

Mexico. Mexican officials from COMPI meet regularly with Canada and the USA on subjects of technical education as per the Annex of Professional Services from the NAFTA Chapters XII and XV.

Canada and Mexico are also engaged with the USA in a trilateral process for cooperation in higher education, research and training. A pilot programme for cooperation in higher education is under negotiation.

Academic relations are growing steadily. The first Canadian Studies programmes in Mexico began in 1987, but interest in Canada among Mexican academics grew sharply with the entry into force of the NAFTA; the Mexican Association for Canadian Studies (AMEC) now has over 400 members. In Canada, interest in Mexico is channelled through FOCAL (HQ in Ottawa, branches in New Brunswick, Quebec and Alberta) and the fledgling Canadian Association for Mexican Studies, which held its inaugural conference in November 1994 at the University of Calgary. There is some fragmentation of Mexicanists in Canada and vice-versa.

Mexican students are eligible for academic support under the Government of Canada Awards Programme, which functions on a reciprocal basis. The federal government offers ten awards for postgraduate studies, the government of Quebec a further five. Mexico reciprocates this arrangement.

Technical education and the marketing of educational products is being conducted on the Canadian side through Industry Canada. It coordinated and led a mission of seven training companies to Mexico in February 1995, to explore opportunities to sell Canadian education and training services. Industry Canada continues to liaise with the companies involved, as follow-up to the mission.