

# Strengths of Higher Education in Mexico

**A General Approach**

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# Mexican Higher Education in Numbers

- ▶ Mexico has over 3.6 million students in the higher education system
  - ▶ This number is the second largest in Latin America (after Brazil)
- ▶ Of that total, approximately 200,000 students pursue graduate degrees
- ▶ There are 12,789 international (foreign) graduate students in Mexico
- ▶ 18,281 Mexicans are studying abroad
- ▶ Over 6,800 HEIs and campi → Private recruitment of 60%
- ▶ The higher education faculty system has 315,000 Teachers
- ▶ There is a total of 380 registered public universities
- ▶ There are more than 2,800 private universities (from which 1,186 offer graduate studies)
- ▶ There are 43,000 different undergraduate programs in private universities

# Mexican Universities: Global Ranking

- ▶ The best world-widely ranked Mexican Universities are:
  - ▶ **UNAM** National Autonomous University
  - ▶ **CINVESTAV** Research and Advanced Studies Center
  - ▶ **ITESM** Monterrey Technologic Institute
  - ▶ **UAM** Metropolitan Autonomous University
  - ▶ **IPN** National Polytechnic Institute
  - ▶ **UDG** Guadalajara State University
- ▶ Webometrics Ranking of World Universities -- **UNAM 2<sup>nd</sup> Latin American university.**
- ▶ QS University Rankings -- **ITESM 7<sup>th</sup>, UNAM 8<sup>th</sup> of Top Latin American universities.**
- ▶ Five of these universities were part of the World ranking of the best 1,000 universities among 20 Latin American universities.

# Structure of the Education System in Mexico

## ▶ Key features

- ▶ Basic education provided by the State is free of tuition charges.
- ▶ Higher education is mostly free or has symbolic charges.
- ▶ Public education (in all levels) must be secular.
- ▶ There is a wide-ranging effort to include all groups (indigenous, adults, special needs) into the national education system.

## ▶ Public Policy

- ▶ Major guidelines and objectives are set by the Ministry of Education (Secretariat of Public Education).
- ▶ Each of the 32 states has its own local Ministry of Education, which manages local education systems.
- ▶ Public support for high quality academic programs through CONACYT (equivalent to Science and Technology Ministry).

# Mexican Education System

## Basic, Middle, Higher

Mexican System 10 Mandatory Years	USA Equivalent
Primary School (6 years +1 pre-school)	Elementary School
Secondary School (3 years)	High School
Preparatory, Baccalaureate or Technical School (3 years)	High School
“Licenciatura” (4-5 years degree)	Undergraduate / College
“Maestría”, “Doctorado” (Master’s, PhD)	Graduate / Specialties

# Main actors in the higher education sector in Mexico

- ▶ There are two large National Higher Education Institutions (National University, National Polytechnic Institute)
- ▶ National High-Level Education and Research Institutes (2,155)
- ▶ State Universities (32 Systems)
- ▶ Private Universities (971 in the national registry from over 2,800)

# Actors of Higher Education, Research and Technology Development **in Mexico**

- ▶ **National (Federal) Universities**
  - ▶ UNAM (In its present form since 1910, but as university of Mexico since the 16<sup>th</sup> century)
  - ▶ IPN National Polytechnic Institution
  - ▶ Their systems
  - ▶ Technological Universities
- ▶ **National High-Level Education and Research Institutes (over 2000 programs)**
  - ▶ Some created or supported by the National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT)
  - ▶ High specialty institutes as Colmex, CIDE, COLMICH, National Pedagogic University
  - ▶ Public high-quality programs such as Chapingo University (Agriculture) or COLPOS institutes.

# Actors of Higher Education, Research and Technology Development **in Mexico**

- ▶ **International Higher Education Institutions**
- ▶ **State Universities**
- ▶ **Private Universities**
- ▶ Latin American initiatives based in Mexico
- ▶ FLACSO (Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences) / ILCE (Latin American Institute of Communication for Education)
- ▶ State universities are Autonomous. States also offer Technological and Polytechnic education programs.
- ▶ Guadalajara, Colima, Guanajuato, UAEM
- ▶ Some are highly competitive among the best public institutions
- ▶ ITESM, Ibero-American University, La Salle University, Anahuac University

# Main Scholarships for Foreign Students

## (supporting public and private systems)

### Merit Award for International Students

- ▶ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs offers full scholarships
- ▶ High grades are required (9/10)
- ▶ Grant lasts up to 6 months
- ▶ Yearly published - applications received 1 year in advance
- ▶ For scholars admitted into over 300 private & public HEIs
- ▶ Modalities are mobility, research, doctoral fellowships, medical specialties, artistic projects and Mexican studies

### CONACYT Scholarships

- ▶ This system provides full scholarships
- ▶ Excellency profile (9 over 10)
- ▶ Full-time study commitment
- ▶ Covers the whole period of a Masters, Doctorate or Post-Doctorate (2 to 5 years)
- ▶ Yearly published - For scholars admitted into CONACYT Quality Degrees National Program (PNPC) - 2155 Programs

# Mexican-Thai Exchanges among HEIs

## Mexican and Thai Universities MOUs

Mexican Partner	Thai Partner
Colima University	Thammasat University Chulalongkorn University on Technical Cooperation Khon Kaen University, Double Degree in Marketing and Tourism
Chapingo Autonomous University	Kasetsart University Kamphaeng Saen
State of Mexico Autonomous University	Sripatum University
Juarez Autonomous Tabasco University	AIT (Asian Institute of Technology)
Guadalajara University	Thammasat University

# Mexican-Thai Exchanges among HEIs

## Collaboration opportunities

- ▶ Wide opportunity to expand universities exchanges
  - ▶ Student exchange, high-level professors visits, internships.
  - ▶ Possible fields: Engineering, Tourism, Agriculture and Farming, Economics, Public Administration, Health Sciences.
- ▶ Future of research and academic cooperation Mexico-Thailand
  - ▶ Expected fields - Agriculture Technology, Biotechnology, Climate Change-related studies.
  - ▶ Key Institutions - COLPOS, Chapingo, CIMMYT, NSTDA, Chulalongkorn, Kasertsat, Thammasat, etc.
  - ▶ Innovative resources sharing:
    - ▶ UNAM and other electronic platforms
      - ▶ [www.grandesmaestros.unam.mx](http://www.grandesmaestros.unam.mx)
      - ▶ [www.descargacultura.unam.mx/app1](http://www.descargacultura.unam.mx/app1)
    - ▶ Laboratories and other facilities for research joint projects

# Web resources

## Merit Award for International Students

<http://www.gob.mx/amexcid/acciones-y-programas/becas-para-extranjeros-29785>

## CONACYT Quality Degrees National Program

<https://www.conacyt.gob.mx/index.php/becas-y-posgrados/becas-para-estudiantes-extranjeros/study-a-postgraduate-degree-in-mexico>

National Association of Universities and Higher Education Institutions [ANUIES](#)

National Council of Science and Technology [CONACyT](#)

Secretariat of Public Education [SEP](#)

Mexican Association for International Education Promotion [AMPEI](#)

National Autonomous University of Mexico [UNAM](#)

National Polytechnic Institute [IPN](#)

Research and Advanced Studies Center [CINVESTAV](#)

College of Mexico [COLMEX](#)

CONACYT Quality Degrees National Program [PNPC](#)

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# Thank you!