



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN PARAGUAY AND THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE OF PARAGUAY, ON BEHALF OF THE CARLOS ANTONIO LÓPEZ SCHOLARSHIP OFFICE FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF RESEARCH, INNOVATION, AND EDUCATION CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND INSTITUTIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

WHEREAS:

The Carlos Antonio López Scholarship Program for the Strengthening of Research, Innovation, and Education («the CAL Program»), which is administered by the Ministry of Finance of Paraguay on behalf of the Carlos Antonio López Scholarship Office for the Strengthening of Research, Innovation, and Education («the CAL Office»), is a government scholarship program that promotes and encourages research and the application of new knowledge to the productive and social reality of Paraguay; and

The J. William Fulbright Scholarship Program, administered in Paraguay by the Embassy of the United States of America in Paraguay («the Embassy») and in the United States by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State («ECA»), was founded in 1946 to promote educational and cultural exchange and to finance graduate studies in the United States of America, to support individuals with outstanding skills committed to the interests and development of their countries;

THEREFORE:

The Ministry of Finance of Paraguay, on behalf of the CAL Office, and the Embassy (collectively, «the Participants»);

Recognizing the strategic importance of the CAL Program as a priority of the Government of Paraguay in generating access to excellent graduate training and promoting equal opportunities; and

Wishing to strengthen ties of cooperation in the fields of research, science, and technology, as well as the exchange of professionals;

Have reached the following understanding:

SECTION 1

1. The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding («MOU») is to guide cooperation between the Participants in order to facilitate an extensive exchange of knowledge and professional talent through educational activities and institutional scholarships for Paraguayan citizens, in accordance with the conditions set forth in the annual Work Plan(s) which the Participants intend to create, subject to the availability of funds, and in accordance with the CAL Program Operating Regulations.
2. The Participants intend to call such activities and scholarships «the Fulbright-CAL Program».

SECTION 2

For purposes of this MOU, the Participants intend for the annual Work Plan(s) to include, *inter alia*, the following information: how Fulbright-CAL Program scholarships should be awarded, including requirements and general conditions; program management, including the selection of program participants («Grantees»); and other data essential to the implementation of this MOU.

SECTION 3

In order to ensure efficient overall technical and administrative coordination, as well as the oversight of this MOU, the Participants may designate representatives with the necessary authority to negotiate and decide matters of mutual interest.



SECTION 4

During the term of this MOU, the Ministry of Finance of Paraguay, on behalf of the CAL Office, may finance up to fifteen (15) scholarships for Paraguayan professionals and educators each year, either at the Master's level in the areas of innovation, science and technology, engineering, mathematics, or education, or at the Ph.D. or Postdoctoral level in any field. The distribution of scholarships between the Master's, Ph.D., and Postdoctoral levels may be modified based on annual demand.

SECTION 5

1. During the term of this MOU, ECA, on behalf of the Embassy, may:
 - a) Cover the administrative costs incurred by the cooperating agency(ies) designated by ECA («the Cooperating Agency(ies)») for the selection and academic monitoring of up to fifteen (15) Grantees at U.S. universities and institutions.
 - b) Cover the cost of between six-week and nine-month pre-academic English courses in the United States for Fulbright-CAL Program candidates who obtain a predetermined minimum grade on the standardized international TOEFL exam but who need additional preparation in English to be able to pursue graduate studies in the United States.
 - c) Enroll each Grantee in ECA's Accident and Sickness Program for Exchanges («ASPE»), a defined health benefits plan;
 - d) Furnish monitoring services and professional development programs, including orientation and professional workshops;
 - e) Facilitate the issuance of the form DS-2019, without processing fees, for applications for J visas;
 - f) Through the Cooperating Agency, attempt to place Grantees in quality U.S. universities and institutions with the criteria and requirements established in the CAL Program Operating Regulations; and
 - g) Arrange for tuition waivers, wherever possible, in Master's, Ph.D or Postdoctoral level programs of study.
2. During the term of this MOU, the Embassy, in its capacity as the administrator of the J. William Fulbright Scholarship Program in Paraguay, may provide assistance for Grantees and any dependents in obtaining J visas.

SECTION 6

1. The Ministry of Finance of Paraguay, on behalf of the CAL Office, intends to make its financial contribution for the Fulbright-CAL Program scholarships under this MOU in the amount established in each annual Work Plan developed by the Participants.
2. The Participants intend to make their respective financial contributions in support of the Fulbright-CAL Program directly to the Cooperating Agency identified in each annual Work Plan.

SECTION 7

The Participants intend to require the Cooperating Agency (ies) to submit periodic financial and performance reports to the Ministry of Finance of Paraguay, on behalf of the CAL Office, and the Embassy.

SECTION 8

The Participants intend to resolve amicably and in good faith any dispute arising from the implementation and/or interpretation of this MOU, emphasizing the utmost cooperation in efforts to settle differences.



SECTION 9

The Participants may publicize and disclose the existence of this MOU in compliance with their respective applicable laws. The Fulbright name may be used in accordance with the regulations and policies governing the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Program.

SECTION 10

1. The Participants intend for this MOU to become effective upon signature and to remain in effect for a period of five (5) academic cohorts, which may be extended by mutual written consent of the Participants. The complete cycle for a cohort is two (2) years for a Master's degree, four (4) years for a Ph. and upto twelve (12) month for Postdoctoral level Programs.
2. This MOU may be discontinued by mutual consent between the Participants, or by one Participant, in which case the discontinuing Participant intends to give thirty (30) days' advance written notice. Any Fulbright-CAL Program scholarships already awarded before discontinuance would not be affected.
3. This MOU may be modified by mutual written consent of the Participants.

Signed at Asunción, on,
languages.

, in two (2) originals, each in the Spanish and English

FOR THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA IN PARAGUAY:

FOR THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE OF
PARAGUAY, ON BEHALF OF THE
CARLOS ANTONIO LOPEZ SCHOLARSHIP
OFFICE FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF
RESEARCH, INNOVATION, AND EDUCATION:

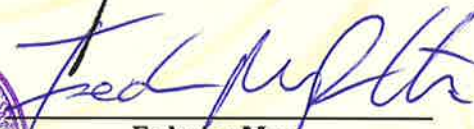


Lee McClenny
 Ambassador



Benigno López
 Finance Minister





Federico Mora
 General Coordinador
 Carlos Antonio López Program