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of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

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Administrative Boards of the College of Arts and Sciences  
Office of General Education  
UNC-CH

**Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland- Student Exchange Program**

Dear Colleagues:

The Department of Dramatic Arts, the Department of History, and the Study Abroad Office are submitting for your approval a proposal to establish a student exchange program with Queen's University Belfast (QUB), located in Belfast, Northern Ireland, to begin in the 2015-16 academic year.

Further information about QUB can be reviewed at <http://qub.ac.uk/>

**Rationale**

Currently, UNC's study abroad portfolio in Northern Ireland includes a student exchange partnership with the University of Ulster. This partnership was initiated by the Departments of American Studies in 1990. Due to departmental changes and lack of student demand at the University of Ulster, this partnership has not remained active. This partnership faces non-renewal, leaving UNC without a comprehensive student exchange partner in Northern Ireland.

Established in 1845 by Queen Victoria, QUB is member of the Russell Group of leading UK research intensive universities. In the 2013 QS World University Rankings, QUB was ranked 166<sup>th</sup> and in the top 1% of the universities in the world. Total student population at QUB is around 23,000, with about 18,000 being undergraduate students and about 1,300 being international students from 80 countries.

In the 2013-14 academic year, QUB joined the Transatlantic Science Student Exchange Program (TASSEP), a student exchange program for a consortium of universities in the United States, Canada, and Europe with strong STEM programs. UNC is a founding member of TASSEP and manages the program in the United States. QUB's membership in TASSEP will allow UNC and QUB to exchange students pursuing a major in the sciences, but it does not allow students in the

arts, humanities, and social sciences to participate in the exchange program. Both QUB and UNC are interested in a bilateral student exchange partnership that would allow the universities to broaden the exchange program beyond the sciences.

Emily Marlton, Northern Europe and Oceania Programs Director in the UNC-CH Study Abroad Office, conducted a site visit to QUB in December 2012. While at QUB, Emily met with colleagues in the International Office, met with academics in the sciences, arts, and humanities, toured campus and accommodations, and surveyed the area surrounding campus.

### Queen's University Belfast

QUB is organized into three faculties: Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences; and Faculty of Medicine, Health and Life Sciences. Because UNC students will have access to the science courses through the TASSEP exchange, students pursuing the bilateral exchange program will be focused on courses within the Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. This faculty is comprised of the following Schools: Education; English; History and Anthropology; Politics, International Studies and Philosophy; Modern Languages; Law; Management; Creative Arts; and Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work.

QUB has one of the most modern campuses in the UK with an award-winning library, a remodeled Student Union, a state-of-the-art Physical Education Center, and new student accommodation. Exchange students have access to student support services and facilities, just as the degree-seeking students do.

UNC students at QUB will receive support from the Exchange and Study Abroad Team as well as the International Student Support Office.

<http://qub.ac.uk/home/StudyatQueens/InternationalStudents/ExchangesandStudyAbroad/StudyAbroadprogramme/>

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/iss/>

An orientation program is provided at the beginning of each term for international students. This is an opportunity to meet support staff, academic staff, Student Union representatives, and other students. At a series of sessions, students are given information about adjusting to the different academic system, housing, immigration requirements, as well as other activities to help students adapt to life at QUB. A Welcome Week is offered at the beginning of the academic year for both international and domestic students. This week is an excellent opportunity to participate in a variety of activities and get to know other students.

Exchange students at QUB are guaranteed a room in university sponsored accommodation. The residence halls are located in residential areas within walking distance to the university. All rooms are single rooms and are self-catered (kitchen provided, student cooks own meals).

## The Program

The program will be a two-way exchange, with semester and year-long options.

QUB will nominate students from their Department of Drama and their Department of History and Anthropology to study at UNC for a semester or academic year. Priority will be given to UNC students from the Department of Dramatic Arts and the Department of History, though at UNC the exchange program is open to all students within the College of Arts and Sciences wanting to study at QUB for a semester or year.

Additionally, the agreement with QUB includes a non-exchange option that allows UNC students to enroll for a semester or full academic year paying QUB tuition. Such students would not be counted in the exchange balance but would have the same academic program and access to services as exchange students. This arrangement allows the UNC Study Abroad Office to make the exchange slots available to our 'in-state' students while making non-exchange at QUB available to our 'out-of-state' students for whom QUB tuition is approximately the same as UNC-CH tuition.

The minimum GPA requirement for admission to this exchange program will be 3.0, and students must have completed at least one year of university study at the time of application. Students must enroll in a minimum of the equivalent of 12 credit hours and will receive transfer credit for courses taken at QUB. The equivalent of a "C" or above is required for credits to transfer.

## Support

The establishment of a bilateral student exchange program between QUB and UNC is supported by the Department of Dramatic Arts and the Department of History at UNC.

Adam Versenyi, Chair of UNC's Department of Dramatic Arts, has visited QUB several times through his personal and professional connections to Belfast and QUB. Adam's most recent visit was in April 2014 when he traveled to QUB to continue discussions about the potential for a bilateral student exchange program. While at QUB, Adam met with Kurt Taroff (Lecturer in Drama), Shane O'Neill (Dean of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences), Michael Alcorn (Head of School of Creative Arts & Professor in Music), Peter Gray (Professor in History), and Bridget Carey (International Officer).

The Department of Dramatic Arts is seeking to offer a variety of study abroad programs to its majors. As English-speaking locations, the UK and Ireland are particularly attractive, because most Dramatic Arts majors do not have sufficient foreign language skills to succeed in Drama courses conducted in a foreign language, especially those with a performance component. The Drama Department at QUB, like the one at UNC, has a strong BA oriented program with sufficient course matches to make an undergraduate exchange feasible. QUB's Drama Department also has strong connections to theater across the UK which would provide excellent resources to UNC exchange students. And finally, there is potential to grow the partnership at the graduate level because QUB may develop a 3-year MFA program.

Brian Kelly, History Professor at QUB, has professional connections at UNC, and has visited Chapel Hill several times for initiatives relating to his expertise in the study of the US South. History students at QUB focusing on the study of the US South would be the likely applicants for the student exchange program. Likewise, the History Department at QUB offers courses in British and Irish history that would allow a UNC student interested in these areas to pursue additional coursework beyond the limited offerings at UNC.

Belfast, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom

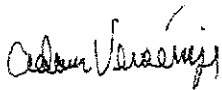
Belfast is the capital and largest city of Northern Ireland with a population just under 300,000. It is the center for industry, arts, higher education, and business and it drives the economy in Northern Ireland. QUB is located in the Queen's Quarter, the southern-most quarter of Belfast.

Belfast experienced a heavy degree of violence during the period known as "The Troubles," from 1969-1998. The State Department website notes that the political situation in Northern Ireland has improved since 1998 and that rates of violent crime are now very low. The 2011 British Crime Survey named Northern Ireland the safest region in the UK with street crime and burglary rates in Belfast being much lower than in comparable European or American cities. This is especially true in the area of the city surrounding QUB. However, in 2012 and 2013 there were demonstrations in other areas of Belfast that resulted in sporadic street violence, but the violence was directed at police. As all UNC students going abroad are cautioned, students going to QUB will be told to avoid demonstrations, stay current with media coverage in their host country, and be aware of surroundings.

There are no immediate health concerns in Belfast. Modern medical facilities and highly skilled medical practitioners are available in Northern Ireland

We are happy to provide any further information that you may need to evaluate this proposal.

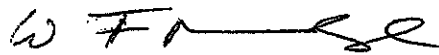
Yours sincerely:



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Robert Miles  
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Fitzhugh Brundage  
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