



Twenty Ten and Twelve

Optimising learning opportunities made available through the Olympic and Paralympic Games

A Memorandum of Understanding

This memorandum of understanding, between the UK Higher Education Academy Hospitality, Leisure, Sport and Tourism Network (HLST) and LinkBC; the Tourism & Hospitality Network, British Columbia, Canada, seeks to encourage cooperation in the development and dissemination of learning resources and opportunities related to the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Whereas:

- Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, and London, U.K. have been selected as the host cities for the winter 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the summer 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games respectively
- The two discipline-focused networks (HLST and LinkBC) will gain mutual benefit from collaboration to support and promote curriculum design and delivery opportunities which become available through the Games
- Individual academics, programme/course teams and institutions are involved in a number of Games-related developments to enhance the learning opportunities of students and effective exchange of ideas and information is essential
- There is no county-to-country mechanism to help develop and exchange innovative practice and resources relating to the 2010 and 2012 Games
- The recent study "Impacts of the Olympic Games on HE in the Host City" (Price Waterhouse Coopers, UK 2008) suggested that HE institutions in host regions that coordinate their efforts gain the most benefits from the Olympic Games experience

The two networks agree to:

- Collaborate to maximize the learning opportunities that are available as a result of the Games, in both the UK and Canada
- Establish communication mechanisms to build productive working links between the two networks
- Develop strategies for developing mutually-beneficial interaction between U.K. and Canadian academics, with a focus upon Games-related topics and issues
- Maximize the use of, and sharing of, on-line tools relevant to Games-related research and curriculum developments

Through joint projects which may include, but not be limited to:

- Development of the accessibility of on-line resources
- Development of 2010-2012 Olympics and Higher education symposia/conferences
- Creation of new 2010-2012 focused student learning resources
- Dissemination of Olympic Games research findings by promoting existing sites and sources more effectively

This memorandum of understanding will be implemented by:

- Identifying a key 2010-2012 project liaison person for each of the networks
- Committing to at least one in-person planning meeting per year (2009-2012)
- Defining a set of achievable shared goals by March, 2009, which will be reviewed (and modified if necessary), every six months up to the 2010 Games and thereafter to the 2012 Games
- Committing to a regular schedule of progress meetings, by email and telephone
- Committing to participating in this joint initiative without regard to financial parity i.e. in full understanding that financial commitments are likely to be variable and dependent on the current budgetary positions of the two Networks

Signed, 12 March 2009, Oxford Brookes University

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