

# HIGH LEVEL EDUCATION PROGRAM



COLCIENCIAS



**TODOS POR UN  
NUEVO PAÍS**

PAZ EQUIDAD EDUCACIÓN

## HIGH-LEVEL EDUCATION PROGRAM - COLCIENCIAS

### WHAT IS IT?

Since 1992 the Colombian government provides funding through the Administrative Department of Science, Technology and Innovation – COLCIENCIAS to undertake high level studies (masters and PhDs). Every year COLCIENCIAS opens at least two calls for applications to fund doctoral studies in Colombia and abroad.

The program supports Colombian researchers to carry out postgraduate studies at the best universities in the country and around the world. It aims at creating a critical mass of scholars to strengthen the knowledge system in Colombia (generation and transfer), increase productivity and economic growth, and achieve sustainable development.

Our beneficiaries have the opportunity to make their own contribution to solve local and regional problems, boost competitiveness in their departments, and improve their quality of life.

Since 2009 the Colombian government through COLCIENCIAS funds the Colfuturo Loan-Scholarship Program to support masters and doctoral studies. COLCIENCIAS provides the scholarship part of this program.

More recently, training opportunities for master's degrees and PhD programs are offered in the Colombian regions, funded with resources from the Science, Technology and Innovation Fund from the General Royalties System. This year, a new initiative for PhD programs supported by Companies has been also launched.

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

COLCIENCIAS funds beneficiaries through a 100% forgivable educational loan for up to four years at the PhD level. For master's degrees, we offer funding for maximum two years in which 50% is forgivable and 50% is a loan.

Although the program was initially funded by the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank, nowadays most of the resources come from the National General Budget and the Science, Technology and Innovation Fund from the General Royalties System.

In addition, COLCIENCIAS cooperates with strategic partners to achieve its goal of increasing the country's scientific capabilities through high level postgraduate programs. Our main partners are the Fulbright Commission in Colombia, the Newton Fund and Colfuturo. COLCIENCIAS have also signed up several agreements with universities around the world to offer better financial conditions to our beneficiaries.

## WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

- From 1992 to 2015, 13.069 forgivable educative loans have been granted for graduate studies: 7.623 have been offered by COLCIENCIAS calls out of which 2.977 beneficiaries have pursued their studies abroad, and 4.643 in Colombian universities. The remaining 5.446 have been assigned through alliances with partners as Fulbright, the Newton Fund and Colfuturo.
- With funds from the Inter-American Development Bank (from 1992 to 2002), COLCIENCIAS granted 1.179 educative loans. After this, with resources from the World Bank, through the ACCES program (from 2003 to 2008) the organization supported 1.452 grantees.
- With funds from the Nation's General Budget and the General Royalties System, from 2009 to 2015, COLCIENCIAS has provided financial support to 7.110 beneficiaries, estimated in \$1.5 Colombian billion pesos (USD 504.630.636 approximately).
- For the PhD studies abroad, from 2010 to 2015, 29% of the beneficiaries chose the United States of America to pursue their studies, followed by the United Kingdom with 17%; Spain 15%; Brazil 6%; and Canada, France, Germany and Netherlands with 5% each one.
- The distribution of beneficiaries by areas of knowledge from 2010 to 2015 is: Engineering 28%; Basic Sciences 22%; Social Sciences and Education 21%; Biotechnology and Health 15%; Agriculture, Environment and Sea 14%.
- In 2015, COLCIENCIAS granted 2.500 educational loans to undertake PhD and master studies in all the areas of knowledge at the Colombian universities and abroad. To do this, we invested around \$232.000 Colombian million pesos (USD 77,986,672 approximately).
- In order to ensure excellence in the knowledge generation processes, COLCIENCIAS assessed the PhD programs offered in Colombia based on the quality of the research groups and the researchers that support the programs. The academic programs selected are the ones that receive COLCIENCIAS' beneficiaries at the national level.

## WHAT DO WE EXPECT?

- From 2015 to 2018, COLCIENCIAS intends to fund 3.000 new PhD's and 7.000 masters. To achieve this goal, it will support the training of researchers at the national level and abroad, strengthen the production capabilities of scientific knowledge in the country, the quality of Colombian doctoral programs and the knowledge networks with universities and research centers around the world.
- By 2025, we expect to increase the number of PhD's per million inhabitants, passing from 6.6 to 60. Similarly, we aim to have 460 researchers per million inhabitants and to invest USD 164.000 per researcher, equivalent to 0.93% of the GDP for R+D.

## 2016 CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Currently, there are 11 calls for applications open for high-level studies (masters and PhD) in Colombia and abroad.

Besides the usual calls for PhD in Colombia and abroad, COLCIENCIAS will also fund master's programs leading to doctorates, under the agreements signed with the best universities in specific subjects and knowledge areas, such as Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, and Public Health.

Regarding high-level education opportunities for the regions, this year COLCIENCIAS will select people from Putumayo, Guaviare, Norte de Santander, Tolima and Caquetá.

As a new initiative, COLCIENCIAS is working to strengthen partnerships between universities and companies to fund PhD candidates interested in carrying out studies to support the productive sector.

Lastly, COLCIENCIAS and the National Hydrocarbons Agency (NHA) will open a call for masters and PhD studies in June 2016, to support studies in areas related to hydrocarbons.

The list of calls, terms and conditions for each call for applications are available in the following link:

[http://www.colciencias.gov.co/convocatorias/oportunidades\\_formacion](http://www.colciencias.gov.co/convocatorias/oportunidades_formacion).