dkazoleas@fullerton.edu or visit the Maxwell Center for International Communication's website at communications.fullerton.edu/maxwellcenter.