

# Higher education and its internationalization in Mexico

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Since current President of Mexico, Enrique Peña Nieto, took office in 2012, his government has addressed important issues such as the **Education Reform**.



The Reform seeks to provide a higher quality education and better access to education to **reduce social inequalities**, and through Higher Education, form **competitive human resources able to play an active role in the global world** and benefit the national development.

Mexican universities had been very proactive in its internationalization process through different initiatives:

- International Agreements of Academic Exchange and Cooperation/ Double Degree and Hybrid Programs.
- Special programs and scholarships to promote academic mobility.
- Study Programs and Summer Courses in English/ Ex. Spanish Language Courses and Mexican Culture for foreign students.
- Online courses.



## The interest of academic exchange and cooperation with the Asian Pacific region is significantly increasing:

- The region is considered as a **key partner** for commerce, finance, innovation and technological development.
- Mexico has relations with all members of the region and has currently privileged **strategic associations with Japan, China, Korea and India.**
- Equally important, Mexico has been making efforts to increase political and economic exchanges, and cooperation with **Southeast Asia and South Pacific**, and has been participating actively in Transpacific forums such as **APEC, FOCALAE and PECC.**



# Academic Relations Mexico-Japan



One important aspect of the current strategic relation between Mexico and Japan is the academic exchange and cooperation, and joint research:

- Program for Human Resources Mexico-Japan between the National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) since 1971.
- More than 100 agreements of student and professors exchange between universities.
- Scholarships granted by the Government of Mexico and the Government of Japan.
- Scientific Mobility Program between CONACYT and the Japan Society for Promotion of Science (JSPS) established in 1995.
- MOU for the Cooperation in Science and Technology between CONACYT and the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) signed in 2010.

Mexico and Japan share a friendship of more than 400 years. Currently the political, economic, academic and cultural exchange, and international cooperation, between both countries are more dynamic than ever:

- Increasing number of Japanese investments in Mexico, specially in the automotive industry. By this year, the number of investments will reach more than one thousand/ economic, social and cultural impact.
- Japan is an important reference for Mexico for high technology and innovation; key partner for the national development, to face global challenges and to create a knowledge based society towards the future.
- High interest by Mexican youth towards Japanese culture, and specially pop culture (anime).





## Forecasts regarding the Higher Education in Mexico, and academic exchange and cooperation with Japan in a near future:

- The process of internationalization of the Higher Education in Mexico is expected to continue through increasing exchanges between Mexican and foreign students, professors and researchers, and other innovative initiatives.
- It is expected that more Mexican students will be more interested in studying in the region of Asia Pacific, specially in the fields of international business, high technology and innovation.
- Increasing demand of international double degrees and hybrid programs will be expected, specially in the fields of science, technology and innovation, combined with other fields such as finance and business /MBA.
- In the context of the bilateral relation between Mexico and Japan, the increasing demand of specialized engineers with technological and language (Spanish-Japanese-English) knowledge will continue.
- The celebration of a Third Mexico-Japan Rectors Summit in Hiroshima in autumn of 2017 will contribute to strengthen all the tasks mentioned above.



¡MUCHAS GRACIAS!

Emy Kameta

Academic, Science & Technology, and  
International Cooperation Affairs  
EMBASSY OF MEXICO IN JAPAN  
ekameta@sre.gob.mx