 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research EAER
**State Secretariat for Education,
Research and Innovation SERI**

Collaboration agreement

between

Fundación para el Futuro de Colombia

and

the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation of the Swiss Confederation

(hereafter: the "Agreement")

The *Fundación para el Futuro de Colombia* (hereafter "COLFUTURO") and the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation of the Swiss Confederation (hereafter: "SERI") (together hereafter: "the Parties" or each the "Party") share an interest in strengthening bilateral cooperation in the field of education between Colombia and Switzerland. Therefore, the Parties agree to increase the financial support available for selected Colombian researchers.

This Agreement is a pilot-project and seeks to promote cooperation through the provision of scholarships from the Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships for talented Colombian students admitted to research postgraduate studies. At the same time, COLFUTURO aims to significantly increase the number of Colombian students studying at Swiss Universities with the support of COLFUTURO.

The collaboration between the Parties will function as follows:

1. Colombian students interested in the Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships (hereafter: "Applicant") have to find a professor at a Swiss academic institution willing to act as their supervisor for a research project: Research, Postdoctoral or PhD studies in one of the Swiss Public Universities, Federal Institutes of Technology or Universities of Applied Sciences.
2. Each Applicant shall meet the requirements in effect set out by the Federal Commission for Scholarships for Foreign Students of Switzerland (hereafter: "FCS") and attached to this Agreement (hereafter: "FCS requirements").
3. Only Applicants who have lived less than twelve months in Switzerland before the start of the grant in September will be able to participate and compete for the scholarships.
4. Applicants who receive a confirmation support from a supervisor according to paragraph 1 will be able to submit an application to COLFUTURO, following FCS requirements. The call will be open during the second semester of each year, from August to November.

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Information about each call and the application form will be published on www.colfuturo.org.

5. Once the call has been closed, COLFUTURO will verify that the Applicants fulfil the FCS requirements and will evaluate their applications, identifying the academic excellence of the Applicants. A representative from the Swiss Embassy in Bogota will be invited to participate in this evaluation.
6. COLFUTURO will send the applications of the Applicants who will compete for the support to the Swiss Embassy in Bogota the last week of November. The Swiss Embassy will send the applications to the FCS prior to the end of the year.
7. The FCS will evaluate the candidates selected by COLFUTURO and will select at least two Applicants in total autonomy and based on FCS requirements and academic excellence. FCS will accordingly provide Applicants with full scholarships, which include, but are not limited to, living allowance, health insurance, and allowance for returning tickets from Switzerland to Colombia.
8. The FCS will notify the selected Applicants directly in May each year and inform the Swiss Embassy in Bogota at the same time. The Swiss Embassy in Bogota will subsequently inform COLFUTURO about the selected Applicants. The financial support to the selected Applicants will start in September each year.
9. PhD Applicants will be able to do research in Colombia without scholarship cut for a maximum period of 6 months during a three-year scholarship.
10. For jointly supervised projects between a Swiss academic institution and a Colombian university or research centre, Applicants will be able to apply for research scholarships in Switzerland for 12 months.
11. Applicants who have not been selected by the FCS may apply to COLFUTURO Loan Scholarship Program. They will compete in the same conditions than all other candidates.
12. Each Party will designate a coordinator to implement and monitor this Agreement. Each Party may change its coordinator at its sole discretion. The SERI may delegate this task to the Embassy of Switzerland in Bogota. The Parties have already designated the following coordinators:

For Embassy of Switzerland in Bogota:

Patrick Egloff (until end of June 2019)
Christine Büsser (as of July 2019)
Deputy Head of Mission
e-mail: bogota@eda.admin.ch

Phone number: (57) 1 3497230

For COLFUTURO:

Johanna Torres
Academic Advising Director

e-mail: johanna.torres@colfuturo.org

Phone number: (57)1 3405394 Ext. 124

COLFUTURO with the support of the Swiss Embassy undertakes to promote the Agreement to prospective Colombian researchers.

This Agreement enters into force for three years at the date of the signature of the Parties. The Parties undertake to resolve any disputes arising out of or in the implementation of the Agreement by means of dialogue. Either Party may terminate the Agreement by providing at least thirty days written notice to the other Party.

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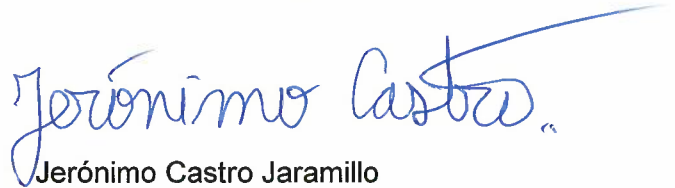
The results of this Agreement will be assessed by the Parties after two years. This Agreement may be renewed taking into account the results of the assessment.

Date: 1. of May 2019

Date: 1 mayo 2019



Ambassador Mauro Moruzzi
Head of Division
State Secretariat for Education, Research
and Innovation of Switzerland



Jerónimo Castro Jaramillo
Executive Director
COLFUTURO

Annex: ment.