

Mexico-US Bilateral Forum on Higher Education, Innovation and Research (FOBESII).

FEBRUARY 2016 |

Two and a half years after the creation of the Bilateral Forum on Higher Education, Innovation and Research (FOBESII), the opportunities to establish educational exchanges, scientific research partnerships, and cross-border innovation have expanded, supporting traditionally less favored demographic groups to ensure a larger economic and social inclusion.

The goal of FOBESII is to help both countries develop a 21st century workforce for our mutual economic prosperity and sustainable social development, contributing to transform North America into a competitive and dynamic knowledge-based region.

FOBESII also seeks to establish and strengthen bilateral knowledge networks, with the opening of research and innovation centers in both countries.

Through FOBESII, Mexico and the U.S. bring together the public and private sectors, the higher education community, and civil society to promote workforce development, educational and research cooperation, and encourage broader access to quality education, particularly in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

In 2016, FOBESII will work on the achievement of 22 executive actions through two working groups, conceived within the fourth guidelines of the Forum.

Guidelines

- 1. Increasing Academic Mobility**
- 2. Strengthening Language Acquisition**
- 3. Promoting Workforce Development**
- 4. Expanding Joint Research and Innovation**

Proyecta 100,000

- Proyecta 100,000 is a program designed by the Mexican Government in collaboration with the private and academic sectors, that seeks to increase bilateral academic and student mobility, promote English language learning, and establish knowledge networks between Mexico and the United States.**
- Proyecta seeks to place Mexico as the third largest source of international students in the United States, to match the level of our bilateral trade. Its goal is to have 100,000 Mexican students studying in the United States and 50,000 U.S. students in Mexico, by 2018.**



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FOBESII's Achievements to date

Thanks to the work done under FOBESII and *Proyecta 100,000*, academic and scientific cooperation between Mexico and the United States is rapidly expanding through the reinforcement of existing partnerships and the creation of new collaborations. Among FOBESII's achievements reached to date, we can highlight the following:



MOBILITAS

- During 2015, around 35,141 Mexican students, academics and researchers participated in academic exchanges in the United States.
- According to the Open Doors report 2015, the number of Mexican students in the United States grew 15.4% in the 2014-15 academic year. Also, after five years of declining numbers, the number of U.S. exchange students in Mexico rose by 19%.
- Over 80 cooperation agreements have been signed between higher education institutions from both countries, including institutions from the states of California, New Jersey, Arizona, Minnesota and Texas.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Mexico and the U.S. for the creation of a Bilateral Internship Program.
- Seven pilot internship programs have been established in industries such as the automotive, aerospace, energy, and advanced manufacture, with the support of the Mexican consular network and the Mexican Embassy in the U.S.
- A delegation of 19 J-1 visa designated internship sponsors visited Mexico City and Puebla for the first time in history.
- The binational webpage *Mobilitas* was launched to promote academic opportunities in Mexico and the United States.
- Various binational research and innovation centers have been created:
 - *Logistics and Distribution;
 - *Intelligent Maintenance;
 - *Advanced Nonferrous Alloys and Materials;
 - *CaliBaja Center for Resilient Materials and Systems.
- The participation of 50 Mexican university presidents and directors in the 96th annual meeting of the American Council on Education (ACE).