

2019-2024

Memorandum of Understanding Between the Province of Nova Scotia and Nova Scotia Universities

- The 2019-24 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Province of Nova Scotia and Nova Scotia Universities provides a collaborative and strategic framework that will contribute to a quality, transparent and accessible university system
- The MOU outlines 11 priorities:
 - funding for universities
 - transparency and accountability
 - campus infrastructure renewal
 - maintaining and improving accessibility
 - tuition policy that maintains accessibility
 - transparency with respect to the goods and services auxiliary and ancillary fees are applied against
 - educational quality
 - partnerships with Nova Scotia's Mi'kmaq and Indigenous people
 - collaboration
 - research and innovation
 - improved student experience with specific emphasis on enhancements to the overall health and well-being of students.
- The Department of Labour and Advanced Education met with:
 - universities and other government departments and agencies,
 - students via government student roundtables and special sessions and meetings with individual student groups.
- The total operating grant to be provided to universities in 2019-20 is \$365 million which is an increase of 1% or \$3.6 million from 2018-19. This will ensure the stability and predictability of funding in the university system.
- Key strategic priorities related to innovation, e-mental health, and the prevention of sexual violence are supported by annual funding from the Province over the five years of this MOU: Post-Secondary Innovation Team (\$1.685 million); e-mental health (\$600,000); and sexual violence prevention (\$470,000).
- A primary focus is to maintain accessibility for Nova Scotia students who study at Nova Scotia universities. The annual increase to tuition for Nova Scotia students enrolled in undergraduate programs is capped at 3%.

- The Nova Scotia University Student Bursary Program will continue to provide at least \$1,283 for Nova Scotia students studying in the province, based on a full course load.
- Shared values and principles will be developed around equal opportunity and the education gap among all under-represented communities: Mi'kmaq and Indigenous; African Nova Scotians and other students of African descent; students with disabilities; rural; and, economically disadvantaged students.
- The 2015-19 MOU focused on the important work of preventing sexual violence on Nova Scotia university campuses. The 2019-24 MOU will build on this work. Universities commit to reviewing their stand-alone sexual violence policies every three years, while engaging in ongoing policy review and updates as required and engaging with elected student representatives to ensure student involvement.
- This is the fifth MOU between the Province of Nova Scotia and Nova Scotia universities. Previous MOUs covered the following periods: 2004-08, 2008-11, 2012-15 and 2015-19. In 2011-12, it was informally agreed that the terms and conditions of the 2008-11 MOU would be extended for one additional year.
- The 2012-2015 "Excellence through Partnership" MOU recognized the need for provincewide planning and coordination of the province's 10 universities, therefore, the MOU established a collaborative approach through the Partnership Committee. This Committee continues to meet quarterly and is comprised of the 10 university presidents and the deputy ministers of LAE, Education and Early Childhood Development, the Office of Planning and Priorities, Department of Business, and Finance and Treasury Board.