



**Tuesday, April 11, 2017.**

Dwayne Cover  
Provincial Lead – K-12 International Education  
BC Ministry of Education  
Victoria, BC V8W 9H1  
**Re: Student Exchange and Mobility Award**

To Mr. Cover and members of the BC Council for International Education,

On behalf of the BC Association of Teachers of Modern Languages (BCATML), I am writing you to ask that the Ministry of Education expand the list of eligible countries for the Student Exchange and Mobility Award for 2017/18 and onwards.

Currently, the SEMA award is eligible for student exchanges to the People's Republic of China, France, Italy and Japan. BCATML is thankful for the opportunity that the SEMA Award presents to second language students of Mandarin, Cantonese, French, Italian and Japanese. As a Provincial Specialist Association of the BC Teachers' Federation, we also represent students and teachers of German, Punjabi and Spanish who presently cannot benefit from the SEMA Award.

BCATML has promoted the SEMA Award through our annual *Celebrating Languages Conference* and website ([www.bcatml.org](http://www.bcatml.org)). Last fall, a German language teacher from School District 33 (Chilliwack) notified BCATML that the SEMA award is not currently eligible for exchanges to Germany or Austria and that he was planning a student exchange to these countries this year. He and his students would have greatly benefited from the financial assistance the SEMA award offers. It is for this reason that I am writing.

BCATML kindly requests that the Ministry of Education actively pursue memoranda agreements with the Ministries of Education for Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Spain, Latin America, and India in addition to maintaining the current list of eligible countries. In so doing, we believe the Ministry of Education will further assist and support students' pursuit of languages and cultures in becoming better global educated citizens, which is one of the underpinning philosophies and principles in the redesigned second languages curricula.

BCATML kindly asks you to respond to this letter via the email address below. As well, if it is possible to provide any updates regarding the list of countries for the next school year, we would greatly appreciate it.

On behalf of second language teachers in British Columbia, we thank you for this opportunity and look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,

**Rome Lavrencic**  
**BCATML President**  
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CC: Janice Neden, Assistant Director – Professional and Social Issues Division, BCTF