Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Region 02

CHEDRO 2
RELEASED
Date: 05/04/23
Signature:

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM

No. 105, Series of 2023

FOR : **ALL PRESIDENTS/ OFFICERS-IN-CHARGE/HEADS OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN REGION 02**

SUBJECT : **BECA COLOMBIA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR FOREIGNERS 2023-02**

DATE : **May 4, 2023**

Attached is a copy of the memorandum issued by **DR. J. PROSPERO E. DE VERA III,** Chairperson, Commission on Higher Education and the Embassy of the Republic of Columbia in the Philippines, informing all interested parties of the call for the Beca Colombia Scholarship program 2023-02.

The Institute of Educational Credit and Technical Studies Abroad (ICETEX), as an institution of the Colombian State that promotes Higher Education, is in charge of granting economic aid to foreign citizens within the framework of the Beca Colombia Scholarship Program.

The Beca Colombia Scholarship Program is offered to foreigners who wish to pursue postgraduate studies in specialization, master's and doctorate degree in public and private Colombian Universities.

Details on the application procedure and additional scholarship information may be accessed through **beca.colombia@icetex.gov.co**. The deadline for the online application is on June 12, 2023 through this link <shorturl.at/diaAO1.>.

Digitally signed by Atty. Marco Cicero F. Domingo
Date: 2023.05.04 11:06:06 +08'00'

ATTY. MARCO CICERO F. DOMINGO
OIC-Director IV

Encl: as stated

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Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Commission on Higher Education
OFFICIAL RELEASE
CHED Central Office
RECORDS SECTION
C.P. Garcia Ave., U.P. Diliman, Q.C.

Reference No: IASCTS23-O-1069

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MEMORANDUM FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CHAIRPERSON

TO : PRESIDENTS/HEADS OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS CHED CENTRAL AND REGIONAL OFFICE DIRECTORS/ OFFICERS-IN-CHARGE

SUBJECT: BECA COLOMBIA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR FOREIGNERS 2023-02

DATE : 25 APRIL 2023

The Embassy of the Republic of Columbia in the Philippines through the Commission on Higher Education hereby informs interested parties of the Call for the Beca Colombia Scholarship Program 2023-02.

The Institute of Educational Credit and Technical Studies Abroad (ICETEX), as an institution of the Colombian State that promotes Higher Education is in charge of granting economic aid to foreign citizens within the framework of the Beca Colombia Scholarship Program.

The Beca Colombia Scholarship Program is offered to foreigners who wish to pursue postgraduate studies in specialization, master's, and doctorate degrees in public and private Colombian Universities. Foreign students who desire to strengthen their Spanish skills can also access Spanish courses directly in Colombia to develop the knowledge needed to carry out postgraduate studies.

There are two (2) types of scholarship offerings under Beca Colombia:

1. For foreigners who wish to pursue postgraduate studies in specialization, master's, and doctorate degrees in public and private Colombian Higher Education Institutions in accordance with the 2023-2 Academic Offer Catalog.

2. For foreigners from non-Spanish speaking countries who wish to carry out postgraduate studies in specialization, master's, and doctorate degrees in public and private Colombian Higher Education Institutions and who need to strengthen the Spanish language to carry out postgraduate in Columbia in accordance with the 2023-2 Academic Offer Catalog.

Modality	Period of Study Covered by the Scholarship
Perfectioning of Spanish	Up to 6 months
Specialization	Up to 18 months (3 academic semesters)
Master's	Up to 24 months (4 academic semesters)
Doctorate	Up to 48 months (8 academic semesters)

Tuition fee, health policy/medical insurance, courtesy visa, monthly stipend, and installation expenses, books and materials, and unforeseen costs will be covered by ICETEX.

Details on the application procedure and additional scholarship information may be accessed through beca_colombia@icetex.gov.co. The deadline for the online application is on **12 June 2023,** through this link <shorturl.at/diAO1>.

Dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

J. PROSPERO E. DE VERA III, DPA
Chairman

BASIS OF APPLICATION

BECA COLOMBIA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR FOREIGNERS 2023-02

ICETEX

ICETEX, as an Institution of the Colombian State that promotes Higher Education through granting educational credits and international cooperation scholarships to the population with lower economic possibilities and with good academic performance, oversees granting economic aid to foreign citizens within the framework of the Beca Colombia Scholarship Program.

Reciprocity scholarships offer two types of applications:

• For foreigners who wish to pursue postgraduate studies in specialization, master's, and doctorate degrees in public and private Colombian higher education institutions in accordance with the **"2023-2 ACADEMIC OFFER CATALOG"**, which is published along with the open call.

• For foreigners from non-Spanish speaking countries who wish to carry out postgraduate studies in specialization, master's, and doctorate degrees in public and private Colombian higher education institutions and who need to strengthen the Spanish language to carry out postgraduate studies in Colombia in accordance with the **"2023-2 ACADEMIC OFFER CATALOG 2023-2",** which is published along with the call.

*Note: Once the Spanish course is completed, the beneficiary agrees to prioritize their application to the postgraduate programs of the Institution that grants the course, according to the **"2024 ACADEMIC OFFER CATALOG",** which will be published in 2024.

1. TO WHOM IS THE PROGRAM AVAILABLE TO?

The reciprocity scholarships are aimed at foreign citizens of any nationality who do not have dual nationality (Colombian), who are not residing in Colombia, who have not been beneficiaries of the same program in previous calls and who have a professional or bachelor's degree.

2. DEFINITIONS:

• **Candidates:** Foreign citizens who apply to the call for the Colombia Scholarship Program and who complete the application on the platform correctly.

• **Selected:** Candidates who, after making their online application and being evaluated, are chosen by ICETEX for the granting of scholarships or non-reimbursable financial support within the framework of the Beca Colombia program.

• **Not selected:** Candidates who, after making their online application and being evaluated, are not chosen as scholarship holders because they do not meet any of the requested requirements or because they do not obtain the quota provided by the academic program of the offer, in the case of the academic programs that offer limited quotas and several foreigners requested the same program.

• **Scholars:** Foreign citizens who have been selected by ICETEX and who accept the scholarship and its commitments.

3. DURATION OF THE SCHOLARSHIP OR NON-REFUNDABLE FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

The scholarships for postgraduate studies in Colombia will have a maximum duration according to the modality as follows:

MODALITY	PERIOD OF STUDY COVERED BY THE SCHOLARSHIP
Perfectioning of Spanish	Up to 6 months
Specialization	Up to 18 months (3 academic semesters)
Master´s	Up to 24 months (4 academic semesters)
Doctorate	Up to 48 months (8 academic Semesters)

Considering that the scholarships are awarded annually, due to the annual budget validity of ICETEX, scholarship holders who attend academic programs longer than 12 months must request renewal from ICETEX each year, for the continuity of the corresponding study program.

The renewal will be subject to compliance with the requirements established by ICETEX, including:

a) Renewal request letter.

b) Certificate of grades with accumulated average of the program. (at least 4.0/5.0).

c) Experience report signed by the tutor or director of the academic program.

d) Certificate from the University stating the current enrollment and the duration of the current academic program.

4. COVERAGE OR BENEFITS OF THE COLOMBIA SCHOLARSHIP:

a) Enrollment:

The coverage of the entire tuition will be granted by the Colombian higher education institution (only for the academic programs that are within the catalog of academic offer, published in the 2023-2 call).

b) Health Policy/Medical Insurance:

Medical and hospital assistance in Colombia that includes repatriation in case of disability or death. This assistance is only covered during the study period in Colombia and only to the scholarship recipient, it is not extended to family members. Scholars must bear the cost of prescription drugs and a moderate fee for medical examinations. The costs of medicines and moderate fee are not covered by the category of unforeseen events.

c) Courtesy visa:

ICETEX will send each fellow a letter for the online application of the courtesy visa type "V" visa, which will be granted by the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs during the study period. This visa is only for the fellow. If you require a visa for family members, they must apply for a visa on their behalf.

d) Living Expenses/monthly support:

ICETEX will support each foreign scholarship holder with a monthly support (living expenses) amounting to three current legal monthly minimum wages (in Colombian Pesos). In 2023, the adjustment will be made according to the increase in the minimum wage decreed by the Colombian Ministry of Labor. This item will be granted only to those who are in Colombian territory carrying out in person studies.

e) Installation expenses:

ICETEX will support each scholarship holder with an amount for installation expenses in Colombia, for the only time in the study period. This item will be granted only to those who are in Colombian territory carrying out in person studies.

f) Expenses of books and materials:

For each year of study, ICETEX will support each scholarship holder with a value for books and materials, specialization scholarship holders will receive a single support, master's scholarship holders will receive up to two supports and doctorate scholarship holders between three and four according to the time of their study. doctorate.

g) Unforeseen Costs:

This value will only be paid once during the entire study program and must be approved by ICETEX when the scholarship holder suffers an unforeseen event that impacts the performance of his academic obligations. it will be necessary to attach supports of the events that occurred and the costs. This item will be granted only to those who are in Colombian territory carrying out in person studies.

5. **REQUIREMENTS FOR THE APPLICATION TO THE CALL:**

a) be a foreign citizen

b) Not have Colombian nationality.

c) Not be residing, nor have resided the last 6 months prior to applying for the scholarship in Colombian territory or have started studies in Colombia at the time of application to the corresponding call.

d) In case of being selected, scholars must present the Certificate of Migratory Movements, with a date no greater than 30 days at the time of entering Colombian territory.

e) Must not have any marital or de facto relationship in Colombia.

f) Not having been a beneficiary of ICETEX through the Beca Colombia program.

g) Not be older than 50 years.

h) Have a cumulative general average of 4.0 out of 5.0 in undergraduate to apply the call. According to the grading scale of each country, the note must be equivalent to a minimum of 4.0 for the Colombian scale. *It is not valid to present postgraduate average.

i) Have a professional, undergraduate, or graduate degree in any area of knowledge.

j) Have admission to at least between one and three postgraduate programs found in the Academic Offer Catalog 2023-2 annexed to this announcement. In case of applying to Spanish courses, the admission of the Institution offering the Spanish course will be suspended.

k) Have good physical and mental health, certified by a doctor.

6. OBSERVATIONS:

• The Academic Offer Catalog 2023-02 is a consolidated list of programs that are offered by Colombian universities or educational institutions that are part of the reciprocity program for foreigners in Colombia. In this catalog you will find the quotas for each program offered. For the cases in which a quota is offered per program, if several foreign candidates who meet the requirements apply to the same program, the quota will be obtained by the candidate with the highest score in the evaluation.

• The selected foreign candidate will not be able to change the Program or the University, and only the definitive admission letter(s) presented within the documentation initially received by ICETEX will be taken. The candidate can apply to up to three postgraduate programs that are in the catalog and in the letter of motivation must establish the priority of each one. The above is done to have more options to obtain a place in the call.

Note: Scholarship holders who take Spanish courses will be excepted.

• It is necessary to clarify that the candidate must incur the admission costs established by the Colombian higher education institutions to which they wish to apply.

• Each candidate must personally apply for admission to postgraduate programs directly with higher education institutions or universities.

• All documents must be attached to the application platform, no physical documents will be received for any reason or outside the deadline of the call.

• Colombian Higher Education Institutions that participate in the framework of the Beca Colombia program are registered in the Colombian Ministry of Education. The validation of titles in the scholar's country of origin is not the responsibility of ICETEX.

No	Document	Description	Quantity
1.	**Letter of pre-admission or final admission from the university**	The letter of final admission to the academic program must be issued by the Colombian university to which the foreign candidate applied and must specify the start and end dates of the academic program. The candidate may submit from one to three letters and must establish the priority order of each academic program in the essay. All letters of admission must be for programs that start in the second semester of 2023. Letters of admission will not be accepted for programs that start in the first semester of 2023, nor in later semesters	Minimum 1 letter, 3 letters maximum.
2.	**Letter of Academic Recommendation**	This letter must be issued by a professor at the university where you completed your undergraduate studies. This letter must be dated 2022. Letters from previous years will not be received.	1 letter mínimum , 2 letters maximum
3.	Certificate of Migratory Movements	In case of being selected, the scholar must present the Certificate of Migratory Movements of the last year, with a date no older than 30 days at the time of entering Colombian territory.	1
4.	**Certificate of undergraduate or graduate transcripts**	Document that certifies the undergraduate or graduate studies in which a minimum average of 4 out of 5 or its equivalent to the Colombian grade scale must be accredited. It is necessary for the university where you studied to certify the grading scale where the minimum passing grade is recorded, to be able to establish a comparison with the Colombian grading system. This document may be evaluated in Spanish, Portuguese, French or English, if your original language is not either of these four, you must attach official translation into Spanish or English	1
5.	**Essay**	Academic essay of a maximum of two (2) pages that argues the importance of studying in Colombia and the impact it will generate for your personal and professional development, and the application upon your return to your country of origin. If the candidate applies to several programs, in the essay you must set the order of priority, from 1 to 3.	1
6.	**Copy of valid passport**	Copy of the first page of the current passport (with a minimum validity of one year). This copy must be of the page on which the applicant's information and photo appear.	1
7.	**Copies university degrees or diplomas**	The copy of the diploma must be certified by the home university or may be notarized. IMPORTANT: Please DO NOT attach a copy of diplomas, short courses, or workshops.	1
8.	**Resume or CV**	Document of resume that references undergraduate, postgraduate studies and professional experiences. It can be in any format, but a maximum of two pages.	1
9.	**Health Certificate**	The health certificate must indicate your state of physical and mental health. It may not be greater than thirty days at the time of applying to the call. It must have the signature and stamp of the doctor who issued the certificate.	1
10.	**Professional Experience Certificate**	The health certificate must indicate your state of physical and mental health. It may not exceed thirty days at the time of submitting to the call. It must have the signature and stamp of the doctor who issued the certificate.	Minimum 1

8. STAGES OF THE 2023-2 CALL

Etapa	Fecha
Closing of the 2023-02 Call	June 12th 2023
Evaluation and selection of candidates	From June 15th to Jume 18th 2023
Email notification to candidates about selection and non-selection	June 22nd 2023
Scholarship acceptance process by those selected	According the the academic program
Start of studies in Colombia	To be confirmed

NOTE: All applications must be submitted no later than June 12th 2023, on the ICETEX platform. Documents that are not received within the dates agreed and stipulated in the Call will not be evaluated.

9. APPLICATION:

Foreign candidates may submit their application online at the following link:

https://portal.icetex.gov.co/Portal/Home/HomeEstudiante/becas/programa-de-reciprocidad-para-extranjeros-en-colombia/becas-colombia-extranjeros

He / the applicant must guarantee the legitimacy, validity and veracity of the documentation provided for the award of the scholarship. However, ICETEX reserves the right to verify the veracity of the documents and data contained in the application.

If the manifest falsity or alteration of the documents provided by the candidate is verified, the application will be immediately rejected, without prejudice to its referral to the Attorney General's Office, in accordance with the Law.

The Scholarship Committee, based on the information of the applicants presented, and based on the required application requirements, will proceed to award the scholarships, subject to the availability of resources.

10. SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION CRITERIA:

- Academic excellence (30%)
- Coherence between the academic and professional career and the studies to be carried out (30%)
- Professional experience (20%)
- Geographical location of the Colombian teaching center (10%)
- Reciprocity of cooperation of the country of origin (10%)

11. SCHOLARSHIP ACCEPTANCE PROCESS:

a. Scholarship Acceptance:

Foreign candidates who are selected and notified will have a deadline stipulated in the notification email to accept the scholarship. The answer must be sent to the email where you receive the selection notification. Failure to provide a response within this period of time implies the withdrawal of the scholarship without giving rise to subsequent complaints or claims and the quota may be awarded to another candidate.

b. Letter of Commitments:

The selected candidates must send by email the "Letter of Commitments", which must be read and signed by each fellow. Said letter will stipulate the academic, migratory and legal commitments and obligations that the scholarship recipient must comply with during their study period in order to retain the benefit of the scholarship.

c. Courtesy Visa Letter:

The selected candidates will receive from ICETEX a letter addressed to the Coordinator of the Internal Working Group, Visas, and Immigration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, or to the Consul of Colombia in their country of origin, with the pertinent information of the scholarship recipient for obtain your Courtesy Visa. Each fellow must apply for their courtesy visa online on the Ministry's website. For this visa, the fellow must not make any payment and must follow the instructions in the visa application manual sent when notification of selection is received. If the visa application is denied, and the scholarship recipient has been selected to pursue a face-to-face academic program, ICETEX will be obliged to permanently suspend the scholarship awarded.

d. Welcome logistics note:

The selected candidates will receive a note with useful information for their stay in Colombia to facilitate the scholars arrival to Colombia.

12. DISBURSEMENTS OR DEPOSITS FOR LIVING EXPENSES:

For the payment of the money corresponding to the assigned items, which will be made quarterly, the scholarship holder must open a savings account in Colombia, in any bank in the city where he is going to study, and for this, he must present the Foreigner ID. Bank accounts cannot be opened with the passport, and the scholarship deposit will not be made until the scholarship recipient has the bank certificate relating to their foreign identity card as an identification document. Once the foreign scholarship recipient has this document, they must submit to the ICETEX International Relations Office, via email, the certification issued by the financial institution stating the account number and the identification number (foreigner's ID).

It is necessary for the scholarship holder to have economic support for at least 3 months of support (approximately 700 USD per month), since the first payment for maintenance, installation, and book expenses will be made when the scholarship holder has met the shipping requirements. Alien identity card, bank account certificate in Colombia, address, and mobile phone in Colombia. This draft will be

processed upon receipt of the documents and the scholarship holder will receive resources in a maximum of 6 weeks after this.

The payment of support will depend on the start date of the scholar's academic program, and not on the time spent in Colombia. That is, if the scholarship recipient enters the country one month before the start of the program, the resources will be deposited taking into account the official start date of the Academic Program, which will be verified by the university where they will start studies.

The support payment for the following months will be made during the month that corresponds to the beginning of each quarter (which is equivalent to every three months). That is, the support payment will be made quarterly in advance, for example, the support for the months of April, May and June will be paid during April and so on.

13. COMMITMENTS OF THE SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER:

In order to obtain the best results in academic activities and to achieve an enriching experience, and to maintain their well-being and safety, the scholarship recipient must fully comply with the following:

Legal Obligations:

a) Comply with and abide by Colombian laws, including the laws established on sexual crimes.

b) Respect the rules of conduct and social customs.

c) Carry out the courtesy visa and foreigner identity card procedures within the required times, making sure not to let these documents expire, as this would generate fines and penalties. If the scholarship recipient violates the foregoing, he must assume the additional costs of the procedures.

Academic Obligations:

a) Carry out the academic program within the same period for which the scholarship was approved, that is, it is not possible to change programs or universities. Likewise, you must successfully complete the academic program, within the estimated times. You will not be able to defer subjects or academic credits.

b) Devote your time to the completion of the academic program, since you are not allowed to establish employment contracts, under any modality, while you have the status of an ICETEX scholarship holder. The TP1 Visa endorsed by ICETEX does not allow you to work.

c) Maintain a minimum academic average of 4.0 out of 5.0

d) Submit an experience report each quarter for which you will be informed of the dates and methodology in which they must be delivered (it should be noted that, if the reports are not submitted on the stipulated dates, ICETEX will not make the disbursement corresponding to the following trimester until the scholarship recipient sends the documents).

e) Comply fully with the rules of the institution where they study.

f) Permanently update contact and address information with ICETEX.

g) Attend all meetings convened by ICETEX.

h) Submit to ICETEX a copy of the degree diploma and degree certificate.

Special Obligations:

a) The fellow agrees NOT to participate in illicit activities related to money laundering and the financing of terrorism and crimes that are the source of these. Likewise, to communicate to ICETEX or a competent authority all the information that it knows regarding these crimes.

IMPORTANT:

If the scholarship recipient does not meet one or more of the scholarship requirements, it will be suspended as well as their "V" type courtesy visa and they must travel to their country immediately.

14. SUSPENSION OF THE SCHOLARSHIP:

ICETEX may temporarily or permanently suspend the disbursements of the scholarship, when the scholarship recipient incurs in any of the following cases:

TEMPORARY SUSPENSION:

The temporary suspension of the scholarship implies the suspension of disbursements in the following cases:

• Due to illness, mental or physical incapacity, which temporarily prevents the scholarship recipient from continuing their educational activities, duly justified, for a maximum of a six-month academic period.

• For not sending the quarterly experience reports that certify the fulfillment of academic obligations, grades, and attendance, which is signed by the Coordinator or tutor of the Study Program being carried out.

OBSERVATIONS:

Once the event has occurred, the scholarship recipient must inform ICETEX within a period not exceeding that required for the next disbursement, otherwise the scholarship will be permanently suspended. Once the cause for which the execution of the scholarship was temporarily suspended has been overcome, the scholarship recipient must inform ICETEX to continue receiving the support benefit.

DEFINITIVE SUSPENSION:

ICETEX may permanently suspend disbursements or not renew the scholarship, when one of the following cases occurs:

• Due to abandonment of studies as established in the Application Bases/Regulations of the Colombia Scholarship Program.

• Due to the non-granting of the courtesy visa to carry out a face-to-face academic program.

• Due to expulsion from the educational center, taking into account that they did not comply with the regulations of the institution.

• For not accrediting the required academic average corresponding to the immediately preceding academic period.

• By verified presentation of modification or changes in order to provide information that allows you to be a beneficiary of the program.

• For not submitting the academic documents required in the commitment letter within the established times.

• Due to illness, mental or physical incapacity that prevents the scholarship recipient from definitively continuing their academic activities.

• At the express request of the scholarship holder duly justified.

*This suspension will be resolved by the Colombia Scholarship Program Committee.

15. MONITORING AND CONTROL:

The follow-up and control of foreign scholarship holders will be in charge of ICETEX, through the International Relations Office, which will monitor the scholarship holders' experience and will make the transfers or payments of these commitments in a timely manner.

16. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

For additional information, you should contact the ICETEX International Relations Office. email: beca_colombia@icetex.gov.co

Bogota, March 6th, 2023.

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

COLOMBIAN INSTITUTE OF EDUCATIONAL CREDIT AND TECHNICAL STUDIES ABROAD-ICETEX