



Office of Admissions

To: Mr. Artan Duraku, Kosovo Consul General-Iowa

CC: Mr. Valdet Sadiku, Kosovo Ambassador to the U.S.

From: Dr. Kristi Marchesani, Director of International Recruitment and Admissions
University of Northern Iowa (UNI)

RE: 2+2 proposal partnership between UNI and partner institution in Kosovo

On behalf of the University of Northern Iowa, I am pleased to send this memorandum to Mr. Artan Duraku, Kosovo Consul General-Iowa, regarding a 2+2 proposal partnership between UNI and partner institutions in Kosovo. This memorandum comes out of the conversation we held at The Republic of Kosovo in Des Moines, Iowa at the request of Mr. Artan Duraku, Consul General. On behalf of UNI, I request that your office share this information with the appropriate offices both in Kosovo and the U.S.

The State of Iowa and Republic of Kosovo have enjoyed a special relationship since 2011 when the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) and the Iowa National Guard became partners through the U.S. National Guard Bureau's State Partnership program. The relationship continued to grow in 2013 when the State of Iowa and the Republic of Kosovo became sister states which opened the door for programs and projects to begin in the civilian sector. Of course the relationship was truly solidified when the Republic of Kosovo opened a Consulate in Des Moines in 2016. It was Kosovo's third U.S. diplomatic office and Iowa's first. Since then the relationship has continued to grow and mature, especially in the education sector. We are proud of the numerous connections that have been made for the benefit of students both in Kosovo and in Iowa.

University of Northern Iowa (UNI) is one of three state universities located in the U.S. State of Iowa. Of the three state universities, UNI has the smallest campus which allows for a more personal experience. Professors teach the classes (unlike teaching assistants at many other universities) and they are available to interact with and support their students. UNI is a fully accredited university that boasts over 90 majors. They are strong in many majors in particular, along with having an honors program, athletic program, international program, and many other opportunities. UNI enrolls students from 64 different countries including three students from Kosovo.

UNI has had great success in offering 2+2 programs with international universities, providing students the opportunity to start their first two years at their home institution and then transfer to complete

their program and degree at UNI. Following is a list of active 2 + 2 agreements between UNI and international universities:

- Shanghai Dianji University (China)
- Nanchang Hangkong University (China)
- Shanghai University of Engineering Science (China)
- Hohai University (China)
- Sunrise University (Malaysia)
- INTI University (Malaysia)
- Imperial International College (Malaysia)
- University of Franche-Comte (France)

These partnerships have enabled universities to recruit local students interested in earning a dual degree-meaning the student will earn a bachelor's degree from the student's home institution, along with a degree from UNI. The organization of this program is attractive to many international students who may not be able to afford the cost of living and studying in the U.S. for four years. UNI enrolls approximately 40 students each fall semester from these eight foreign university partners. Students graduating from these programs have gone on to find great success in careers in their home country, while some have moved on to study masters programs at prestigious universities across the U.S.

The economic opportunity of this program for Kosovo students is outlined below:

Cost for UNI bachelors degree for Kosovo students in 2 + 2 program

- \$23,000 (includes \$4000 Sister State Scholarship and \$2000 International Excel Award and \$4000 work on campus) x 2 years = **\$46,000***

**The potential for contribution of funds from the Kosovo private or government sector have not been factored into this figure. The cost of a normal 4 year degree at UNI is approximately \$132,000. A full breakdown of what costs are a part of the \$46,000 is available upon request.*

UNI is interested in extending this program to universities in Kosovo. Considering the close ties between Iowa and Kosovo and this unique opportunity for students from Kosovo to access a quality U.S. education, we would be happy to answer any questions or facilitate an informational meeting. It will be necessary for interested universities to supply curriculum information for each potential major in order for a full evaluation of courses to be completed. This will determine which majors from an institution qualify for the transfer program. Inquiries can be directed to Dr. Kristi Marchesani at Kristi.marchesani@uni.edu .