



COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

FUNDACIÓN PARA EL FUTURO DE COLOMBIA - COLFUTURO

AND

VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT AMSTERDAM

The *Fundación para el Futuro de Colombia (COLFUTURO)* and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam 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 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, (post) graduate and PhD programmes at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, within the framework of the Scholarship Programme.

The Scholarship Programme will operate as follows:

1. Colombian students interested in this Scholarship Programme will seek admission to master's or PhD programme offered by Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, following the normal application procedures and meeting all the standard admission requirements (including official language tests) established by Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.
2. Students admitted to graduate degree programs offered by Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam 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 accepted for the programme at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and who are selected as beneficiaries of the Scholarship Programme of COLFUTURO will be eligible or considered for the shared financing under this agreement.
4. Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam will provide a 30% discount on the tuition fee for master's or PhD programmes for highly motivated and excellent students. (Students who apply for the Scholarship Programme need to have a GPA of at least 80% of the highest possible

mark (calculated over full previous degree or current Bachelor's degree). For example, if the highest possible mark is a 10 you need to have an average of at least an 8.

Excellence in previous education is proven if the GPA achieved is at least the equivalent of the Dutch grade of an 8.0 on the Dutch grading scale 1 – 10. The Scholarship Committee will decide on the local grade equivalents for the Dutch grade of an 8.0 using the grade information included in the NUFFIC country modules.

5. The 30% discount on the tuition fee cannot be combined with other (partial) tuition waivers of VU Amsterdam, e.g. the VU Fellowship Programme. Tuition fees may be subject to annual increases
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 USD 25,000 annually for a maximum financing of USD 50,000 for two years.
7. The students are responsible for obtaining financial resources to cover other costs (that are not included in this Scholarship agreement) related to their study programme.
8. Students should not hold an EU/EEA passport and not be eligible for support under the Dutch system of study grants and loans.
9. Students must be able to comply with the Dutch visa regulations and prove to the immigration authorities that they have sufficient financial means.
10. Each institution will designate a coordinator to implement and monitor the cooperation within the Scholarship Program. In particular, the designated coordinators will be responsible for ensuring that:
 - a. Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and COLFUTURO as partners provide prospective students with information on their programmes of interest and guidance on how to apply to Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.
 - b. Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam provides COLFUTURO with all the relevant promotional materials and brochures on the different degree programmes and PhD programmes offered by Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam to encourage interest among prospective students.
 - c. Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam provides all students admitted to their degree and PhD programmes information on the Loan Scholarship Programme and encourages these students to contact and submit an application to COLFUTURO.
 - d. COLFUTURO informs Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam of successful candidates by sending the list of selected as beneficiaries of COLFUTURO.
 - e. Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam will inform the students on their 30% discount if they are selected highly motivated and excellent for postgraduate degrees and PhD programmes.
 - f. For PhD application and admission the arrangements are mentioned in the attachment, annex 2.
 - g. COLFUTURO provides Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam with institutional information on COLFUTURO and pertinent details on its Scholarship Programme and the payment scheme. The designated coordinator of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam ensures that relevant authorities of Vrije

Universiteit Amsterdam (i.e., bursars and student account offices) in charge of student accounts accept the terms of COLFUTURO Loan Scholarship Programme.

- h. Both institutions make the necessary financial arrangements for confirmed postgraduate students and PhD's
- i. Both institutions have the obligation to inform the other party of any change in the designated coordinator or signatory in charge of this agreement.

11. The designated coordinators are:

For Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam:

Henny Smit, teamleader team Services for bachelor's and master's programmes,

Email: h.c.smit@vu.nl

Phone: +31 20 59 86086

Sandra Hasanefendic, Consultant International PhD Recruitment , Emails: phd@vu.nl,

s.hasanefendic@vu.nl

Phone: +31 20 5987170

For the Scholarship programme

Johanna Torres, Academic Advising Program Director

Johanna.torres@colfuturo.org

(571) 340 5394 Ext. 124

12. Both institutions will promote the agreement to prospective postgraduate degree and PhD students.

13. This agreement between COLFUTURO and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam will be valid for 1 year, starting November 2018. The parties will review and evaluate their cooperation annually.

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. Without explicit resignation, the agreement with automatically renewed.

Frans Snijders
Director International Office,
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Date: 13.12.2018


Jerónimo Castro Jaramillo
Executive Director
COLFUTURO

Date: 12 dic 2018

Annex 1 PhD application and admission: arrangements

General application requirements: a Master degree in a determined field, IELTS or TOEFL test scores are also taken into consideration for specific faculties. Please also check additional requirements set by the faculty prior to application or contact Sandra Hasanefendic at phd@vu.nl directly.

The following tuition fees include the 30% waiver. Additional waivers are possible per faculty and in negotiation with graduate schools as indicated below.

Faculty of Social Sciences: tuition fee 10.600 Euros per year full time (includes: high level quality courses, individual supervision by two experienced researchers, bridging program, courses, workshops, seminars, library access, a personal email, cloud storage, access to licensed software, assistance with visa application and housing, scientific career guidance. NOTE: various additional discounts and fee waivers are possible. In addition, PhD candidates can apply for additional funding from the Graduate Fund to visit winter and summer schools and conferences, or conduct research field-work abroad.)

Faculty of Humanities: tuition fee 11.000 Euros for 4 years full time (includes: tailored made training program, supervision by dedicated experts, international and interdisciplinary environment, excellent research facilities, access to all faculty events and excursions, membership to the Graduate School and National Research School. NOTE: There is an additional 25% tuition fee waiver possible for excellent students)

School of Business and Economics, including ABRI: tuition fee 15.000 Euros per year for a full time programme (includes: PhD supervision, course work, tailor-made PhD program, frequent peer feedback, international conference presentations budget, individual training budget, modern workspace, participation in seminars, social events. NOTE: a waiver is possible in some cases –only School of Business and Economics not for PhD candidates of ABRI)

Faculty of Science: Amsterdam Institute for Molecules, Medicines and Systems (AIMMS) 5000 Euros per year (includes: PhD training program, supervision tie, course fees, PhD Award ceremony, coverage of (inter)national conference attendance, access to VU support services, office desk with ICT facilities, access to library services, open access and software licenses, access to AIMMS research infrastructure and seminars and related paper publication costs).

Faculty of Science, Department of Science-Business-Innovation: tuition fee 5000 Euros (includes: supervision, fee waiver for course/summer school, participation in all activities of our PhD student community, coverage of national conference attendances, access to VU support and services, office desk with ICT facilities, access to library, software licenses, access to health science research infrastructure and seminars)

Faculty of Science, Department of Health Sciences: tuition fee 5000 Euros per year (includes: supervision, fee waiver for course/summer school, participation in all activities of our PhD student community, coverage of national conference attendances, access to VU support and services, office desk with ICT facilities, access to library, software licenses, access to health science research infrastructure and seminars, access to affiliated research institutions, including Scientific Quality Committee and PHD student committee)

Faculty of Science, Department of Mathematics: tuition fee 1173 Euros per year for a full time programme (NOTE: possibility of full or partial waiver if teaching load more than 10%-15% per year.)

Faculty of Religion and Theology: tuition fee 1173 Euros per year for graduate school sign up and VUnet access (other costs might be applicable relative to training) (includes: a challenging PhD training program, first-class PhD supervision, participation in research groups, exciting and stimulating research environment.)

Annex 2:
General Terms and Payment Scheme of COLFUTURO
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 up to 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 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 by January 10th 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. 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, 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 paid 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.