



COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
FUNDACIÓN PARA EL FUTURO DE COLOMBIA
AND
GHENT UNIVERSITY

The *Fundación para el Futuro de Colombia* (COLFUTURO) and Ghent University share an interest in strengthening bilateral cooperation in the field of education between Colombia and Belgium 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 Ghent University, within the framework of a Joint Graduate Loan-Scholarship Program.

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

1. Colombian students interested in this Joint Graduate Loan-Scholarship Program will seek admission to the graduate degree programs offered by Ghent University (Master's and Doctor Degrees), following the normal application procedures and meeting all the standard admission requirements (including official language tests) established by Ghent University.
2. Students admitted to graduate degree programs offered by Ghent University 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 Ghent University 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. Ghent University will provide a discount of 50% of variable amount on the tuition fees to all eligible Master students and 20% of the bench fee for PhD. programs. (See Annex II) The agreement shall be active and enable to provide the discount for students starting the program in the 2020-2021 academic year.
5. Ghent University will offer this financial support for Master's students for a period of max. 2 year(s) and for PhD students for max. 4 year(s)

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 USD50.000 maximum financing of two years and a minimum of 9 months.
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. Ghent University and COLFUTURO provide prospective Colombian scholars with information on their programs of interest and guidance on how to apply to Ghent University.
 - b. Ghent University provides COLFUTURO with all the relevant promotional materials and brochures on the different graduate degree programs offered by Ghent University to encourage interest among prospective Colombian students.
 - c. Ghent University 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 Ghent University of successful candidates by sending the list of Colombian students admitted to Ghent University and selected as beneficiaries of the Loan-Scholarship Program of COLFUTURO.
 - e. The candidates will have to submit the relevant application to Ghent University in order to be formally admitted to Ghent University, according to the admission procedure.
 - f. COLFUTURO provides Ghent University with institutional information on COLFUTURO and pertinent details on its Loan-Scholarship Program and the payment scheme (see Annex I) and that Ghent University ensures that relevant authorities of Ghent University (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 Ghent University:
Prof. Guido Van Huylbroeck
Director Internationalisation
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For COLFUTURO:
Johanna Torres
Academic Advising Director
e-mail: johanna.torres@colfuturo.org
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Mrs. Barbara Claeys
Policy Advisor Internationalisation
e-mail: Barbara.claeys@ugent.be
Phone number: 0032 9 264 7021

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

11. The present Agreement will have a term of four (4) years from the date of signature and will be renewed whenever the Parties express their willingness to do so by a notification signed by the highest authority of each of the Parties, thirty (30) days prior to the expiration of this Agreement, at which time the duration of the renewal shall be determined again, unless one of the Parties has notified its intention to terminate this Agreement at least thirty (30) days before the date that the complainant institution foresees for its termination. The agreement shall be reviewed by the Parties in order to assess its compliance, within twelve (12) months from its signing.

12. This agreement may be terminated by any of the parties in case of clear and convincing evidence that the counterparty is involved in a serious violation of human rights. The party wishing to terminate the agreement will give notice of this intention to the counterparty, by means of a registered letter allowing the counterparty due time to respond to the allegations. In the absence of a satisfactory reply or in the absence of a reply in due time, the party that wishes to terminate the agreement will reiterate its intention of doing so, by means of a second registered letter. The agreement will cease to have any effects between the parties from the moment that such second notice is given."



Prof. Rik Van de Walle
rector, Ghent University

Date:

6 Aug 2019



Jerónimo Castro Jaramillo
Executive Director, COLFUTURO

Date:

8 jul 2019

Annex 1

General Terms and Payment Scheme of COLFUTURO Loan-Scholarship Program

1. COLFUTURO's financing system consists of a Loan-Scholarship of up to USD50,000 for a maximum financing period of two years.

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 to COLFUTURO and the other currencies.
5. COLFUTURO's selection process for the Loan-Scholarship Program is done yearly. Applicants can comply with documentary requirements when the on-line application becomes available in January and up to February 28th. Results are published by the mid of May. These dates may change each call.
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 USD2,000 per month)
 - Text books and computer allowance (maximum USD2,000 per year)
 - Debtors insurance

COLFUTURO provides each beneficiary with a sponsorship letter indicating the total amount of the loan-scholarship.

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:

- First payment: November 15th, Student must submit the corresponding invoice to COLFUTURO not later than October 31st
- Second payment: March 15th, Student must submit the corresponding invoice to COLFUTURO 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. The students have financial responsibility towards the University; COLFUTURO will pay on their behalf. After the final payment is made by COLFUTURO, any outstanding balance, including those resulting from exchange rate fluctuations, must be covered by the student.
12. The 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, the student must comply with all the requirements previously agreed with COLFUTURO. The scholarship is granted as follows: 20% for MBA programs and masters in the fields of administration and law, and 40% for masters in all other areas and all doctoral programs. Two additional 20% bonuses can be given as follows:
 - a. Beneficiaries who work full time in the public sector or as academic or researcher will receive 10% during the first year, 5% for the second year and 5% for the third year, to get up to 20%.
 - b. Beneficiaries who work in a city different from Bogotá or its metropolitan area will receive 10% during the first year, 5% for the second year and 5% for the third year, to get up to 20%.

The loan component must be reimbursed by the beneficiary on a monthly basis, upon his or her return to Colombia, according to the established amortization period, which cannot exceed a 5-year term.

Annex 2

Application procedure and tuition fee at Ghent University

I. Application procedure

1. Master students

<https://www.ugent.be/prospect/en/administration/application/application-degree>

Language requirements:

All students are required to demonstrate language proficiency at the latest upon enrolment.

Diploma:

Admission is granted on the basis of a diploma, irrelevant of nationality. During the application procedure, we will assess the basic diploma and will check if you have acquired the same or equivalent competences as a student with a Flemish diploma with direct access.

2. PhD students

<https://www.ugent.be/phd/en>

II. Tuition fee

<https://www.ugent.be/student/en/administration/tuition>

1. Master students 2019-2020

Rates: Tuition fee is depending on the faculty offering the program. Faculties can choose between two rates:

Rate A : €230 + $n \times \text{€}13$ + $n \times \text{€}12$

Rate B : €230 + $n \times \text{€}22$ + $n \times \text{€}63$

* $n=60$ for 1 full academic year

Waiver of 50 % is given on the *variable amount* ($n \times \text{€}12$ or $n \times \text{€}63$)

The tuition fees are yearly adjusted based on the consumption index

2. PhD students

Tuition fee

First Enrolment: € 939,60

Re-enrolment: € 0 (no payment requested)

Defence: € 939,60

Bench fee

The bench fee is an annual contribution for every one-year cycle started, and will be collected annually at the start of the academic year.

The amount depends on the study field. A waiver of 20 % is given on the requested amount.

For exchange PhD students these amounts can be calculated for the length of their stay.

Bench fees 2019-2020:

Faculty	Doctoral degree	Bench fee amount (in euros)
Arts and Philosophy	All	4,480
Law and Criminology	All	4,480
Sciences	Doctor of Science:	17,920
	Biochemistry and Biotechnology	13,440
	Doctor of Science:	13,440
	Biochemistry	13,440
	Doctor of Science:	8,960
	Biotechnology	8,960
	Doctor of Science: Biology	8,960
	Doctor of Science:	4,480
	Chemistry	4,480
	Doctor of Science:	4,480
	Physics and Geology	
	Doctor of Science:	
	Geology	
	Doctor of Science: Marine Sciences	
	Doctor of Science:	
	Physics	
Doctor of Science:		
Geography		
Doctor of		

Science:
 Geomatics and
 Surveying
 Doctor of
 Science:
 Astronomy
 Doctor of
 Science
 Doctor of
 Science:
 Bioinformatics
 Doctor of
 Computer
 Science
 Doctor of
 Statistical Data
 Analysis
 Doctor of
 Science:
 Mathematics

Medicine and Health Sciences	All	13,440
Engineering and Architecture	All	8,960
Economics and Business Administration	All	4,480
Veterinary Medicine	All	13,440
Psychology and Educational Sciences	All	4,480
Bioscience Engineering	All	13,440
Pharmaceutical Sciences	All	13,440
Political and Social Sciences	All	4,480