

COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM BETWEEN “THE COORDINATION OF THE NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CARLOS ANTONIO LOPEZ - BECAL” AND “UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL”

1. STATEMENTS

- 1.1. This agreement is made between the Coordination of the National Scholarship Program Carlos Antonio López (Coordinación del Programa Nacional de Becas Carlos Antonio Lopez) of the Republic of Paraguay (hereinafter **BECAL**) located in Estrella St. 345, Asunción, Paraguay and “**UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL**”, located in Beacon House, Queens Road, Bristol BS8 1QU, jointly referred as the “Parties” herein.
- 1.2. **BECAL** and **UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL** share an interest in strengthening bilateral cooperation in the field of education between Paraguay and United Kingdom, and enhancing the links between **UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL** and its academic counterparts in Paraguay.
- 1.3. **BECAL** and **UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL** by entering into this agreement, aim to foster cooperation and enhance the links between both institutions and agree to establish and administer the **JOINT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL/ BECAL**, under the terms and conditions contained in this agreement.
- 1.4. An important means of fostering such cooperation is through the awarding of scholarships to all interested Paraguayans students wishing to pursue one-semester exchange programmes and postgraduate programs.

2. AGREEMENT

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

- 2.1. Paraguayans students interested in this program will seek admission to one-semester exchange programs and postgraduate degree programs, including Master’s by coursework and research, and PhD programs offered by **UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL**, following the normal application procedures and meeting all the standard admission requirements, including all English language requirements established by **UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL**.
- 2.2. Paraguayan students unconditionally accepted by **UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL** 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. The **UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL** will provide a discount of **30%** of the tuition fees to all Paraguayan Sponsored Students enrolled in postgraduate degree programs at one of the **UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL** based campuses of the university. This scholarship for **BECAL** beneficiaries cannot be stacked with any other scholarships offered by the **UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL**. Where beneficiaries of **BECAL** funding have also been awarded a separate scholarship funded by the **UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL** the scholarship of higher value will be applied.

- 2.5. The **UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL** will also offer **BECAL** beneficiaries pursuing master's studies at the **UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL** a place in the Think Big Development Programme.
- 2.6. **BECAL** pledges to provide appropriate funding to **UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL** for Paraguayan Sponsored Students who are selected as beneficiaries of the program offered by **BECAL** to be able to undertake the nominated course at **UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL**.
- 2.7. **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.
- 2.8. **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.
- 2.9. **BECAL** will, in accordance with **BECAL** guidelines and financial aid limits, fund a total of **30.000 US\$** for each **Postdoctoral 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.
- 2.10. **BECAL** will, in accordance with **BECAL** guidelines and financial aid limits, fund a total of **10.000 US\$** for each **undergraduate student** awarded with the scholarship. The student's program duration must not exceed **6 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.
- 2.11. 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 UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL /BECAL**, during the period of their enrolment at **UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL** in concordance with the Student responsibilities detailed in Section Five (5) of this agreement.
- 2.12. 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:
 - 2.12.1. The **UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL** 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 **UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL**.

- 2.12.2. The **UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL** provides **BECAL** with all relevant promotional material and prospectuses in order to encourage interest in its programs in Paraguay.
- 2.12.3. The **UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL** provides unconditional admission letter to all eligible Paraguayan students at **UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL**, and encourages these students to contact and submit an application to **BECAL**.
- 2.12.4. That **BECAL** provides to the **UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL** with institutional information on **BECAL** and the pertinent details related to this **JOINT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL /BECAL**.
- 2.12.5. **BECAL** will provide the necessary financial arrangements for confirmed and selected Paraguayan Sponsored Students in accordance with **BECAL** guidelines and financial aid limits.
- 2.12.6. 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.
- 2.12.7. The designated current representatives of this agreement are:

For UNIVERSITY	For BECAL
Name: Maria de la Pisa	Alejandra Bogado Tervit
Position: Head of International Partnerships and Relations	Director of Training Development - Coordination of the National Scholarship Program Carlos Antonio López - BECAL
Telephone:	Telephone: +59521 440007
Personal email: maria.delapisamarcos@bristol.ac.uk	consultasbecal@hacienda.gov.py
Department email: international- sponsors@bristol.ac.uk	comunicacionesbecal@hacienda.gov.py

3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF UNIVERSITY

- 3.1. **UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL** will enrol all confirmed and selected Paraguayan Sponsored Students as full-time students for the duration of their enrolment.
- 3.2. **UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL** will provide orientation for the Sponsored Students.
- 3.3. **UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL** will provide advice on housing options to Sponsored Students and on any procedures to be followed.
- 3.4. **UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL** 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 **UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL** in accordance to the Section 2 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 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 UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL /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 the United Kingdom, in concordance and compliance with the specific responsibilities for Sponsored Students listed on Section 2 of this agreement.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENTS

- 5.1. In order to maintain the financial support and benefits described in this **JOINT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL /BECAL**, Paraguayan Sponsored Students are responsible for remaining enrolled at **UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL** throughout their participation in the one-semester exchange or Masters 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. **UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL** 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 **UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL** are responsible for obtaining the appropriate Health Insurance.
- 5.4. **Paraguayan** Sponsored Students will be subject to the general regulations governing graduate students at **UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL** and subject to the normal disciplinary policies of **UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL** 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. DATA PRIVACY

- 7.1 **UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL** confirms that data processing as part of this agreement will be handled in line with the UK Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulation “GDPR”.

Data will only be shared with BECAL once the university has obtained written consent from the applicants/students, who have the right to withdraw consent at any time. The university will only share applicant/student data pertinent to the execution of this agreement. This includes:

- The outcome of applications to study at the University of Bristol.
- Information pertaining to their chosen course or programme of study, such as tuition fees and details of relevant discounts, programme start and end, exam board dates, etc.
- Letters of registration, which include student number, full name, date of birth, mode of attendance, programme of study, start date, expected end date and tuition fees.
- Progress information including exam marks, attendance (when available), resit information and updates on timelines.
- Letters of withdrawal.

8. FINAL PROVISIONS

- 8.1. 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.
- 8.2. 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.
- 8.3. 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 **UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL** at the time of the termination will be able to complete their studies with the agreed financial support from **BECAL** and the **UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL**.
- 8.4. Termination of this agreement shall not affect the completion of any cooperation actions that may have been initiated during its term.
- 8.5. 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 **UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL**
Professor Michele Acuto
Pro-Vice Chancellor,
Global Engagement

Date: 20.05.2025

For **BECAL**
Alejandra Bogado Tervit
Director of Training Development -
Coordination of the National Scholarship
Program Carlos Antonio López - BECAL

Date:

Andrea Mercedes Picaso
Vice minister of Human Resources and
Organizational Management
Ministry of Economy and Finance

Date: