

COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
FUNDACIÓN PARA EL FUTURO DE COLOMBIA
AND
THE UNIVERSITY OF GRONINGEN

The *Fundación para el Futuro de Colombia* (COLFUTURO) and the University of Groningen (RUG) share an interest in strengthening bilateral cooperation in the field of education between Colombia and The Netherlands and promoting stronger ties between the two institutions to increase the financial support available for graduate studies of Colombian students.

The purpose of this agreement is to foster cooperation and enhance the links between the two institutions through the provision of shared financing for talented Colombian students admitted to graduate degree programs at the University of Groningen, within the framework of a Joint Graduate Loan-Scholarship Program.

The Joint Graduate Loan-Scholarship Program will operate as follows:

1. Students in Colombia interested in this Joint Graduate Loan-Scholarship Program will seek admission to the graduate degree programs offered by the University of Groningen (Master's and Doctor of Philosophy Degrees), following the normal application procedures and meeting all the standard admission requirements (including official language tests) established by the University of Groningen.
2. Students admitted to graduate degree programs offered by the University of Groningen will submit a Loan-Scholarship application to COLFUTURO, following the normal application procedures and meeting all the standard requirements established by COLFUTURO.
3. Students who are offered a place for full-time graduate studies at the University of Groningen and who are selected as beneficiaries of the Loan-Scholarship Program of COLFUTURO will be eligible or considered for the shared financing under this agreement.

4. The University of Groningen will provide scholarships to selected students equivalent to 30-50% of the respective tuition fees for non-EU/EEA students for the following programs under the conditions specified in the table below:

Faculty	Master Program	Scholarship as a % of Tuition	Max. no. of Scholarships per Year
Arts	RM Art History and Archaeology RM Classical, Medieval and Renaissance Studies RM Linguistics RM Literary and Cultural Studies RM Modern History and International Relations	50	10 with a maximum of 2 per program
Behavioural & Social Sciences	RM Behavioural and Social Sciences	50	No set maximum
Economics & Business	RM Economics & Business	50	No set maximum
Economics & Business	MSc Business Administration MSc Economics MSc Econometrics, Operations Research & Actuarial Studies MSc Human Resource Management MSc International Business & Management MSc International Economics and Business MSc Technology Management	30	6
Law	LLM Criminal Law and Criminology LLM European Law LLM International and Comparative Private Law LLM International Economic and Business Law LLM International Law and the Law of International Organizations	50	4
Medical Sciences	RM Medical and Pharmaceutical Drug Innovation RM Clinical and Psychosocial Epidemiology	50	No set maximum
Mathematics & Natural Sciences	RM Evolutionary Biology (top programme) RM Behavioural and Cognitive Neurosciences (top programme) RM Nanoscience (top programme) RM Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (top programme)	50	No set maximum
Theology & Religious Studies	RM Religion & Culture	50	2

RM – Research Master

5. The University of Groningen will offer this financial support for Master's students for a period of two years in its Research Master programs and one year in its regular master programs for the programs mentioned under Numeral 4. Eligibility of PhD students for financial support will be evaluated on a case by case basis and specific arrangements will be made in a separate addendum to this agreement.

6. COLFUTURO will provide the remainder of the tuition fees, living allowance and will cover other related costs, in accordance with its policies and procedures, i.e. up to USD25.000 annually for a maximum financing of two years, or USD50.000.
7. The students are responsible for obtaining financial resources to cover other costs (that are not included in this Loan-Scholarship agreement) related to their program of study.
8. Each institution will designate a coordinator to implement and monitor this Joint Graduate Loan-Scholarship Program. In particular, the designated coordinators will be responsible for ensuring that:
 - a) The University of Groningen and COLFUTURO provide prospective Colombian scholars with information on their programs of interest and guidance on how to apply to the University of Groningen.
 - b) The University of Groningen provides COLFUTURO with all the relevant promotional materials and brochures on the different graduate degree programs offered by the University of Groningen to encourage interest among prospective Colombian students.
 - c) The University of Groningen provides all Colombian students admitted to their graduate degree programs information on the Loan-Scholarship Program of COLFUTURO and encourages these students to contact and submit an application to COLFUTURO.
 - d) COLFUTURO informs the University of Groningen of successful candidates by sending the list of Colombian students admitted to the University of Groningen and selected as beneficiaries of the Loan-Scholarship Program of COLFUTURO.
 - e) The University of Groningen will select from the list mentioned in Numeral 8 item d, the students who will be granted the University scholarship mentioned in Numeral 4, when the number of joint scholars is limited. The University will then inform COLFUTURO of this decision.
 - f) COLFUTURO provides the University of Groningen with institutional information on COLFUTURO and pertinent details on its Loan-Scholarship Program and the payment scheme (see Annex I) and that the designated coordinator of the University of Groningen ensures that relevant authorities of the University of Groningen (i.e., bursars and student account offices) in charge of student accounts accept the terms of COLFUTURO's Loan-Scholarship Program.
 - g) Both institutions make the necessary financial arrangements for confirmed scholars.
 - h) Both institutions have the obligation to inform the other party of any change in the designated coordinator or signatory in charge of this agreement.

9. The designated coordinators are:

For The University of Groningen:
Joyce Fongers
Coordinator for Latin America

For COLFUTURO:
Eden Bolivar
Academic Counselling Coordinator

10. Both institutions will promote the agreement to prospective Colombian graduate students.

This agreement shall remain in force from the date of signature by the designated representatives of each party and may be reviewed or renegotiated at the request of either party. Either party may terminate the agreement by providing at least thirty days prior written notice to the other party.

Prof. dr. Sibrand Poppema
President, The University of Groningen

Date:


Jerónimo Castro
Executive Director, COLFUTURO

Date: 25 MAR 2011

Annex 1

General Terms and Payment Scheme of COLFUTURO's Loan-Scholarship Program

1. COLFUTURO's financing system consists of a Loan-Scholarship of up to USD25.000 annually for a maximum financing of two years, or USD50.000.
2. The applicants for the Loan-Scholarship determine the amount to be requested from COLFUTURO in accordance with COLFUTURO's policies and procedures.
3. Successful applicants or beneficiaries of this program can use the Loan-Scholarship to cover the full or partial costs of their graduate studies abroad.
4. COLFUTURO's Loan-Scholarship is granted in US Dollars. All payments to beneficiaries (i.e, settling allowance and living allowance) are done in US Dollars but COLFUTURO can pay tuition to universities in other currencies. However, COLFUTURO beneficiaries have the obligation to assume any discrepancy, arising from foreign exchange fluctuations, between the US Dollar amount requested from COLFUTURO and the other currencies.
5. COLFUTURO's selection process for the Loan-Scholarship Program is done yearly. The on-line application becomes available by mid-January and applicants can start complying with documentary requirements beginning the first week of March up to the last working day of May. Results are published between the last week of June and the first week of July each year.
6. COLFUTURO notifies partner universities immediately regarding the results of the selection process by sending them the list of COLFUTURO beneficiaries admitted to their graduate degree programs.
7. Once students are selected and notified as beneficiaries of COLFUTURO, the latter arranges a meeting with the student to explain in detail, the terms and conditions of the Loan-Scholarship. The student who accepts these terms and conditions, decides the allocation of this Loan-Scholarship taking into account the maximum amounts mentioned in item 1. The beneficiary can allocate approved financial support on the following cost items:
 - Airfare
 - Settling Allowance (one time payment of up to USD2.000)
 - Tuition
 - Health insurance
 - Living allowance (up to USD1.300 per month. This amount can be increased by 25%, USD1.625, if student will travel with family)
 - Text books and computer allowance (maximum USD2.000 per year)
 - Debtors insurance
8. COLFUTURO clearly informs the beneficiaries, which of the above items are payable directly to them and to the universities or service providers.

9. COLFUTURO pays annual tuition and fees (and health insurance, when this is included as part of the University's fees) directly to the universities in two installments:

For those beneficiaries who begin their programs during the second semester of the year,

- 1) First payment: November 15th, University must send invoice not later than October 31st
- 2) Second payment: March 15th, University must send invoice not later than February 28th

For those beneficiaries entering during the first semester of the year, the payment scheme is vice-versa, first payment in March and second payment in November.

10. The students are responsible for obtaining financial resources to cover other costs (that are not included in this Loan-Scholarship agreement) related to their program of study.
11. This loan turns into a partial scholarship when the student returns to Colombia and resides in the country for a pre-established period. In order to qualify for the scholarship ranging between 25% and 50% waiver of the loan, the student must comply with all the requirements previously agreed to with COLFUTURO. The loan component must be paid by the beneficiary on a monthly basis, upon his return to Colombia, according to the established amortization period, which cannot exceed a 5-year term. An additional 10% scholarship is given to beneficiaries who work full time for the government or an academic or research institution for a minimum period of one year.