

International Exchange Agreements

Bridgewater State College has established a number of formal and informal exchange agreements with international institutions. To ensure college wide acceptance and support for the exchanges, the following guidelines have been developed for institutional relationships. Developing and maintaining an institutional relationship beyond individual academic interests and connections does require planning and commitment by the college. In addition, meeting the expectations of both exchange institutions requires an ongoing commitment of financial and human resources. Faculty visits abroad and individual sabbaticals and teaching leaves do not need to be documented by official exchange agreements and are not considered in the following guidelines.

In considering international exchanges the following criteria is to be considered: It should fit within the mission of Bridgewater State College and offer a comparative advantage in relationship to other exchange programs; we should also consider whether there are existing exchanges in force in the same country or region and the relationship of the proposed exchange to ongoing relationships; the exchange should offer mutual benefit to all parties; assess participant expectations in both institutions to make sure that exchanges match at the appropriate institutional level.

Many exchanges require no external funding and rely on the reciprocity principle. Although there may be no cash outlay other than travel support, the in-kind contributions and repercussions of office space and administrative support should be considered. If outside funding is required, the Office of International Programs can assist the department in searching for sources. Depending on the nature and location of the exchange, supplementary travel funding may be available from internal College sources.

Requests for international exchange agreements are required to be submitted to the Vice President of External Affairs for initial review. Requests will then be reviewed by the council of vice presidents and submitted with recommendation to the president for final approval. The requests are reviewed in order to assess the impact of the exchange program on the College. Exchanges can involve either faculty or students or both and are defined as relationships that support traffic both ways.