



U.S. - Mexico At a Glance

Education

September 2008

Three members of the Mexican Cabinet are former Fulbright scholars, as is the current Mexican Ambassador to the United States.

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Almost 14,000 Mexicans currently study in the U.S., most of them undergraduates and concentrated in Texas and other border states. Over 10,000 Americans study in Mexico, a number that is steadily rising.

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To date, USAID has granted over 975 scholarships under its TIES (Training, Internships, Exchanges and Scholarships) program.

The U.S. and Mexico have a long history of close educational ties. Many of Mexico's top political, economic and academic leaders have studied in the United States, some on U.S. government-provided scholarships. Many thousands of Americans have similarly studied in Mexico.

The Mexico-U.S. Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange (COMEXUS) oversees the **Fulbright-Garcia Robles Scholarship Program**. Established by a bilateral treaty in 1990, "Fulbright-Garcia Robles" is the flagship program in U.S.-Mexico academic exchanges. Both countries directly contribute a combined total of over \$3.5 million a year to the program. In 2007, over 300 Mexicans and Americans participated in COMEXUS exchange programs at leading Mexican and American universities.

The U.S. State Department provides funding for the **Institute of International Education (IIE)** to administer 14 student advising offices throughout Mexico that provide student advising and testing services for Mexicans who plan university level studies in the United States. Nearly 14,000 Mexican students are enrolled in universities across the U.S.

An **Office of English Language Programs** of the U.S. State Department, based in Mexico City, provides extensive training programs in English language teaching to Mexican teacher trainers and classroom teachers at all educational levels - primary, secondary and tertiary - throughout Mexico. The program focuses on training Mexican English teachers in public school systems. The Regional English Language Officer (RELO) serves six countries in Central America in addition to Mexico: Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Panama.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) supports the **Training, Internships, Exchanges and Scholarships (TIES)** program to promote partnerships and linkages between U.S. and Mexican universities to address development issues, such as access to micro-finance, watershed management and border health. Currently there are 64 university partnerships in the TIES program. USAID also funds one- and two-year technical training programs in the U.S. for disadvantaged rural indigenous teachers and for Mexican youth, respectively. Teachers and youth return to their communities to implement skills gained and lead community projects.



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