

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTATION

Executive Summary
International Agreements
of Mexican Higher Education Institutions

The National Association of Universities and Institutions of Higher Education (Asociación Nacional de Universidades e Instituciones de Educación Superior, ANUIES) prepared a questionnaire to gather information from institutional members for an inventory on international agreements. The survey included all 77 associate universities and institutions. In total, 34 answered the survey, and 30 reported agreements with counterparts in the United States and Canada.

Exchanges between Mexican and United States institutions account for 193 agreements. The corresponding report for Canada shows only 22. Over 50% of these exchanges were initiated recently and are less than 40% completed.

For each country, the agreements focused on different fields of knowledge. Social sciences and management were the first in the field selection list of linkages with the United States, while engineering was in the leading position for links with Canada.

The most frequently cited objectives for cooperation were faculty and student exchanges, followed, to a much lesser degree, by joint research, teaching techniques and results dissemination.

From a geographical point of view, Mexican institutions having formal contacts with the United States and Canada are located in 22 and 9 Mexican states, respectively. There are two Mexican geographical poles for cooperation with Canada: the Federal District and surrounding states, and the states of Nuevo León and San Luis Potosí together.

On the part of private Mexican higher education institutions, there was a perceived advantage in establishing programs with their counterparts in the United States. The corresponding public higher education institutions have agreements with their counterparts in a wider spectrum of countries, while technological institutes have not fostered international contacts in a significant way.