

***Notes on the agreements signed by FLACSO with the universities of countries in the European Union***

FLACSO- General Secretariat

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**1. The context**

The Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), is an international organization was created in 1957. Since its inception, its main objective has been to educate and train social scientists in Latin America and the Caribbean.

FLACSO carries out various academic activities in the region, such as: teaching at postgraduate level, research, dissemination, knowledge transfer, academic broadening and technical cooperation. It must be noted that since its creation, postgraduate teaching in the various disciplines of the social sciences has been one of FLACSO'S main activities.

In furtherance of the mission agreed in the articles of organization signed in 1857, the Academic Units of FLACSO offer a wide range of Doctoral level programmes, Master programmes and specialisation courses in the field of social sciences. Postgraduate education and training is carried out by 12 Academic Units (7 Headquarters, 3 Programmes and two Projects), located in Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, El Salvador, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Paraguay and Uruguay.

In 2008, more than 80 Doctoral level professionals, more than 2,000 Master graduates and 2,600 specialists have graduated from the FLACSO higher education system at postgraduate level.

During the last years, the Academic Units of FLACSO have developed innovative distance-learning postgraduate and continuing education programmes at national and international level in order to continue strengthening the teaching and training area. The content and teaching methods of these programmes relate and respond to the region's main

challenges. The innovations introduced in the field of teaching and learning render higher education more flexible and dynamic.

During the last 5 years, FLACSO has grown substantially: as of December 2008, FLACSO offers more than 82 postgraduate programmes (effective programmes according to the rules and regulations). There are 7 Doctoral programmes, 46 Master programmes and 29 specialisation programmes.

Additionally, in qualitative terms, it is worth noting that the offer of postgraduate courses has evolved substantially: on the one hand, there has been an important increase of the academic offer at the three postgraduate levels; on the other hand, there has been a major enhancement of the part time programmes as well as the e-learning programmes and virtual training. Finally, the academic offer at a sub-regional level has been further developed and consolidated.

## **2. Agreements executed between FLACSO and European universities**

In line with this trend, and with a view to strengthening and broadening the possibilities in the academic field, FLACSO, through its different Branches and Programmes, has signed different agreements with universities in the European Union. Such agreements address a series of activities and opportunities in terms of credits recognition between the signing parties, joint degrees, double degrees, exchanges, internships of students and professors, and development of joint research projects in areas of common interest, among others.

The Academic Branches in Argentina, Ecuador and Mexico have entered most of this kind of agreements. Find below some examples of the agreements signed between:<sup>1</sup>

- FLACSO Argentina – University of Barcelona:

Since 1985 the Academic Branch in Argentina offers a Master in International Relations. This has allowed FLACSO to gain a broad experience in the development of this field.

The qualified institutional capacity, the level of applications and the success of the programme together with the interest of the University of Barcelona to consolidate its presence in Latin America, especially in Argentina, has resulted in the execution -in 1999- of a declaration of intention to start a new organization to teach and carry out research projects in the field of Economic International Relations. This intention is further consolidated with the subscription of a formal agreement between both academic institutions at the higher education level to offer a Programme to award double degrees (an International Relations degree awarded by FLACSO Argentina and an Economic International Relations degree awarded by the University of Barcelona).

After the execution of this agreement and with a view to continue strengthening and enhancing the existing programme, FLACSO Argentina, the University of Barcelona and the University of San Andrés (Buenos Aires, Argentina) agree to sign a new cooperation agreement in 2003 to join efforts in the organisation and implementation of the programme that had been offered until then by FLACSO Argentina and the University of Barcelona. Upon signing this agreement, double degrees continue to be awarded and the name of the Master Programme is changed and becomes Master in International Relations and Negotiations (this diploma is awarded, upon the

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<sup>1</sup> The above-mentioned agreements are only some examples that illustrate the main characteristics of the signed agreements, thus, this list does not purport to be a complete and final list of all the agreements signed by the Academic Branches within FLACSO with Universities in the European Union.

subscription of the new agreement, in the manner of a joint degree, FLACSO Argentina and the University of San Andrés).

The success achieved with the execution of this agreement has led to its extension twice: the first time in February 2006, in which the effective term of the agreement signed in 2003 is extended until May 2008 and the second time on May 2008 when the term is extended until May 2010. It is worth noting that in 2008 there were 10 Master graduates in International Relations and Negotiations, under this agreement.

- FLACSO Argentina and the Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain: this special agreement was executed in 1999 to offer a Masters Degree in Cognitive Psychology and Learning. Furthermore, this agreement provides under section 12 that both parties undertake to facilitate the exchange of professors, researchers and students and to promote joint research projects in the field of Cognitive Psychology. In the period between 2005 and 2006, there have been 6 Master graduates under this Programme.
- FLACSO Argentina and the Freiburg University, Germany: this agreement envisages the implementation and development of the Master in Global Studies; the exchange of professors and internships, including the exchange of information that can be of interest to both parties. Even though it has not been included in the agreement, both universities have agreed to award joint degrees to graduate students.
- FLACSO Ecuador and the University of Lleida, Cataluña, Spain: the agreement provides for the recognition by the University of Lleida of a portion of the credits of the Masters in Local Development and Territory of FLACSO Ecuador. It also provides for the recognition by FLACSO Ecuador of a portion of the credits awarded by the University of Lleida as part of the International Cooperation and Development

Masters Degree. No double degrees are awarded, this agreement only envisages the recognition of credits for students (both from FLACSO and the University of Lleida) to be able to gain access to another Masters Programme.

Overall, it can be stated that the development of projects and the subscription of agreements by FLACSO with Universities in the European Union has strengthened and advanced academic cooperation in three main areas:

- Mutual recognition of credits and degrees
- Exchange of professors
- Development of Research Projects

### **3. Good Practice**

**3.1.** In principle, it is important to underscore the leading role of professors and researchers that have participated as visiting students, professors and researchers in universities in the European Union and their interest in facilitating the execution of agreements between said universities and FLACSO. Reality has shown that the participation and the work of professors and researchers have promoted the institutionalization of the execution of cooperation agreements between both parties.

**3.2.** The different projects carried out by the European Union or by the Cooperation Agencies of the European Union with Latin American universities have been extended beyond their effective periods and this has indirectly favoured the sustainability of such initiatives. Programmes such as ALFA, Intercampus and Erasmus have had a positive effect on the development of the teaching-learning process.

**3.3.** The agreements also envisage joint research projects by experts and promote the consolidation of relations among researchers -students and professors. This allows professors to be continuously updated as they enhance and strengthen their knowledge and perspectives during their internships which in turn benefits students. In the case of FLACSO, the continuous flow of foreign professors as visitors or to teach on a full time basis, has enriched the programmes and has enhanced their academic quality as well as giving them a more dynamic global approach.

#### **4. Perspectives**

Agreements entered between universities in the European Union and FLACSO promote the exchange of students and professors and favour the constant development of research projects between the signing parties. Reciprocity in terms of students exchange still remains unsatisfactory since Latin American students still have to overcome many difficulties to access European universities.

In terms of teaching, FLACSO awards degrees at the Specialization, Master and Doctorate levels and has as its objective the issuance of certificates to its students once they have completed their Studies. In the case of specific agreements with other universities, FLACSO prioritizes Joint degrees over double degrees, to ensure that the agreement signed is reflected in both degrees. However, in those cases in which the participating university requests the issuance of double degrees, FLACSO undertakes to include in the diploma awarded by our institution, the effectiveness of the relevant agreement in order to guarantee academic transparency.

FLACSO believes that academic dialogue is key in the field of higher education and agreements are considered a means to foster such dialogue while improving the quality of the different postgraduate programmes.

FLACSO favours the subscription of agreements and finds this a very valuable initiative that is in line with the strategic objectives of FLACSO as well as its ongoing efforts to enhance its academic quality and excellence.

**5. Other examples of effective Agreements:**

**5.1. Agreements signed with FLACSO Ecuador Headquarters and universities in countries within the European Union**

	Execution Date	Expiration Date
UNIVERSITY		
Universidad de Lleida	03/06/2008	Open
Universidad de Murcia (España)	27/08/2007	27/08/2010
Universidad de Salamanca USAL	03/07/2007	03/07/2012
Universidad de Murcia, España	01/06/2007	01/06/2010
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid	02/09/2008	02/09/2013
Universidad de Malaga	11/12/2006	11/12/2011
Universitat de Les Illes Balears/Fundación Cátedra Iberoamericana	02/08/2004	02/08/2010
Universidad Paris Sorbonne Nouvelle	03/04/2008	03/04/2013
Universitat de Les Illes Balears/Fundación Cátedra Iberoamericana	02/08/2004	02/08/2010
Universitat de Lleida	05/05/2006	05/05/2011
Universitat de Lleida	03/06/2008	Open

### **Effective agreements executed between FLACSO México and universities of the European Union**

- Research Agreement between the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) and FLACSO-México. Research Project 2007-2010.
- Comprehensive Agreement for University Cooperation between the Fondazione Rosselli and FLACSO-México.  
The agreement has been effective since 18/08/2005 al 18/08/2010 and will be renewed every five years, upon its expiration.
- Comprehensive Agreement for Academic and Scientific Cooperation between the Università' Degli Studi Di Siena, Siena, Italy and FLACSO-México.  
This agreement is effective for a term of five years.
- Special Cooperation Agreement between the Universidad Carlos III de Madrid and FLACSO-México.  
This agreement is effective for a term of five years.
- Cooperation Agreement between L' Université Paris 1 Phantéon-Sorbone and FLACSO-México.  
This agreement is effective for a term of five years from 18/04/2007 to 18/04/2012.
- Cooperation Agreement between La Fundación Heinrich Böll, Berlin (HBS) and FLACSO-México.