

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
AND
THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY,
ON BEHALF OF THE COORDINATION OF THE NATIONAL
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CARLOS ANTONIO LÓPEZ - BECAL**

The University of Queensland (hereinafter “UQ”) and the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Paraguay on behalf of the Coordination of the National Scholarship Program Carlos Antonio López (Coordinación del Programa Nacional de Becas Carlos Antonio López) of the Republic of Paraguay (hereinafter “BECAL”), both having an interest in strengthening bilateral co-operation in the field of education, and enhancing the links between them, agree to sign this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter “MOU”) for joint support of a postgraduate scholarship program (hereinafter the “Program”).

An important means of fostering such co-operation and links is the provision of scholarship opportunities to talented Paraguayan students and candidates wishing to pursue postgraduate programs at UQ. The purpose of this MOU is to outline financial commitments to students in the scope of BECAL attending UQ.

The parties agree to the following:

1. The Program shall apply to Paraguayan students to be admitted each academic year for full-time study at UQ to pursue postgraduate coursework or research higher degree programs.
2. Applicants and candidates shall apply directly to the relevant UQ school, faculty, department or academic program before the deadline as may be determined from time to time by UQ, following the normal application procedures, and meeting all the admission requirements established by UQ for the Program, including English language requirements. UQ’s English language requirements are outlined in UQ’s Policy and Procedures Library at: <https://policies.uq.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=152#Procedures>. Applicants should specify in their application that they are applying under this Program. The UQ school, faculty, department or academic program shall finish its evaluation and will provide each admitted candidate with a conditional or unconditional offer of admission by the deadline of the relevant BECAL application period.

3. BECAL shall notify UQ by the applicable deadline the names of the admitted applicants who have met the BECAL program requirements and are eligible for scholarships under the Program, at which time UQ shall provide each applicant and candidate with a firm offer of admission in accordance with UQ procedures.
4. BECAL will supply UQ with all required information regarding the proposed student(s) to enable UQ to implement the scholarship. Likewise, UQ will inform BECAL regarding the granting of the scholarship and other appropriate information regarding the student's performance and status in the program.
5. UQ shall accept tuition fees at the published rate less 20% for master's degree programs and 25% for PhD programs for students accepted by UQ, subject to satisfactory progress toward the degree.
6. In the case of master's degree programs, BECAL shall pay UQ the balance of the tuition and fees for the student. BECAL shall also cover travel expenses, standard single overseas student health cover (OSHC), and pay the participating student a stipend for living expenses, according to the applicable BECAL stipend scale and in line with the Australian Department of Home Affairs.
7. In the case of doctoral candidates, BECAL shall pay the candidate's travel expenses to and from Paraguay, and a stipend for living expenses, according to the applicable BECAL stipend scale and in line with The University of Queensland's Research Training Program (RTP) stipend rate - <https://scholarships.uq.edu.au/scholarship/graduate-school-scholarships-uggss-%E2%80%93-93-includes-rtp> . All other expenses and fees related to the candidate and the program, including health insurance, research trips and materials and related administrative costs shall be paid by BECAL or the student.
8. UQ confirms that BECAL students will be eligible for other scholarships falling outside of this MOU administered by UQ, as are any other similarly-situated UQ applicants, subject to applicable eligibility requirements.
9. Both parties shall cooperate in publicizing the scholarship opportunities to prospective graduate students applying to BECAL, and shall both be recognized in all promotional material.
10. Each institution will designate a named coordinator to implement and monitor the program. In particular, named coordinators will be responsible for ensuring that:
 - a. UQ and BECAL provide prospective scholarship students with information and guidance on their program of interest, and on applying to UQ;
 - b. UQ provides BECAL with all relevant promotional material and prospectuses in order to encourage interest in its programs.

The named coordinators are:

For UQ: Mr Johan Arnberg.

For BECAL: Mrs. Alejandra Bogado Tervit, MEd(EdMgt), General Director of Training for Development

11. This MOU shall remain in force for five years from the date of signature by the undersigned representatives of each party and may be reviewed or renegotiated at the request of either party. Either party may terminate the agreement on thirty days' written notice to the other party. Early termination or expiration of the MOU shall not terminate, modify or affect the existing commitments of either party to Program students, subject to all standard eligibility requirements of each institution.
12. Each of the parties is dedicated to the principles of non-discrimination and academic freedom. The selection process and criteria for participating students for the scholarships envisioned by this MOU shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, gender, pregnancy, religion, creed, marital status, partnership status, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, military status, or any other legally protected status.
13. Attending students shall be subject to all applicable policies and practices of UQ. Students who enroll in any UQ program are expected to complete all academic work and examinations required by the instructors of their courses and will be evaluated and graded according to the normal practices of UQ. The grades they have earned shall be recorded in the Student Information System.
14. UQ reserves the right to terminate the enrolment of any student funded by BECAL for failure to comply with the University's rules and regulations, following the normal procedures for making such a decision. UQ will promptly notify BECAL where any student in receipt of a scholarship by BECAL ceases to be a student of UQ, subject to compliance with applicable privacy, confidentiality and/or data protection laws.
15. Students shall be responsible for covering the cost of accommodation, all travel expenses, books, equipment, and other incidental expenses. During their studies at UQ, they will be required to enroll in the University's health service and medical insurance plans for full-time students.
16. Each attending student is responsible for obtaining any necessary visa and other governmental permissions as may be necessary to enable travel to and study at UQ. UQ will provide relevant documentation e.g. Confirmation of Enrolment to the admitted students to assist them in obtaining the immigration documents necessary to study at its institution.
17. The MOU contains and constitutes the entire understanding and agreement between the parties with respect to the Program and the related matters which are the subject of the MOU. Matters not included in the MOU, but directly related to it, may be addressed by the mutual agreement of the parties. Any such supplementary agreement must be appended to this MOU and shall become valid upon the date of signing.
18. Both parties commit to good faith efforts to resolve any disputes on the terms of or related to the MOU by seeking friendly, mutually acceptable resolutions.
19. According to the Australia's Foreign Relations Act, both parties agree that:
 - a) UQ may, in its discretion, disclose any information relating to this Agreement, related agreements or parties to those agreements, including any confidential information, to the extent UQ considers the information is required in relation to UQ's compliance with

Australia's Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) Act 2020 (Cth) (the Act), or a declaration issued by, or other decision of, the Minister under the Act (Declaration).

- b) If a Declaration is issued, UQ may take any steps required to comply with the Declaration, including terminating this Agreement with immediate effect, or with effect on some other date required by the Declaration, by giving [the other Parties] notice in writing. Such termination by UQ will not constitute a breach or repudiation by UQ of this Agreement, or otherwise entitle any Party to make any claim against UQ.

This Memorandum of Understanding is to be signed in one (1) original copy in Spanish and in English. Both the Spanish version and the English version are equally valid.

For The University of Queensland

**For the Coordination of the National
Scholarship Program Carlos Antonio López
of the Republic of Paraguay**

Brett Lovegrove

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Global Partnerships)

Date: 25/07/2024

Alejandra Bogado Tervit

General Director of Training for Development

Date: _____

Andrea Mercedes Picaso

Vice Minister

Vice Ministry of Human Resources and
Organizational Management

Ministry of Economy and Finance

Date: _____