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CHEVENING PARTNERSHIP OVERVIEW

Name of partner	Programa Nacional de Becas de Postgrados en el Exterior Don «Carlos Antonio López» (BECAL)
Duration of partnership:	To cover three academic years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024/25 • 2025/26 • 2026/27
Partnership due for renewal:	30th March 2027
Number of Scholarships offered:	12 Scholarships each year
Financial contribution:	USD 35,000 per Scholar per year
Eligible countries:	Paraguay
Partnership conditions:	To study master's degrees related to the priority areas of Paraguay to be identified by BECAL, which will be submitted to the Embassy of the United Kingdom in Paraguay via an annual work guide
Invoice dates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 2024 • October 2025 • October 2023

BECAL Contact Details

	Administrative contact	Invoicing contact
Name	Lilian Guccione	María Liz Caballero
Position	Coordinadora	Coordinadora
Department	Gestión Asistida	Financiero
Email	consultasbecal@hacienda.gov.py gestiondebecas@hacienda.gov.py	becal_financiero@hacienda.gov.py
Telephone	+595 21 440007	+595 21 440007
Mailing address	Estrella N° 345 entre Chile y Alberdi-Primer Piso-Edificio City	Estrella N° 345 entre Chile y Alberdi-Primer Piso-Edificio City

Attached: Annex A, Annex B

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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office («FCDO») – Asunción

And

**PROGRAMA NACIONAL DE BECAS DE POSTGRADOS EN EL EXTERIOR
DON CARLOS ANTONIO LÓPEZ («BECAL»)**

(together, the «**PARTICIPANTS**»)

on the creation of

The Chevening/BECAL Scholarships

WHEREAS

- (A) the Chevening Scholarships programme (the «**CHEVENING PROGRAMME**») is the United Kingdom Government's global scholarship programme, by which scholarships are awarded to those individuals with strong academic backgrounds who can also demonstrate their leadership potential;
- (B) the **CHEVENING PROGRAMME** offers financial support to study at any of the United Kingdom's universities and the opportunity to become part of an influential global network of over 50,000 alumni in over 160 countries and territories worldwide;
- (C) the **CHEVENING PROGRAMME** is funded by the FCDO and partner organisations;
- (D) the **PARTICIPANTS** have decided to collaborate to provide scholarships offered by the **CHEVENING PROGRAMME**, referred to herein as the «**CHEVENING/BECAL SCHOLARSHIPS**» or the «**SCHOLARSHIPS**» to overseas students wishing to study for a one-year master's degree in STEM and Education at any accredited university in the UK.

The **PARTICIPANTS** have reached the following understandings:

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (**MOU**) is to provide a collaborative framework for the operation of the **CHEVENING PROGRAMME** in Paraguay between the **PARTICIPANTS** (the «**Chevening Partnership**»). This **MOU** reflects, as far as possible, all such Chevening Partnerships.

Attached: Annex A, Annex B



2. Aims

The aims of the **CHEVENING PROGRAMME** are:

- To attract and select from around the world those students who demonstrate the greatest potential to become leaders, decision-makers and opinion-formers in their own countries.
- To ensure that those selected to receive Scholarships (the «**SCHOLARS**») have experiences in the UK, which leave them supportive of the UK.
- To position the **CHEVENING PROGRAMME** as the most prestigious programme of its type in the world.

3. Duration of the Chevening Partnership

The **CHEVENING/BECAL** Scholarships will start in the UK academic year of 2024/25 (for which applications open in **August 2023**) and will continue in effect for a **three-year** period. Therefore, Scholarships may be awarded for academic years 2024/25, 2025/2026 and 2026/27. This **MOU** requires renewal by March 2027 in order to continue to support scholarship recipients in the subsequent academic year (2027-28).

Any review of the arrangements contemplated by this **MOU**, including amendment, extension or termination, should be sought by either of the **PARTICIPANTS** in writing by 30 June in any year in respect of the scheme as it applies to the following academic year.

The administrative contact responsible for the **Chevening Partnership** at **BECAL** will be:

- Name: Lilian Guccione
- Position: Coordinator
- Department: Coordinación de Becas Modalidad Asistida, Cerrada y de Idiomas
- Email: consultasbecal@hacienda.gov.py
gestiondebecas@hacienda.gov.py
- Telephone: +595 21 440007
- Mailing address: Estrella N° 345 entre Chile y Alberdi-Primer Piso-Edificio City

The invoicing contact responsible for the **Chevening Partnership** at **BECAL** will be:

- Name: María Liz Caballero
- Position: Coordinator
- Department: Financiero
- Email: becal_financiero@hacienda.gov.py
- Telephone: +595 21 440007
- Mailing address: Estrella N° 345 entre Chile y Alberdi-Primer Piso-Edificio City



THE CHEVENING/BECAL SCHOLARSHIPS AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

4. Nationality and maximum number of CHEVENING/BECAL Scholarships

The **CHEVENING/BECAL** Scholarships will be open to nationals of Paraguay, who should be normally resident in that country and be located there at the time of making an application.

A maximum of **12 CHEVENING/BECAL** Scholarships will be available under this Chevening Partnership for each academic year covered by this **MOU**. There is no implicit understanding that the maximum number of Scholarships will be taken up. The number of Scholarships taken up in each academic year will be contingent on the relevant criteria and objectives for the Scholarships being met.

5. CHEVENING/BECAL Scholarship components

Each Scholarship will provide for payment of:

- academic tuition fees including examination and thesis costs;
- a monthly stipend for living expenses sufficient for a single student;
- an allowances package; and
- a return airfare (economy class) to cover travel to and from country of residence by an approved route.

Details of the components of each Scholarship are set out in the schedule at **Annex B**. Participants will share the costs as specified in section 6, unless otherwise decided in writing by both Participants.

The rates of allowances are determined by the United Kingdom Government (“**HMG**”) in order to ensure parity across the whole **CHEVENING PROGRAMME** and other HMG-funded schemes.

6. Participant funding

Each **PARTICIPANT** has decided to contribute towards the funding of 12 **CHEVENING/BECAL** Scholarships in each academic year covered by this **MOU**. This will break down as follows:

BECAL will contribute «**USD 35,000 per scholarship/USD 420,000 in total**» and the **FCDO** will contribute all other costs as set out in **Annex B**.

BECAL will be invoiced by the Chevening Scholarships Secretariat of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (the «**SECRETARIAT**») for its contribution in October of the academic year for which the Scholarship will be awarded.

Attached: Annex A, Annex B

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Funding will be reviewed each year to check for increases/decreases in component costs and to ensure contributions by each **PARTICIPANT** remain fair and equitable. However, **PARTICIPANTS** will not consent to or cause additional costs to be incurred in addition to those set out at **Annex B** without the prior written consent of all **PARTICIPANTS**.

PARTICIPANTS will be invoiced in GBP by the **SECRETARIAT** and will hold responsibility for all bank charges incurred.

7. Levels and specified fields/courses of study

Scholarships will be granted for a place on a one-year master's degree at any accredited university in the UK in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, Innovation and Education, based on priority areas for Paraguay to be identified by BECAL, which will be submitted to the Embassy of the United Kingdom in Paraguay via an annual work guide.

Those who wish to apply for Scholarships («**APPLICANTS**») will apply to any accredited university in the UK in the normal way; Scholarship offers will be made conditional upon acceptance onto an approved one-year master's degree course.

8. Applicants' conditions of eligibility

APPLICANTS must demonstrate the potential to rise to positions of leadership and influence. They will need to demonstrate that they possess the personal, intellectual and interpersonal attributes reflecting this potential.

APPLICANTS must also:

- Be Paraguayan nationals, register on the Paraguayan government's Instrument Application System (SPI, in Spanish), and sign **BECAL's** Co-funded Scholarship Contract prior to their trip to the UK.
- Return to Paraguay at the end of the period of study for 5 years as per **CHEVENING/BECAL** return policies and carry out the follow-up tasks according to BECAL's return guide in the Instrument Application System (SPI).
- Hold a degree that is equivalent to at least a good UK second-class honours degree.
- Have completed at least two years' work, or equivalent experience, by the end of September in the year prior to the academic year for which the Scholarship applies (e.g., by September 2023 for courses starting from September 2024).
- Have not already received or be receiving financial benefit from an HMG-funded scholarship.

Attached: Annex A, Annex B



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- Not hold dual nationality where one nationality is British (other than for nationals exempt from this requirement listed in the Chevening Guidance for Applicants).
- Not be employees, employees' relatives (or former employees who have left employment less than two years before) of His Majesty's Government including the FCDO (including FCDO Posts), MOD, BEIS, DIT and UKBA, the Association of Commonwealth Universities or BECAL or any of their wholly-owned subsidiaries.

Scholarship eligibility requirements are subject to change. Effective requirements at the time of application will be those listed in Chevening Guidance for Applicants at www.chevening.org. This guidance should be checked regularly for any revisions during the life of this MOU.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE CHEVENING PROGRAMME

9. Administrators of the CHEVENING PROGRAMME

The SECRETARIAT will be responsible for administering the CHEVENING PROGRAMME on behalf of the FCDO.

10. Application and selection procedures

Application

Applications for the Scholarships will be made through the Chevening online application system.

Longlisting and shortlisting

Once the application deadline has passed the SECRETARIAT will prepare a list of eligible APPLICANTS in accordance with the eligibility criteria. Eligible applications will then be passed to an independent Reading Committee, assembled by the SECRETARIAT, comprised of a Regional Specialist and an Academic Specialist. The Reading Committee will evaluate all eligible applications and determine a longlist of recommended APPLICANTS.

The longlist applications of recommended APPLICANTS will be reviewed by the FCDO Post (Posts are defined as the FCDO's international network of Embassies and High Commissions). The FCDO Post will draw up a short-list of those APPLICANTS that shall be called to interview. The SECRETARIAT will take up references for APPLICANTS.

Attached: Annex A, Annex B



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The **SECRETARIAT** will inform all unsuccessful **APPLICANTS** of the outcome of the long and short list selection processes.

Interview

Posts will share the details of **APPLICANTS** to be interviewed with the **SECRETARIAT** via the online application system.

The **SECRETARIAT** will advise the **APPLICANTS** that they will be invited to interview.

Interviews will be conducted by Posts in-country alongside other **CHEVENING PROGRAMME** interviews.

Representatives from each **PARTICIPANT** will join the interview panel on a date or dates to be decided by the **PARTICIPANTS** (see model timetable in **Annex A**). **BECAL** may nominate an external interview panellist or defer to the **FCDO** Post if they are unable to attend the interview panel.

Selection

After interviews, **PARTICIPANTS** jointly decide upon the final selection of successful, reserve, and unsuccessful **APPLICANTS** and the **SECRETARIAT** then advises each Applicant of their status.

FCDO Post will send out the Scholarship offers, and the **SECRETARIAT** will make the administrative arrangements for Scholars prior to their departure and for their period of study.

11. Promotion and publicity

The **PARTICIPANTS** will jointly promote the Scholarships as widely as possible, and they will be acknowledged equally in all promotion and publicity surrounding it.

The Scholarships will be promoted as a distinct opportunity by each of the **PARTICIPANTS**. The newly introduced five-year return policy, the requirement of registering on the SPI, and the obligation of signing **BECAL's** Co-funded Scholarship Contract will be advertised as the only exceptions/differences to the regular rules that apply to awards. The **FCDO** will promote the Scholarships on the www.chevening.org website and other online digital platforms such as the Official Chevening Page on Facebook and on Twitter.

The **PARTICIPANTS** and the **SECRETARIAT** will use their best endeavours to ensure that the Scholarships are fully utilised each year.

Attached: Annex A, Annex B



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Participant logos, trade names, trademarks or service marks cannot be used without prior written consent from all Participants and must only be used in relation to the **CHEVENING/BECAL** Scholarships. Any public reference to this Chevening Partnership (including press releases and adverts) must be approved by all **PARTICIPANTS** before public dissemination.

BECAL's profile will be publicised on the Chevening.org website showcasing the Chevening Partnership and advertising the opportunity to Applicants. If debt is incurred by **BECAL** to the **FCDO** for a period of 6 months or longer (in line with payment terms outlined in Annex A) then **BECAL's** profile will be removed from the Chevening.org website and will no longer be publicised.

12. Administration and welfare

A model timetable for the administration of the Scholarship scheme, promotion and publicity, and application and selection procedures, is set out at **Annex A**.

The **SECRETARIAT** will, on behalf of the **FCDO**, be responsible for:

- The administration and welfare of the Scholars;
- Paying the appropriate stipends and allowance package directly to the Scholars;
- Booking and making payment for a return flight (economy class) for each Scholar; and,
- Enrolling the Scholars in its full Events and Engagement Programme and offer the opportunity to be paired with a Chevening alumnus.

All cost components are set out in **Annex B** of this **MOU**.

13. Participants' rights and benefits

Should **BECAL** decide to sponsor Scholars under the **CHEVENING PROGRAMME**, it can expect the following benefits:

- Opportunity to be a partner with the **FCDO** in building influence among the leaders of the future in a wide range of sectors.
- The association of the sponsor's brand with the prestigious Chevening brand, including the right to use their own branding at networking and other events.
- Benefit of the expertise and access of **FCDO** officers at Posts in identifying those with potential to rise to positions of influence, and in maintaining contact with the scholars and alumni.
- Networking with a large body of influential alumni through invitations to Chevening events in London and overseas.
- Marketing of the **BECAL's** name in the countries in which partnership scheme operates.

Attached: Annex A, Annex B



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14. Signatures

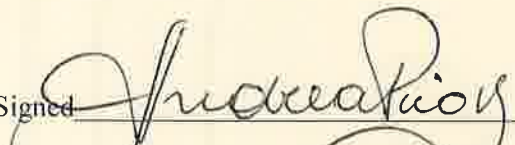
Signed  Date 2 March 2023

Print name / position: DAVID RUTLEY MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

For the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

Signed  Date 2/03/2023

Print name / position: OSCAR LLAMOSAS DÍAZ, Minister of Finance

Signed  Date 2/03/2023

Print name / position: ANDREA PICASO, Coordinator General

For Programa Nacional de Becas de Postgrados en el Exterior «Don Carlos Antonio López» (BECAL).



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Annex A

CHEVENING SCHOLARSHIPS: PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

ILLUSTRATIVE ADMINISTRATIVE TIMETABLE

Month	Action
Year before Scholarship is due	
By 30 June	PARTICIPANTS review the scheme where necessary and decide costs and allowances, scholarships, advertisements, information for websites, application form etc.
July to November	Scholarship(s) advertised in specified countries by FCDO Posts/The SECRETARIAT . The Sponsor should also bring scheme to attention of potential Applicants.
November	Deadline for receipt of applications via the online application system.
November to December	Eligibility review by SECRETARIAT .
December to January	Reading Committees evaluate applications and draw up long-list.
Year of Scholarship	
January to February	FCDO Posts review long-list and determines shortlist.
March to April	Interviews of all shortlisted Applicants conducted by FCDO Posts and partners where agreed.
April to May	Final selection of successful Applicant(s) (including reserves where there are suitable Applicants) approved by PARTICIPANTS .
May to June	FCDO Posts notify successful Applicants and, on confirmation of acceptances, The SECRETARIAT makes administrative arrangements.
July to August	Scholars complete BECAL's Sistema de Postulación de Instrumentos (SPI) https://spi.conacyt.gov.py/user
September/October	Scholars arrive in UK and begin their courses and participation in the CHEVENING PROGRAMME .
October	SECRETARIAT invoices partner for their contribution. Please note the Chevening SECRETARIAT works to 30-day payment terms.

Attached: Annex A, Annex B



Annex B

SCHOLARSHIP COMPONENTS PER SCHOLAR

BASED ON PREDICTED RATES USING 2022/23 AVERAGES TO BE REVIEWED ANNUALLY

Item	Per Scholarship in GBP
Academic tuition fees Including examination/thesis costs	Average GBP 17,349
Monthly stipend for living expenses for the duration of studies for up to 12 months at GBP 1,128/month or GBP 1,518/month Paid directly to Scholar by the SECRETARIAT .	GBP 14,736 - GBP 18,216
Allowance package <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • arrival allowance: GBP 668 • events and engagement travel allowance: (Southeast England (excluding Greater London) GBP 76, Wales and Southwest England GBP 106; Midlands GBP 108; Northern England GBP 157; Scotland and Northern Ireland GBP 211) • homeward departure allowance: GBP 150 Paid directly to Scholar by the SECRETARIAT .	GBP 897 - GBP 1,029
Return airfare (economy class); approximate cost shown (FCDO to cover actual cost) To be booked and paid for by the Secretariat.	Approx. GBP 2,480*
VISA & Immigration Health Surcharge approximate combined cost	Approx. GBP 1,053
TOTAL ESTIMATED SCHOLARSHIP COST	GBP 36,512 - GBP 40,127

**Return airfare costs have been significantly impacted by the COVID19 global pandemic. This is a mid-point between 2021/22 costs and pre-pandemic costs, to reflect potential changes to this amount.*

Attached: Annex A, Annex B



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PARTICIPANTS to share the costs as shown in section 6 of this **MOU**. Actual amounts contributed by each **PARTICIPANT** should be reviewed annually as they may be subject to change due to variations in the above component costs. Any changes to costs and/or contributions that **PARTICIPANTS** decide to make should be recorded, signed and attached to this **MOU** as a new Annex by the end of June in order for the changes to apply to the following academic year.