

**COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM BETWEEN “COORDINATION OF THE NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CARLOS ANTONIO LÓPEZ - BECAL” AND “UNIVERSITIES NEW ZEALAND”**

**1. STATEMENTS**

- 1.1. This agreement is made between the Ministry of Economy and 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**) located in Estrella St. 345, Asunción, Paraguay and “Universities New Zealand” (hereinafter **UNZ**), jointly referred as the “Parties” herein.
- 1.2. **BECAL** and **UNZ** share an interest in strengthening bilateral cooperation in the field of education between Paraguay and New Zealand, and enhancing the links between **the 8 universities in New Zealand** and their academic counterparts in Paraguay.
- 1.3. The universities that are part of the UNZ and enter into this agreement are as follows:
  - 1.3.1. University of Auckland
  - 1.3.2. Auckland University of Technology
  - 1.3.3. University of Waikato
  - 1.3.4. Massey University
  - 1.3.5. Victoria University of Wellington
  - 1.3.6. University of Canterbury
  - 1.3.7. Lincoln University
  - 1.3.8. University of Otago
- 1.4. By entering into this agreement, **BECAL** and **UNZ** aim to foster cooperation and enhance the links between **BECAL** and the **UNZ** universities listed in Section 1.3 They agree to establish and administer the **JOINT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UNZ/BECAL**, under the terms and conditions contained in this agreement.
- 1.5. An important means of fostering such cooperation is through the awarding of scholarships to all interested Paraguayan students wishing to pursue a PhD in New Zealand.

**2. AGREEMENT**

The Parties agree that the **JOINT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UNZ/BECAL** will operate as follow:

- 2.1. Paraguayan students interested in this program will seek admission to PhD programs offered by **one of UNZ** universities listed in Section 1.3, following the normal application procedures and meeting all the standard admission requirements, including all English language requirements established by the university in question.
- 2.2. Paraguayan students unconditionally accepted by **one of the UNZ** universities listed in Section 1.3 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. Each of the **UNZ** universities listed in Section 1.3 will offer eligible Paraguayan Sponsored Students enrolled in a PhD degree the same domestic tuition fees that New Zealand citizens pay, in line with New Zealand regulation, provided the Sponsored Students are based in New Zealand for the period of their studies. This amounts to a tuition fee discount of approximately 80%.
- 2.5. **BECAL** pledges to provide appropriate funding to Paraguayan Sponsored Students who are selected as beneficiaries of the program offered by **BECAL** to be able to undertake the nominated course at **one of the UNZ** universities listed in Section 1.3
- 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 **JOINT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UNZ/BECAL**, during the period of their enrolment at **one of the UNZ** universities listed in Section 1.3 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. **Each of the UNZ** universities listed in Section 1.3 and **BECAL** provide prospective Paraguayan scholars with information on the PhD program of interest to the scholars and guidance on the process to apply to study at **the UNZ** universities listed in Section 1.3.
  - 2.8.2. **Each of the UNZ** universities listed in Section 1.3 **will** provide **BECAL** with all relevant promotional material and prospectuses in order to encourage interest in its programs in Paraguay.
  - 2.8.3. When a Paraguayan student applies to any of the **UNZ** universities listed in Section 1.3 and meets the university's requirements for admission to a PhD programme, the university will provide a letter of admission. The letter of admission will be unconditional, except for the requirement that the student satisfy all conditions for obtaining a visa to study in New Zealand. **UNZ universities listed in Section 1.3** can assist students with visa applications, but the ultimate decision to grant a visa sits with Immigration New Zealand.
  - 2.8.4. That **BECAL** provides **UNZ** with institutional information on **BECAL** and the pertinent details related to this **JOINT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UNZ/BECAL**.
  - 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:

<b>For UNIVERSITIES NEW ZEALAND</b>	<b>For BECAL</b>
Name: Chris Whelan	Name: Alejandra Bogado Tervit
Position: Chief Executive Universities New Zealand	Position: Director of Training for Development - Coordination of the National Scholarship Program Carlos Antonio López - BECAL
Telephone: (+64) 4381-8500	Telephone: +59521 440007
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Department email: contact@universitiesnz.ac.nz	comunicacionesbecal@hacienda.gov.py

### 3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF UNZ

- 3.1. **Each of the UNZ** universities listed in Section 1.3 will enrol all confirmed and selected Paraguayan Sponsored Students as full-time students for the duration of their enrolment.
- 3.2. **Each of the UNZ** universities listed in Section 1.3 will provide orientation for the Sponsored Students.
- 3.3. **Each of the UNZ** universities listed in Section 1.3 will provide advice on housing options to Sponsored Students and on any procedures to be followed.
- 3.4. **Each of the UNZ** universities listed in Section 1.3 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 **one of the UNZ** universities listed in Section 1.3 in accordance to the Section 2.6. 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 with Section 2.6 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 **JOINT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UNZ/BECAL**.
- 4.5. **BECAL** will provide financial support to the Sponsored Students in order to obtain their appropriate visa for the defined study period in New Zealand, in concordance and compliance with the specific responsibilities for Sponsored Students listed on Section 2.6. of this agreement.

### 5. RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENTS

- 5.1. In order to maintain the financial support and benefits described in this **JOINT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UNZ/BECAL**, Paraguayan Sponsored Students are responsible for remaining enrolled at **one of the UNZ** universities listed in Section 1.3 throughout their participation in the PhD program established in **BECAL** guidelines.

- 5.2. Paraguayan Sponsored Students are required to obtain an appropriate visa for the defined study period in New Zealand. **The UNZ** universities listed in Section 1.3 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 **one of the UNZ** universities listed in Section 1.3 are responsible for obtaining the appropriate Health Insurance.
- 5.4. Paraguayan Sponsored Students will be subject to the general regulations governing graduate students at **the New Zealand University to which they have enrolled** and will be subject to the normal disciplinary policies of **that University** as well as to **BECAL** scholarships programs rules applicable.

## 6. SETTLEMENTS OF DISPUTES

- 6.1. Matters not included in this agreement or those related to it will be resolved, wherever possible, through 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 negotiated 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 Coordinators of Activities 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 through a written communication signed by both Parties. This notification should specify the date on which such an amendment shall come into effect and the nature of the amendment.
- 7.3. This agreement may be terminated by either Party by providing at least thirty days' notice to the other Party in writing. Sponsored students enrolled at **one of UNZ** universities listed in Section 1.3 at the time of the termination will be able to complete their studies with the agreed financial support from **BECAL** and **the New Zealand University at which the sponsored student is enrolled**.
- 7.4. Termination of this agreement shall not affect the completion of any cooperation actions that may have been initiated during its term.
- 7.5. That **UNZ** universities listed in Section 1.3 agree to be represented in this agreement by the person signing this agreement.
- 7.6. This agreement is to be signed in one (1) original copy in English and one (1) original in Spanish, with both texts being identically authentic.

**For Universities New Zealand**

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

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**Chris Whelan**

Chief Executive  
Universities New Zealand

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**Alejandra Bogado Tervit**

General Director of Training for Development  
Vice Ministry of Human Resources and  
Organizational Management

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**Andrea Mercedes Picaso**

Vice Minister  
Vice Ministry of Human Resources and  
Organizational Management  
Ministry of Economy and Finance