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DON CARLOS  
ANTONIO LOPEZ  
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QUEEN'S  
UNIVERSITY  
BELFAST

TETĀ REKUĀI  
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## COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM BETWEEN «THE NATIONAL PROGRAM OF FOREIGN POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP “DON CARLOS ANTONIO LOPEZ”» AND «QUEEN’S UNIVERSITY BELFAST»

### 1. STATEMENTS

1.1. This agreement is made between the National Program of Foreign Postgraduate Scholarships «Don Carlos Antonio Lopez» (Programa Nacional de Becas de Postgrado en el Exterior «Don Carlos Antonio Lopez») of the Republic of Paraguay (hereinafter BECAL) located in Chile St. 252, Asunción, Paraguay and «Queen’s University Belfast», jointly referred as the «Parties» herein.

1.2. BECAL and Queen’s University Belfast share an interest in strengthening bilateral cooperation in the field of education between Paraguay and The United Kingdom and enhancing the links between Queen’s University Belfast and its academic counterparts in Paraguay.

1.3. BECAL and Queen’s University Belfast by entering into this agreement, aim to foster cooperation and enhance the links between both institutions, and agree to establish and administer the QUEEN’S UNIVERSITY BELFAST - BECAL JOINT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, under the terms and conditions contained in this agreement.

1.4. An important mean of fostering such cooperation is through the awarding of scholarships to all interested Paraguayan students wishing to pursue postgraduate programs.

### 2. AGREEMENT

The Parties agree that the QUEEN’S UNIVERSITY BELFAST - BECAL JOINT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM will operate as follow:

2.1. Paraguayan students interested in this program will seek admission, to postgraduate degree programs including Master’s by coursework, research and PhDs offered by Queen’s University Belfast following the normal application procedures and meeting all the standard admission requirements including all English language requirements established by Queen’s University Belfast.

2.2. Paraguayan students unconditionally accepted by Queen’s University Belfast will submit a scholarship application to BECAL, following its application procedures and meeting all the requirements established by BECAL.

2.3. Paraguayan students who are selected as beneficiaries of the scholarship program offered by BECAL (Sponsored Students) will be eligible to be considered for shared financing under this agreement.

2.4. Queen’s University Belfast will provide a discount to the value of 20% of the tuition fees to all Paraguayan Sponsored Students enrolled in postgraduate degree programs at one of the British based campuses of the university.

2.5. BECAL pledges to provide appropriate funding to Queen’s University Belfast for Paraguayan Sponsored Students who are selected as beneficiaries of the program offered by BECAL to be able to undertake the nominated course at Queen’s University Belfast. BECAL will, in accordance with BECAL guidelines and financial aid limits, fund a total of 50.000 US\$ for each Master’s student awarded with the scholarship. The student’s program duration must not exceed 24 months. The funding amount includes tuition and additional expenses such as health insurance, stipend, flights, and other benefits established in BECAL’s terms and conditions document. Funding will first be allocated towards tuition and any remaining funds will be allocated towards the remaining expenses stated in BECAL’s terms and conditions document.



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2.6. BECAL will, in accordance with BECAL guidelines and financial aid limits, fund a total of 90.000 US\$ for each PhD student awarded with the scholarship. The student's program duration must not exceed 48 months. The funding amount includes tuition and additional expenses such as health insurance, stipend, flights, and other benefits established in BECAL's terms and conditions document. Funding will first be allocated towards tuition and any remaining funds will be allocated towards the remaining expenses stated in BECAL's terms and conditions document.

2.7. Paraguayan Sponsored Students are responsible for obtaining financial resources to cover any further amounts required to meet other costs and expenses that are not included in this QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST - BECAL JOINT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, during the period of their enrolment at Queen's University Belfast, in concordance with the Student responsibilities detailed in section five (5) of this agreement.

2.8. For the purpose of adequate implementation and monitoring of this agreement, each of the Parties hereby pledges to designate a representative, who will be responsible for ensuring the activities listed below:

2.8.1. That Queen's University Belfast and BECAL provide prospective Paraguayan scholars with information on the programs of interest to the scholars and guidance on the process to apply to study at Queen's University Belfast.

2.8.2. That Queen's University Belfast provides to BECAL with all relevant promotional material and prospectuses in order to encourage interest in its programs in Paraguay.

2.8.3. That Queen's University Belfast provides all Paraguayan post graduate students unconditionally accepted into Queen's University Belfast, and encourages these students to contact and submit an application to BECAL.

2.8.4. That BECAL provides Queen's University Belfast with institutional information on BECAL and pertinent details of this QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST - BECAL JOINT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

2.8.5. BECAL will provide the necessary financial arrangements for confirmed and selected Paraguayan Sponsored Students in accordance with BECAL guidelines and financial aid limits.

2.8.6. That each Party has the obligation to inform the other party of any change in the designated coordinator or signatory in charge of the implementation and monitoring of this agreement.

2.8.7. The designated current representatives of this agreement are:

For Queen's University Belfast	For BECAL
Name: Ally Larkin	Andrea Picaso
Position: Global Sponsors Manager	Coordinadora General, Programa Nacional de Becas «Don Carlos A. López»
Telephone : +44 (0)28 9097 5096	Telephone: +59521 440007
Personal email: a.larkin@qub.ac.uk	consultasbecal@hacienda.gov.py
Email of the department : international@qub.ac.uk	comunicacionesbecal@hacienda.gov.py



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### **3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY**

- 3.1. Queen's University Belfast will enrol all confirmed and selected Paraguayan Sponsored Students as full-time students for the duration of their enrolment.
- 3.2. Queen's University Belfast will provide orientation for the Sponsored Students.
- 3.3. Queen's University Belfast will provide advice on housing options to Sponsored Students and on any procedures to be followed.
- 3.4. Queen's University Belfast will provide the appropriate academic counselling and other support to Sponsored Students.

### **4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF BECAL**

- 4.1. BECAL will be responsible to provide appropriate funding to Paraguayan Sponsored Students who are selected as beneficiaries of the Scholarship program offered by BECAL to be able to undertake the nominated course at Queen's University Belfast in accordance to the section 2.5 of this agreement.
- 4.2. BECAL will be responsible for payment of living allowances according to BECAL guidelines and financial aid limits.
- 4.3. BECAL will be responsible to cover appropriate medical insurance costs for the Sponsored Students in accordance to the section 2.5 of this agreement.
- 4.4. BECAL will facilitate the promotion of this arrangement on a year round basis, and will promote the scholarships to be awarded under this QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST - BECAL JOINT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.
- 4.5. BECAL will provide financial support, to the Sponsored Students in order to obtain their appropriate visa for the defined study period in The United Kingdom, in concordance and compliance with the specific responsibilities for Sponsored Students listed on section 2.5 of this agreement.

### **5. RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENTS**

- 5.1. In order to maintain the financial support and benefits described in this QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST - BECAL JOINT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, Paraguayan Sponsored Students are responsible for remaining enrolled at Queen's University Belfast throughout their participation in the Masters and PhD programs established in BECAL guidelines.
- 5.2. Paraguayan Sponsored Students are required to obtain an appropriate visa for the defined study period in The United Kingdom. Queen's University Belfast will provide the necessary documentation to support the visa application and BECAL will provide the financial support described in section 4.5 of this agreement.
- 5.3. Paraguayan Sponsored Students attending Queen's University Belfast are responsible for obtaining the appropriate Health Insurance.
- 5.4. Sponsored Students, will be subject to the general regulations governing graduate students at Queen's University Belfast and subject to the normal disciplinary policies of Queen's University Belfast, as well as to BECAL scholarships programmes rules applicable.



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## 6. SETTLEMENTS OF DISPUTES

- 6.1. Matters not included in this agreement or those related to it, will be solved wherever possible by mutual friendly discussion between the Parties. Any decision agreed must be acknowledged by an exchange of letters between the Parties.
- 6.2. In case of disputes regarding the interpretation and fulfilment of this agreement shall be settled and negotiate in good faith by mutual agreement between the Parties.
- 6.3. If there is a difference in the interpretation or implementations of this agreement, both parties will endeavour to resolve it by informal discussions between the respective Activities Coordinators established in this agreement. If the parties cannot resolve the dispute, they agree to submit to an alternative dispute resolution, subject to the rules that the parties themselves mutually agree to adopt.
- 6.4. Notwithstanding the existence of a dispute, the parties must continue to perform their obligations under this agreement.

## 7. FINAL PROVISIONS

- 7.1. The present agreement shall come into effect on the date of its last signature by the undersigned representatives of each Party and shall initially be in force for 5 years.
- 7.2. The present agreement may be amended by mutual consent by means of notification in writing signed by both Parties, specifying the date on which such an amendment shall come into effect and what that amendment is.
- 7.3. This agreement may be terminated by either Party by giving at least thirty days' notice to the other Party in writing. Sponsored students enrolled at Queen's University Belfast at the time of the termination will be able to complete their studies with the agreed financial support from BECAL and Queen's University Belfast.
- 7.4. Termination of this agreement shall not affect the conclusion of any cooperation actions that may have been undertaken during its period of force.
- 7.5. This agreement is to be signed in three (3) originals in English and three (3) originals in Spanish, both texts being identically authentic.

\_\_\_\_\_ for **Queen's University**

\_\_\_\_\_ for **BECAL**

*H Taylor*

**Heather Taylor**  
Head of International Markets  
Date:

*Andrea Picaso*

**Andrea Picaso**  
General Coordinator  
Date:

*Oscar Llamosas Díaz*

**Oscar Llamosas Díaz**  
Minister of Finance  
Date: 24/07/2023