

Introduction

For decades, Mexico's cultural diplomacy has engaged in many successful programs. One of these successes, without a doubt, has been its role in training human capital through scholarships for academic degrees and for financing the specialized studies of experts in Mexico.

Students from more than 80 countries have received scholarships from the Mexican government through the programs administered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (S.R.E.). Many of these former scholarship students now occupy senior positions in the governments or academic institutions of their countries.

In the 2007-2012 National Development Plan, foreign policy is closely linked to national development. One of the seven Constitutional principles of Mexico's foreign policy is international cooperation for development, of which the scholarship programs are an essential element.

The internationalization of Mexican institutions and training of quality human capital are part of the international educational cooperation strategy. The Foreign Ministry's scholarship programs for foreigners have been highly effective in advancing this strategy. The presence in Mexico of students and experts from other countries has facilitated academic exchanges and the construction of bridges of dialogue that have continued over the long term, enriched the foreign policy agenda and been exceptionally valuable for our country and for the governments of the scholarship recipients, as well.

Mexico is a country of many associations; its government—through the Foreign Ministry—is working to expand its dialogue with the world through a policy of diversifying its relationships. As part of this policy, and in order to meet the strategic goals of the 2007-2012 Foreign Affairs Program, the Foreign Ministry's Department of Educational and Cultural Cooperation announces its 2012 Scholarship Program for foreign students.

The academic programs offered are of the highest quality and demonstrate Mexico's progress in various fields of science. Hundreds of foreign citizens have come to Mexico over the past two decades for graduate studies, to do research,

give talks and to teach courses. In some cases, in reciprocity, Mexicans receive scholarships to study abroad.

The presence of international scholarship students in Mexico has strengthened the intercultural dialogue and enriched Mexico's relationships with many nations from every continent. The scholarship program is offered to --- countries through Mexico's network of bilateral and special agreements, as well as through multilateral mechanisms.

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