

**THE INTERNATIONALIZATION:
A CHALLENGE FOR THE
MERITORIOUS AUTONOMOUS
UNIVERSITY OF PUEBLA,
MEXICO**

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- ◉ The phenomenon of globalization has made the higher education institutions think about the ways to expand their flows of academic and scholastic mobility as well as all kinds of international activities.





- Therefore, the need to research and analyze the mechanisms that allow systematize and improve forms of administration of the internationalization process has emerged all over the world and in Mexico, in particular since the signing of the North America Free Trade Agreement.

- The analysis of the internationalization degree of Mexican universities reveal some deficiencies, in greater or lesser degree, according to the institutions, such as the formation of human resources of high level, a wider range of activities and international programs, standardize curricula, methodological methods, school years, scholarships, etc.



- In recent years BUAP has experienced a process of growth in its mobility programs and academic exchange, fostering its integration to the scientific world community.





- ◉ As a public university, BUAP has understood the need of inserting in the process of internationalization, which represents a challenge, since a reengineering in curricula, infrastructure, school years, curricula flexibility, etc.

- The General Direction of Foreign Affairs and Academic Exchange (DGRIIA by its Spanish acronym) in the university has its immediate background at the beginning of the 80's when the Coordination of Academic Exchanged and International Affairs was created (CIARI by its Spanish acronym) during the rectory management (1981-1984).

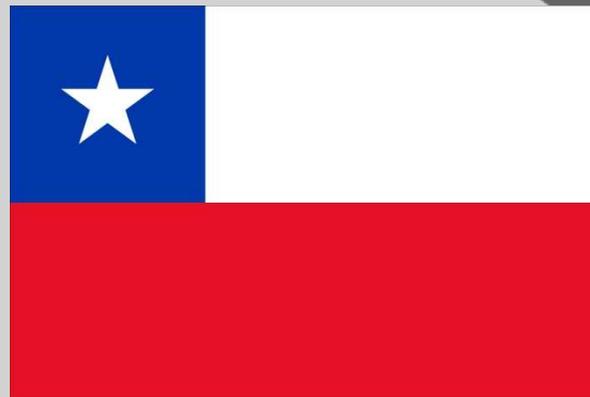


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- ◉ During the term 1980-2000 scholastic exchange and mobility were not made, there were only teaching exchanged with countries like Cuba, Russia and Chile.



- The first international agreement signed by the university was signed with the University of Texas in San Antonio, particularly with the Health Center Science of San Antonio at the USA in 1987. In that year, an agreement of cooperation was signed in the area of natural sciences with the University of Valparaíso, Chile.



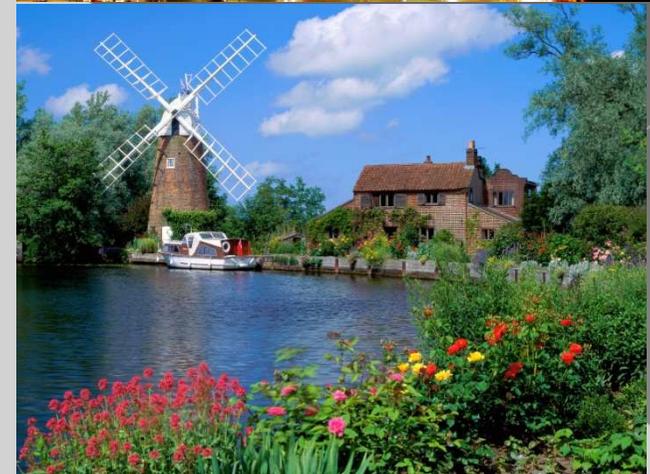
- BUAP has 464 signed agreements with more than 50 countries. In the academic year 2007-2008 agreements were signed with the following universities:



- ◉ In the American continent with the University of Colorado at Denver, USA;
- ◉ Autonomous University Gabriel René Moreno, Bolivia;
- ◉ University of Camagüey, Cuba;
- ◉ University of Quindío and Caldas, Colombia;
- ◉ University of Cuenca, Ecuador;
- ◉ Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia and University San Martín de Porres, Peru.



- ◉ In Europe with:
University of Lleida and
University of San Pablo
“ CEU, Spain;
- ◉ University of
Mostesquieu, Toulouse
Polytechnic Institute,
Paris 8 and Red n+1;
Engineering Institutes,
France,
- ◉ University of
Birmingham, UK
- ◉ and University of
Tilburg, Holland.



- In Oceania with: Macquarie University, Australia.
- In addition, BUAP is part of international networks of cooperation such as the UMAP (Asia-Pacific) and PROMESAN (North America).



- The BUAP students can participate in mobility and academic exchange programs. Each semester a call is issued in which various options and the number of places are offered at each partner University are presented.



- The drive given to different programs of mobility and academic exchange in the past eleven years reflects the revitalization of the activities of the DGRIIA and the significant increase in the academic mobility.



- The progress BUAP has made in relation to internationalization is little; however, the effort that it has been made is recognized, since taking into consideration the international and national economic crisis and therefore the low budget it has; during the period from 2001 to 2010, the total amount of students that have participated in an exchange program, both national and international, is 734 (422 female and 312 male), of which 66% had a BUAP scholarship. The number of welcomed students from foreign and national universities is 1052 (540 female and 512 male).





- It is important to mention that the national students in an exchange program who arrived at BUAP, 80% were benefited with a program of scholarship named BUAP IES and the rest with other kinds of scholarships; in relation to foreign students who achieved the program, the majority came with own resources.

- It is important to mention that our students have broken the linguistic barrier and have been welcomed not only in Spanish speaking-countries but in Germany, France, United Kingdom, Japan, Russia, Canada, Morocco, Mongolia and Finland among others.



- There is a lot of work to do for internationalization. However, the university has changed its College Model thus within its transversal axes the duty of performing practicum, nationally or internationally, is included that made students look for new horizons, and at the same time, the university has to look for the way to help them who decide to do an exchange program in Mexico or abroad.



- The internationalization at BUAP is still a challenge that tries to improve the quality of development of human resources and explore paths to prepare students in order to perform in a social and labor aspect, in a responsible and competent way, immersed in a globalized world.

