

## **Regional Study of Latin America**

*November 2017*

Research Support Office, Institute of Latin American Studies and  
External Relations and Communications Office at Stockholm University

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## 1. Introduction

Stockholm University's internationalisation efforts aim to increase the operational focus by basing activities on existing research collaborations and student exchange agreements. In addition, the University aspires to increase its global engagement through, for example, research collaborations with low-wage countries and countries that Sweden has good relationships with but no longer provides aid to. Another aim is to increase Stockholm University's visibility and good reputation on the global research and education arena. This regional study was written for that purpose in conjunction with a study visit in Latin America by the Vice-Chancellor planned for April 2018.

In January 2017, Maria Wikse, Head of International Affairs, was commissioned by the Vice-Chancellor to write a regional study on Latin America. A working group was created, which worked on the regional study in the spring of 2017 and, based on management directives, will plan the Vice-Chancellor's trip during the autumn semester of 2017. In the beginning of 2018, the working group will develop a final itinerary.

The working group consists of Helene Komlos Grill, Project Manager at the External Relations and Communications Office, Thaís Machado Borges, Research Officer at the Research Support Office, Andrés Rivarola, Director of the Institute of Latin American Studies, and Maria Wikse, Head of International Affairs at the Research Support Office. Åsa Sundström Landes, International Officer at the International Office at Student Services has contributed by writing an internal report on student exchange agreements: "Genomgång av Stockholms universitets utbytesavtal med lärosäten i Latinamerika" (Review of Stockholm University's exchange agreements with higher education institutions in Latin America). Gabor Schubert, Bibliometrician at the Stockholm University Library, has produced a co-publishing report as a basis for the study.

The regional study was completed in June 2017 and provided to Stockholm University's senior management team as a working paper. This is an abridged and revised version of the study without appendices.

### Background

Stockholm University has a long-standing relationship with Latin America. As early as 1977, the Institute of Latin American Studies became a part of the University. Over the years, the

Institute has been a platform for extensive international collaboration with universities, governments, international organisations, civil society, and the business community.<sup>1</sup>

Two prior official visits by Stockholm University Vice-Chancellors to Latin America have taken place in the 21st century. In 2003, Vice-Chancellor Gustaf Lindencrona travelled with a delegation to Mexico and California (USA). In California, the Vice-Chancellor's delegation visited *San Diego State University*, and in Mexico they visited *ITAM (Instituto Tecnológico, Autónomo de México)*, *UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México)*, *Colegio de México* and *BUAP (Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla)*.

In 2008, Vice-Chancellor Kåre Bremer travelled with an SU delegation to Florida (USA), Mexico, and Argentina. In Florida, the Vice-Chancellor's delegation visited the *University of Florida*. In Argentina, the delegation visited *Universidad de Buenos Aires (UBA)* and *Universidad de La Plata*, and in Mexico they visited both *Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM)* and *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)*. Stockholm University signed an agreement with *UBA* in Argentina as well as *ITAM* and *UNAM* in Mexico.<sup>2</sup> The agreement with *UBA* ended in 2013. Both of the Mexican agreements included academic, scientific, and cultural exchange for five years, with the possibility of extension. The agreements with the Mexican universities have mainly involved student exchanges and have been extended (*ITAM* is in effect 2016–21 and *UNAM* 2014–2019).

More recently, Stockholm University has participated in networking activities in Brazil through SACF (Swedish Academic Collaboration Forum, 2014-2017). The aim was to increase research collaboration with Brazil, as well as four countries in Asia. SACF was a collaboration between Stockholm University and five other Swedish universities with funding from STINT. In May 2016, eight researchers from Stockholm University attended a seminar in Brasilia. They participated in discussions on a variety of topics, including sustainable development, inclusive education, and materials chemistry. Some of them went on to workshops in other parts of Brazil. In Rio de Janeiro, Stockholm University collaborated with *Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ)* on a workshop about teacher education. In addition, Stockholm University collaborated with *Universidade Estadual de Campinas (UNICAMP)* on a workshop about “Essential scientific challenges”. At the SACF project's

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<sup>1</sup> For more information, see the Institute of Latin American Studies' annual report: <http://www.lai.su.se/about-us/annual-reports>

<sup>2</sup> Summary from Åke Nagrelius' travel report "Vice-Chancellor's trip to Mexico and Argentina in 2008". Working paper

final meeting in Stockholm, the delegation from Brazil was the largest; more than 40 researchers and policy makers from Brazilian universities and institutions participated.

### **Structure of the regional study**

The University's core operations are research and education, as well as collaboration. The regional study thus includes information about these operations, as well as a brief summary on Latin American universities' positions in international rankings.

- Stockholm University and Latin American universities: report on externally funded research projects and publications
- Student mobility and recruitment
- Other government agencies' and research funding bodies' plans for Sweden in Latin America
- Latin American universities in international rankings

## **2. Stockholm University and Latin American universities: report on externally funded research projects and publications**

This part of the report aims to identify how researchers from Latin American countries have collaborated with Stockholm University's researchers' in externally funded projects, as well as how this has been reflected in student work (degree projects and theses). The material has been divided into two sections: the first section describes externally funded projects related to Latin American countries<sup>3</sup>, and the second section describes research publications and student projects from Stockholm University, as well as co-publications, all of which are related to Latin American countries.<sup>4</sup>

### **Externally funded research projects at Stockholm University with topics related to Latin American countries**

The summary was based on data from the SweCRIS project database, which contains data from ten Swedish funding bodies and the EU. The countries' names (in English and Swedish) were used as search terms, together with a filter where Stockholm University was listed as an administrative organisation. The search results were limited to a period between 2010 and 2016.

#### **1. Brazil:** Nine externally funded projects of various types (multi-year projects,

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<sup>3</sup> Data collected from the project database SweCRIS, February-April

<sup>4</sup> Data collected from publications in DiVA, February-April 2017

conference papers, grants for visiting researchers, etc.). Seven of the projects are related to subjects in Human Science and two to subjects in Science.

**2. Chile:** Seven externally funded projects of various types. Six projects in Science and one in Human Science.

**3. Mexico:** Five externally funded projects. Two projects in Human Science and three in Science.

**4. Argentina:** Two externally funded projects. One project in Human Science and one in Science.

**Latin America:** Four projects within Human Science have listed Latin America as their topic.

**Ecuador:** Two projects in Human Science. Both projects involve other countries (Mexico and Bolivia), which results in them being listed twice.

**Bolivia:** One project in Human Science.

**Cuba:** No externally funded projects at Stockholm University between 2010 and 2017. One project from 2009 in Human Science.

**Costa Rica** - One externally funded project in Human Science.

**Colombia, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela:** No externally funded projects at Stockholm University between 2010 and 2016.<sup>5</sup>

In summary, externally funded research projects conducted at Stockholm University are dominated by four Latin American countries: Brazil, Chile, Mexico, and Argentina (in that order). Research projects related to Brazil, Mexico, and Argentina dominate in Human Science subjects, but Science subjects are also represented albeit to a lesser extent. Meanwhile, externally funded research projects related to Chile are dominated by Science subjects (particularly astronomy and physics). In the Atacama Desert, Chile has the world's most advanced land-based observatory.

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<sup>5</sup> It is important to point out that other research on and with Latin American countries may have been conducted at the department level with internal funding or within the framework of the employee's position. This information is more difficult to retrieve, but is partly reflected in the second part of the report, where publications are presented.

### **Research publications and student projects at Stockholm University related to Latin American countries**

The summary was based on data collected from DiVA. The countries' names were used as search words. The search specifies research publications, student projects, and regional affiliation. The summary below uses the abbreviation HS for Human Science and S for Science, along with an indication of which area has the most projects.

**Brazil** comes in first place with 179 research publications (HS>S) and 26 student projects (HS). **Mexico** comes in second place with 102 research publications (HS>S) and 18 student projects (HS). **Chile** comes in third place with 104 research publications (S>HS) and 29 student projects (HS).

**Argentina** comes in fourth place with 66 research publications (HS>S) and 23 student projects (HS). A search for **Latin America** finds 108 research publications (HS) and 20 student projects (HS).

This is followed by:

**Venezuela** with 65 research publications (HS) and 3 student projects (HS). **Colombia** with 53 research publications (HS) and 23 student projects (HS>S). **Ecuador** with 39 research publications (HS>S) and 7 student projects (HS).

**Bolivia** with 37 research publications (HS>S) and 7 student projects (HS). **Uruguay** with 36 research publications (HS>S) and 11 student projects (HS>S). **Peru** with 28 research publications (HS=S) and 12 student projects (HS).

**Cuba** with 27 research publications (HS) and 5 student projects (HS). **Nicaragua** with 26 research publications (HS>S) and 5 student projects (HS). **Costa Rica** with 17 research publications (S>HS) and 2 student projects (HS).

**Guatemala** with 13 research publications (HS) and 8 student projects (HS).

**Panama** with 10 research publications (HS) and 0 student projects.

**Paraguay** with 4 research publications (HS) and 6 student projects (HS).

***Co-publications with Latin American countries*** (publications in English only).<sup>6</sup> The summary shows that co-publications are much more common in Science than in Human Science. Most of the 267 search results are related to Science, and fewer than ten are related to Human Science. Brazil, Chile, Mexico, and Argentina once again appear to be the most frequent countries when it comes co-publications in English (in that order).

### 3. Student mobility and recruitment

Stockholm University has 16 exchange agreements with partner universities in five countries in Latin America: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, and Peru. Five of the agreements are at the central level, and eleven at the department level. Most of them are time-limited and last for three to five years, but some have no time limit. The agreements allow for different types of collaboration; some are related to exchanges of teachers and researchers, and one involves funded exchanges of visiting researchers. All of them include student exchanges. For some countries, there is an imbalance between outgoing and incoming students. For example, there are more incoming students from Brazil, Mexico, and Peru than students who travel there, while the situation is the opposite for Argentina.

A central agreement is seen as a complement to the university's departmental agreements and allows opportunities for all students to go on exchanges and select courses in all disciplines. Some disciplines, such as business administration and law, which often have independent schools within the universities, sometimes sign their own agreements.

So far, the university has not directed any special efforts toward student recruitment from the region. The following is a detailed description of the countries in Latin America that would be of interest for student recruitment. The selection of countries is based on the size of the country, Swedish initiatives in the country e.g., work by the embassy or the Swedish Institute, interest among applicants, and student mobility. The countries are presented in alphabetical order.

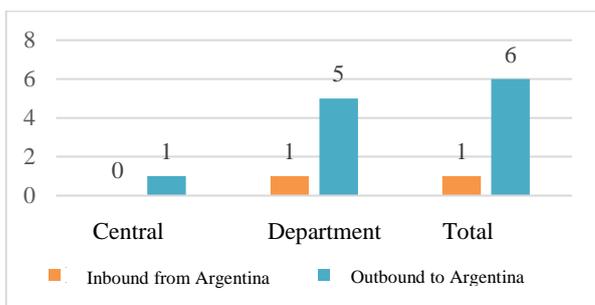
The figures stated in the report are the number of applications for the master's programmes in autumn 2016, exchanges through agreements, and the number of visits to the website [www.su.se/english](http://www.su.se/english). The number stated for the website is the placement in relation to other countries, which gives an indication of the level of interest in Stockholm University in each country.

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<sup>6</sup> The material, a co-publishing report, was produced by Gabor Schubert, SUB, May 2017

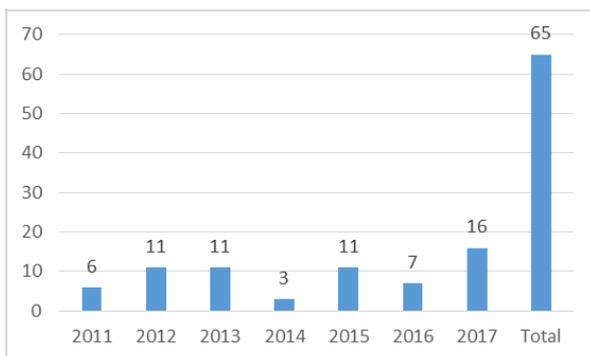
## Argentina

*Incoming and outgoing exchange students, Argentina, autumn 2008–spring 2017*



## Applications

Number of applications to master's programmes from Argentina



*Number of visits to the website<sup>7</sup>*

## Place 77: Argentina

1 Jan 2014 – 31 Dec 2016	<b>4,925 (0.15%)</b>
1 Jan 2011 – 31 Dec 2013	<b>2,076 (0.13%)</b>

<sup>7</sup> The number of visits to the website refers to the entire English-language website, su.se/english, 2014-2016 compared to 2011-2013, showing the level of interest in each country.

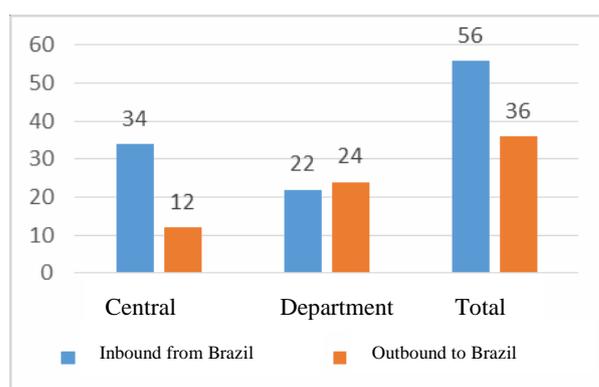
### *Education*

Argentina has a high level of education. In 2013, the country had 36 public universities and 20 private ones, most of which are Catholic. The University of Córdoba, founded in 1613, is the oldest. Eight out of ten students attend public universities, which do not have tuition fees.<sup>8</sup>

The government intends to more than double the funding for research until 2020 and prioritises six areas of research: energy, industry, health, agriculture, social development, as well as environment and sustainable development.<sup>9</sup>

### **Brazil**

*Incoming and outgoing exchange students, Brazil, spring 2007–spring 2017*

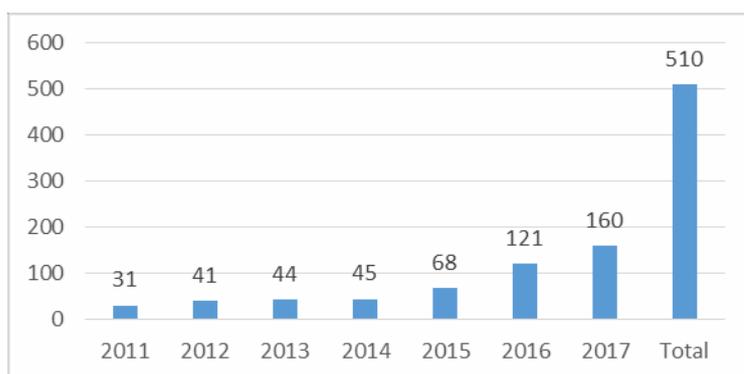


<sup>8</sup> <https://www.ui.se/landguiden/lander-och-omraden/sydamerika/argentina/utbildning/> (10 September 2017)

<sup>9</sup> <http://monitor.icf.com/category/regions/south-america/argentina/>

### Applications

Number of applications to master's programmes from Brazil



### Number of visits to the website

#### Place 21: Brazil

1 Jan 2014 – 31 Dec 2016	<b>33,699</b> (1.04%)
1 Jan 2011 – 31 Dec 2013	<b>14,500</b> (0.93%)

### Education

In Brazil, more than half of the country's nearly 200 higher education institutions are federal, which means that education at these institutions is paid for by the government. Since 2005, there is a federal programme for student aid that aims to increase admissions to higher education. Due to shortcomings in the education system, Brazil has struggled in recent years to meet the demand for skilled and qualified labour from domestic companies.<sup>10</sup>

A few years ago, Brazil introduced a scholarship programme, "Science without borders"<sup>11</sup>, which aimed to entice Brazilian students to study abroad. Due to Brazil's declining economy,

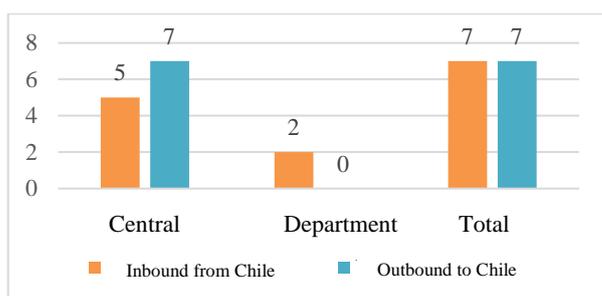
<sup>10</sup> <http://www.swedenabroad.com/sv-SE/Ambassader/Brasilia/Landfakta/Om-Brasilien/Utbildning/> (10 September 2017)

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.su.se/english/education/fees-scholarships/scholarships/scholarships-offered-by-other-organizations-1.307528>

the programme will be terminated in 2017. It is unclear whether or not it will be replaced by another scholarship programme.<sup>12</sup>

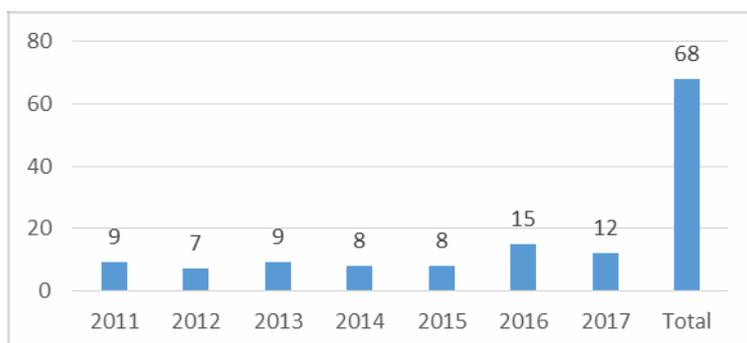
## Chile

*Incoming and outgoing exchange students, Chile, autumn 2008–spring 2017*



## Applications

Number of applications to master's programmes from Chile



*Number of visits to the website*

## Place 69: Chile

1 Jan 2014 – 31 Dec 2016	<b>5,840</b> (0.18%)
1 Jan 2011 – 31 Dec 2013	<b>2,530</b> (0.16%)

<sup>12</sup> Country information, Student Services, Stockholm University, 2014. Internal document.

### *Education*

Chile has about 60 universities, and a third of the country's young people study at the tertiary level. The government is discussing reforms to the education system, including putting an end to charter schools being run for profit and making higher education tuition-free. A decision was made in 2015 to gradually introduce tuition-free higher education: starting with free higher education for 60 per cent of students from 2016, and for all students from 2020.<sup>13</sup>

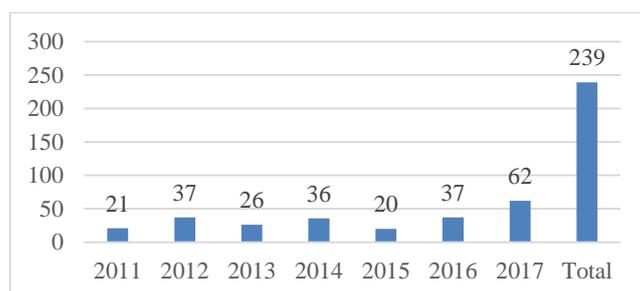
### **Colombia**

#### *Bilateral agreements*

Stockholm University does not currently have any bilateral agreements with higher education institutions in Colombia, neither centrally nor at the department level, so no statistics on exchange students will be presented.

#### *Applications*

Number of applications to master's programmes from Colombia



#### *Number of visits to the website*

#### **Place 49: Colombia**

1 Jan 2014 – 31 Dec 2016	<b>11,244</b> (0.35%)
1 Jan 2011 – 31 Dec 2013	<b>5,245</b> (0.33%)

#### *Education*

There are more than 100 universities in Colombia, both public and private, and by law, a tenth of the government budget must go to education. In 2011, about 1.8 million students were

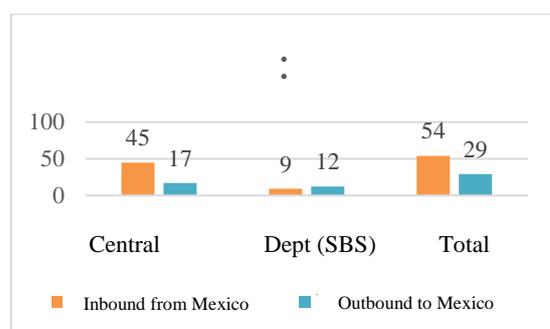
<sup>13</sup> <https://www.ui.se/landguiden/lander-och-omraden/sydamerika/chile/utbildning/> (10 September 2017)

enrolled in higher education, of whom 690,000 studied at private institutions. The most important university is the public *Universidad Nacional*.<sup>14</sup> Today, two per cent of students in higher education travel abroad to study, with the United States, Spain, France, Australia and Germany as their main destinations. Recruitment agents are important in Colombia, that is, consultants who help represent universities in the country and recruit students.<sup>15</sup>

The State Agency *El Instituto Colombiano de Crédito Educativo y Estudios Técnicos en el Exterior* (ICETEX), in Colombia, offers scholarships for resident students who wish to study abroad.<sup>16</sup>

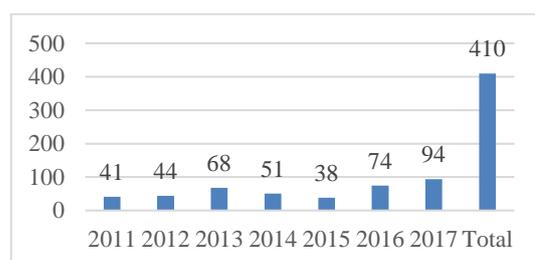
## Mexico

*Incoming and outgoing exchange students, Mexico, autumn 2008–spring 2017*



## Applications

Number of applications to master's programmes from Mexico



<sup>14</sup> <https://www.ui.se/landguiden/lander-och-omraden/sydamerika/colombia/utbildning/> (10 September 2017)

<sup>15</sup> <http://monitor.icef.com/2015/10/from-the-field-recruiting-in-colombia/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.icetex.gov.co/dnnpro5/es-co/becas.aspx>

*Number of visits to the website*

**Place 30: Mexico**

1 Jan 2014 – 31 Dec 2016	<b>20,466</b> (0.63%)
1 Jan 2011 – 31 Dec 2013	<b>10,888</b> (0.69%)

*Education*

Since the 1990s, Mexico has made major investments in education, and about a quarter of Mexicans go to university. *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México* in Mexico City, which is the largest university in Latin America with more than 300,000 students, is considered one of the most prestigious universities.<sup>17</sup>

Spain is the second most popular study destination for Mexican students, which is due to the language, lower tuition fees and living expenses, and the fact that many Mexicans have relatives in the country. Nearly 3,000 students went there to study in 2016.<sup>18</sup>

The Mexican state offers scholarships for students wishing to study abroad through both specific universities<sup>19</sup> and general programmes offered by *the Ministerio de Educación Pública* (SEP).<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> <https://www.ui.se/landguiden/lander-och-omraden/nordamerika/mexiko/utbildning/> (10 September 2017)

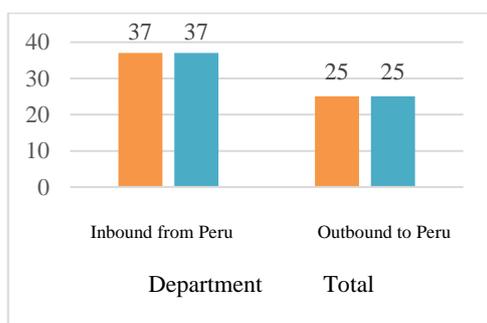
<sup>18</sup> <http://monitor.icef.com/category/regions/south-america/mexico/>

<sup>19</sup> National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) Postgraduate  
[http://www.becas.sep.gob.mx/beca/24/becasPor/institucion\\_nivel/4](http://www.becas.sep.gob.mx/beca/24/becasPor/institucion_nivel/4)

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.elfinanciero.com.mx/universidades/becas-en-el-extranjero-para-estudiantes-y-profesionistas-mexicanos.html>

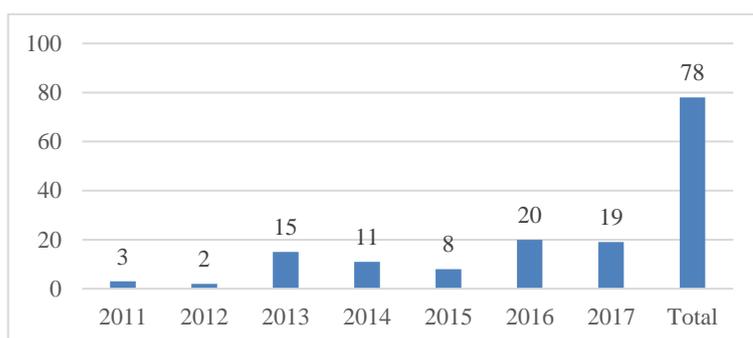
## Peru

Incoming and outgoing exchange students, Peru, autumn 2008–spring 2017



## Applications

Number of applications to master's programmes from Peru



## Number of visits to the website

### Place 68: Peru

1 Jan 2014 – 31 Dec 2016	<b>5,855</b> (0.18%)
1 Jan 2011 – 31 Dec 2013	<b>2,182</b> (0.14%)

## Education

The education system in Peru is under development. Just over a quarter of those who finish primary school go on to study at one of the country's higher education institutions, most of which are private. The *National University of San Marcos* in Lima, founded in 1551, is the oldest university in South America and the second oldest in Latin America. As in other Latin

American countries, there are differences between urban and rural areas, as well as between men and women, but literacy rates are steadily increasing.<sup>21</sup>

#### **4. Other government agencies' and research funding bodies' plans for Sweden in Latin America**

##### **Government**

Since 2014, the government has aspired to reactivate Sweden's presence in and relations with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Latin America is considered a modern and outward-looking region. All countries in the region, with the exception of Cuba, currently have democratically elected presidents and parliaments. The democratic development in the region is reflected in strong social movements that collaborate across national borders. Although poverty is still widespread and income gaps are large, several countries are now considered middle-income countries, thanks to the positive economic development that has taken place in the 21st century. While income distribution is still uneven, significant changes have been made in terms of modernising social security systems and introducing gender equality reforms. In the 21st century, Brazil has become the world's seventh largest economy, Mexico and Chile have joined the OECD, and several other countries (e.g. Argentina) are knocking on the door. Another positive development is that the internal armed conflicts have either ended or, as in the case of Colombia, are on the right track. However, problems such as crime and drug trafficking have become worse in several countries.

According to the government, Sweden enjoys a high level of trust in Latin America, which is based on past historical involvement. Sweden took a clear stance against the military dictatorships in the 1970s and '80s and received tens of thousands of refugees, mainly from Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay, which means that there is now a well-integrated Latin American diaspora in Sweden. Moreover, Sweden has promoted peaceful solutions to armed conflicts in Central America and is perceived as an attractive social model. The Swedish business community has been present in Latin America for more than a hundred years and has a strong presence in many of the sectors where investments will be needed in the next few years.

In 2015, the government decided on a new start for collaboration on development in Latin America. The previous government's decision to phase out aid to Bolivia was stopped, and new aid strategies for Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala, and Cuba were adopted in 2016. The trend towards increasing contacts with Latin America continued in 2016 and 2017 with the

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<sup>21</sup> <https://www.ui.se/landguiden/lander-och-omraden/sydamerika/peru/utbildning/> (10 September 2017)

goal to renew contacts and increase collaboration.<sup>22</sup> An action plan for Latin America is currently being developed within the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Sweden has a strategic partnership with Brazil, and closer relationships have been established with a number of other countries, including Mexico, Chile, Colombia, Peru, and Uruguay. An embassy was opened in Peru in 2017. Moreover, the Royal Family and several government ministers have made visits to these countries. One of the most recent ones was Minister for Public Administration Ardalan Shekarabi's visit to South America. His trip included a visit to the research institute SARAS, which was started by and has strong links to the Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC) at Stockholm University.<sup>23</sup>

### Sida

Sida's various duties include implementing the government's strategy for research collaboration within the development collaboration 2015-2021, where each country has its own strategy (e.g. Colombia).<sup>24</sup> Operations that follow the strategy should help strengthen high-quality research relating to poverty reduction and sustainable development; the primary focus is on low-income countries and regions. According to Sida, this will be achieved by creating the capacity for research programmes and research in collaboration with the relevant countries. Within the framework of the research collaboration, Sida has a research council which is responsible for supporting relevant development research in Sweden. The research council and Sida should work in accordance with the strategy.

Sida's research council has been appointed by the government until the end of 2017, and its duties include reviewing Sida's proposals for research projects and collaboration. In addition, it provides strategic advice and recommends what decisions Sida should make in relation to research. The council includes two members from Stockholm University: Lisa Deutsch (Stockholm Resilience Centre) and Ilda Lindell (Department of Physical Geography).

Sida has had an extensive programme for regional collaboration in Latin America.<sup>25</sup> Sweden's regional efforts have also been coordinated with other contributors, particularly from the

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<sup>22</sup> <http://www.regeringen.se/regeringens-politik/utrikes--och-sakerhetspolitik/utrikesdeklarationen/>

<sup>23</sup> SRC collaborates actively with the South American Institute for Resilience and Sustainability Studies (SARAS) in Uruguay, both as members of an advisory body and as researchers and participants in annual conferences and workshops. These workshops are interdisciplinary meetings on various sustainability challenges related to, for example, fishing or land use: <http://saras-institute.org/index.php/en/previous-conferences>.

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.regeringen.se/land--och-regionsstrategier/2016/10/strategi-for-sveriges-utvecklingssamarbete-med-colombia/>

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.sida.se/Svenska/Har-arbetar-vi/Latinamerika/Regionalt-samarbete/>

Nordic countries. Although some support has been discontinued, there is still direct or indirect support for institutions and networks specialising in research on democracy, human rights, environment, natural resources and natural disasters. Institutions that are still receiving support from Sida include the Latin American research council for social sciences, CLACSO (of which Stockholm University's Institute of Latin American Studies is a member), the environmental economics network LACEEP, and the network for research on tropical diseases, NeTropica. In addition, there are research programmes for preventing and handling natural disasters.

When it comes to bilateral aid, Bolivia has received support in order to be able to conduct its own research of international quality in the long term. Examples of Swedish support can be found in education at the master's and doctoral levels in collaboration with Swedish and international partners, administrative reforms of universities, and investments in infrastructure such as IT, libraries and laboratories. For Colombia, Sida has developed a strategy that focuses on promoting human rights and women as agents for peace. In Guatemala, the objective is to help the country implement peace agreements, as well as contribute to the strengthening of democracy, promote respect for human rights, and reduce poverty. In Cuba, the Swedish development projects are focused on support for the modernisation of the country's economy and social governance.

### **The Swedish Institute (SI)**

SI's role is to facilitate Swedish actors' long-term exchange and collaboration on the global level, as well as in key partner countries where Sweden has to develop new relationships. This applies particularly to countries undergoing economic growth and other forms of social transformation and reform, where low awareness or major valuation differences restrict or prevent increased interaction with Sweden. North and South America are two areas included in SI's operations and strategic monitoring.<sup>26</sup> There is an interest in having more Latin American students actively seeking SI's scholarships in order to go to Swedish universities. The Director General of SI Annika Rembe is now also a member of the Board of the Institute of Latin American Studies.

The Swedish Institute awards scholarships to students from countries in Latin America in the context of SISS (Swedish Institute Scholarships for Master's Studies). Here we can find

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<sup>26</sup> [https://si.se/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Svenska-institutets-A%CC%8Arsredovisning\\_2016.pdf](https://si.se/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Svenska-institutets-A%CC%8Arsredovisning_2016.pdf)

countries such as Brazil, Colombia, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, and Peru.<sup>27</sup>

### **The Swedish Council for Higher Education (UHR)**

Other government agencies related to higher education that have an interest in improved connections to Latin America include the Swedish Council for Higher Education (UHR). UHR is responsible for the administration and allocation of funds to higher education institutions, which then distribute the scholarships to students. There is, for example, a scholarship programme aimed at particularly qualified students from other countries outside the EU/EEC and Switzerland that amounts to about SEK 60 million per year. The purpose of the scholarship is to provide Swedish higher education institutions with a strategic competitive tool on the global education market, and thus to facilitate the recruitment of particularly qualified tuition-paying students. The aim is to allow the scholarship programme to be used by higher education institutions in a flexible way to contribute to their long-term internationalisation efforts and raise the quality of their education.

### **Reports and calls for proposals from funding bodies: Swedish Research Council, Formas, Forte, Vinnova, Stint**

A search on the websites of the major Swedish funding bodies does not provide much information about Latin America. However, the Swedish Research Council (VR) is working on renewing its agreement with Brazil. VR is currently waiting for Brazil's proposal for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in order to continue the process. When it comes to global collaboration and earmarked funds, there are mentions of other countries in the south, but VR still has its call for funding within U-forsk and Swedish Research Links, where countries in Latin America can be included.<sup>28</sup>

Stint has an earmarked programme in the region called Joint Brazilian-Swedish Research Collaboration, which started in 2014. The aim of the programme is to strengthen Swedish research and higher education by establishing and developing international collaboration. The programme provides funding for projects with high-quality research that clearly contribute to the involved universities' operations.

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<sup>27</sup> <https://eng.si.se/swedish-institute-scholarship-recipient-20172018/>.

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.vr.se/nyheterpress/nyheter2013/tvautlysningarforforskningavrelevansforlagochmedelinkomstlander.54b1cd22413cb479b8056196.html>

Projects may last up to four years, provided that the mid-term report after two years is approved. Proposed projects must include at least one Swedish and one Brazilian party. The ideal collaboration project includes activities relating to both research and higher education; however, Stint may also fund pure research collaborations. It is particularly important that young researchers and doctoral students participate in exchanges.<sup>29</sup>

### Comment

According to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Brazil and Mexico are the most important Latin American countries to Sweden. Brazil is the most important trading partner, with an extensive presence of about 220 Swedish companies employing a total of more than 70,000 people. Mexico is Sweden's second largest export market in Latin America, with exports of more than SEK 5 billion annually and about 100 Swedish or Swedish-related companies established in the country. In third place comes Argentina, with exports of SEK 1.5-2 billion and a presence of about 60 Swedish companies and representatives. Other countries with which Sweden has a good relationship are Chile, Peru, and Colombia, whose trade can reach up to SEK 1 billion, with between 20 and 30 Swedish companies present. Besides economy, Brazil has a special position with respect to other institutional points of contact, including earmarked funds from Stint and academic contacts related to the industrial collaboration linked to the export of the Swedish aircraft Gripen NG. When it comes to aid, Sida has prioritised countries such as Colombia and Bolivia, but there is also support for Cuba and Guatemala. From a national perspective, Brazil and Mexico are countries to prioritise. Argentina comes in third place with a great potential thanks to a strong domestic market, a high level of education, and a better standard of living than the other countries. From a development perspective, Bolivia and Colombia are prioritised countries. In the case of Colombia, there are good prospects for growth, and the country is strong both in terms of economy and education.

### Latin American universities in international rankings

One way to present Latin American universities is by looking at their placement in international rankings. The rankings do not paint a full picture, and the result depends on what components are included in the ranking. The study presents the results from a selection of rankings. The selection is based on three rankings that Stockholm University considers particularly important: Times Higher Education World University Rankings (THE), QS Rankings and Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU).<sup>30</sup> Brazilian universities dominate most international rankings, and the dominating one in the region is *Universidade de São Paulo (USP)*. In most cases, Chile is the second strongest in the rankings with

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<sup>29</sup> <http://www.stint.se/se/89/var/newsID/425>

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.su.se/om-oss/fakta/rankning>

*Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (PUC- Chile)*, followed by Mexico's large university *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)*.

#### *The THE ranking*

Times Higher Education's new ranking for Latin America, "Latin America University Ranking for 2016", is dominated by Brazil and Chile. Thirteen Brazilian and seven Chilean universities are on the top 25 list. It is worth noting that Mexican universities have a higher proportion of foreign students: the technical university *ISTEM* has 15 per cent, and *UNAM* has five per cent. Most of the other universities on the list only have two to three per cent, except for *PUC-Chile*, which has seven per cent foreign students. There are four countries on the top ten list:<sup>31</sup>

#### **Brazil**

1. *Universidade de São Paulo (USP)*
2. *Universidade Estadual de Campinas (UNICAMP)*
5. *Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ)*
6. *Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro (PUC-RJ)*
7. *Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG)*

#### **Chile**

3. *Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (PUC-Chile)*
4. *Universidad de Chile (UChile)*

#### **Mexico**

8. *Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM)*
9. *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)*

#### **Colombia**

10. *Universidad de los Andes (UNIANDES)*

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<sup>31</sup> [https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/2016/latin-america-university-rankings#!/page/0/length/25/sort\\_by/rank/sort\\_order/asc/cols/stats](https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/2016/latin-america-university-rankings#!/page/0/length/25/sort_by/rank/sort_order/asc/cols/stats)

Since the regional study was completed in June 2017, THE has published a Latin American ranking for 2017. In THE, it is noted that Chile and Colombia have more universities in the top 100 while Brazil has fewer.<sup>32</sup>

### *QS Rankings*

Once again, Brazil has the highest rankings in the “QS University Rankings: Latin America 2016” with nine universities in the top 25. Four Chilean and three Mexican universities are also included. Listed below are 13 universities down to place 20 from the four dominant countries.<sup>33</sup>

#### **Brazil**

1. *Universidade de São Paulo (USP)*
2. *Universidade Estadual de Campinas (UNICAMP)*
5. *Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ)*
9. *Universidade de Brasília (UnB)*
12. *Universidade Estadual Paulista (UNESP)*

#### **Chile**

3. *Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (PUC- Chile)*
6. *Universidad de Chile (UChile)*
13. *Universidad de Concepción (UdeC)*

#### **Mexico**

4. *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)*
7. *Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM)*

#### **Argentina**

11. *Universidad de Buenos Aires (UBA)*
20. *Universidad Nacional de La Plata (UNLP)*

#### *ARWU*

In the global Academic Ranking of World Universities (the Shanghai Ranking), Brazil dominates with six universities: place 101–150, *Universidade de São Paulo (USP)*; place 301–400, *Federal University of Minas Gerais*, *Federal University of Rio de Janeiro* and *Universidade Estadual Paulista (UNESP)*; place 401–500, *Universidade Estadual de*

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<sup>32</sup> <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/latin-america-university-rankings-2017-results-out-now>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/latin-american-university-rankings/2016>

*Campinas (UNICAMP)*; and place 501–600, *Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul*. In place 151–200, there is a Mexican university, *Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM)*, and an Argentinian university, *University of Buenos Aires*.<sup>34</sup>

### Summary

The international rankings are dominated by the major universities in Brazil, Mexico and Chile (e.g., *USP*, *UNICAMP*, *UNAM*, and *PUC-Chile*). It is worth noting that a couple of the universities are very large, especially *UNAM* with 340,000 students and *UBA* with 308,000 students. The Catholic universities (e.g., *Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile*) are private, which may involve high tuition fees.

	<i>Universidade de São Paulo (USP)</i> , Brazil 95,000 students	<i>Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, (UNAM)</i> 340,000 students	<i>Universidade Estadual de Campinas (UNICAMP)</i> , Brazil 40,000 students	<i>Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (PUC-Chile)</i> 26,000 students
<i>THE Latin America</i>	1	9	2	3
<i>QS Rankings</i>	1	4	2	3
<i>ARWU</i>	101–150	151–200	401–500	401–500

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<sup>34</sup> <http://www.shanghairanking.com/ARWU2016.html>