**Memorandum of Understanding between the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Ministry of Higher Education of the Republic of Cuba on enhancing cooperation in higher education.**

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Ministry of Higher Education of the Republic of Cuba, hereinafter referred to as the participants;

Recognising the maturing bilateral relations and the importance of enhancing mechanisms for consultations on issues of mutual interest;

Welcoming the commitment of both countries to higher education and the quality of higher education provided in the countries’ universities and other institutes for further education;

Welcoming the intention of the Cuban government to ensure all university students graduate with proficiency in and a command of the English language;

Have reached an understanding to develop relations between the Participants in the field of higher education by:

* Encouraging and facilitating direct co-operation, contacts and exchanges between people, universities, institutions and organisations concerned with higher education in the two countries;
* Enhancing links between universities in the two countries;
* Encouraging and supporting the teaching and testing of the English language in Cuban universities.

Recognising in addition the positive state of bilateral relations, and the importance of strengthening consultative mechanisms in areas of mutual interest.

In the context of the process of updating Cuba’s economic and social model, the participants will strengthen bilateral dialogue and cooperation in the area of public administration, through:

* The exchange of experiences in order to strengthen public administration systems, taking into account best international practice;
* Capacity building, including training and development programmes.

This Memorandum will come into effect on the date of signature and remain in operation thereafter unless terminated by either of the participants with ninety days’ written notice.

Signed in Havana on 28 April 2016, in English and Spanish, in two original copies, both texts being equally valid.

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| **The Rt Hon Philip Hammond, MP,**  **Secretary of State for**  **Foreign and Commonwealth**  **Affairs of the United Kingdom**  **of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** | **HE Rodolfo Abel Alarcón Ortíz**  **Minister of Higher Education of the Republic of Cuba** |