COLOMBIA: Higher Education System
In Colombia, education is defined as a process of permanent, personal, cultural and social training that is based on an integral conception of the human person, their dignity, their rights and their duties.

The Colombian Educational System is decentralized, this means that the Ministry of National Education, as the governing body of educational policies at the national level, draws up the general guidelines for the provision of educational services.

Higher Education in Colombia is regulated by Law 30 of 1992, and additional details to the special law in Law 115 of 1994, which establish that Higher Education must be a cultural public service, inherent to the social purpose of the State.
Functional Organic Structure of the Ministry of National Education

**Minister**
- Cooperation and International Affairs
- Planning and Financial
- Legal Counseling
- Technology and Information

**Viceminister of Preschool, Primary and Secondary Education**
- Quality Direction
- Strengthening Direction
- Coverage and Equity Direction
- Early Childhood Direction

**Viceminister of Higher Education**
- Quality of HE Direction
- Promotion of HE Direction

**General Secretary**
- Citizen’s Service Unit
- Financial Management
- Hiring Assistant Manager
- Human Resource Manager
- Administrative Management
- Organizational Development

*Decree 5012 of 2009
*Decree 854 of 2011
Organic Structure **Vice-Ministry of Higher Education**

Minister

**Vice-Minister of Higher Education**

**Mission of the Vice-Ministry of Higher Education**
Improving quality, coverage and efficiency according to the sectoral plan, guiding higher education, promoting knowledge generation and building and ensuring a responsible exercise of university autonomy

**Promotion of HE Office**

**Mission of the Promotion of HE Office**
Strengthen and support the academic, administrative and financial management capacity of IES; promote the expansion of coverage in higher education; to promote the development of the higher education sector and the IES.

**Quality of HE Office**

**Mission of the Quality of HE Office**
Ensuring the functioning of the system of ensuring the quality of higher education and ensuring compliance with the current regulations of higher education.
Composition of the Higher Education System in Colombia

In December 2019, there were 300 Higher Education Institutions recognized by the Ministry of National Education in the country.

85 are Public Institutions. (28% of the total of institutions).
Colombia’s Enrollment data in higher education - 2018

2,440,367 Students enrolled in Higher Education

2,267,140 Undergraduate Students

1,182,769 Official

615,168 University

567,601 TVET

1,084,371 Private

942,426 University

1,084,371 Private

173,227 Graduate Students

59,713 Official

141,945 TVET

113,514 Private
COLOMBIA: An Academic and Scientific Destination
Mobility Ecosystem

GOVERNMENT
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Science
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Procolombia
- ICETEX
- SENA

OTHER ACTORS
- Colfuturo

ACADEMIC AND SCIENTIFIC MOBILITY

BENEFICIARIES
- STUDENTS
- TEACHERS
- RESEARCHERS
- Administrative Staff
- HEI’s

Promote
Encourage
Support
High Academic Level

Quality Assurance of Higher Education in Colombia

37.9% of students access high-quality accredited institutions and higher education programs:

- 29% institutions are accredited.
- 13.7% programs are accredited.
There are currently more than 1,500 undergraduate programs and 300 high-quality accredited graduate programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge Area</th>
<th>Academic level</th>
<th># Programs</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engineering, architecture, urban planning and related</td>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>476</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td>59</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social and human sciences</td>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td>55</td>
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<td>Economy, administration, accounting and related</td>
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<td>Postgraduate</td>
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<td>Postgraduate</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agronomy, veterinary and related</td>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1,706</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Colombia has **3 universities in the top 500 of the best in the world and 12 in the top 100 in Latin America**

*Source: QS World University Rankings, 2021*
Belgium – Colombia
Opportunities to Explore.
#LaEducaciónEsDeTodos

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