



**Association
of the Universities
of Latin America
and the Caribbean**



ABOUT UDUALC

The Association of the Universities of Latin America and the Caribbean (UDUALC in Spanish) is the biggest, oldest and most consolidated network of Higher Education Institutions of the region. It is accredited by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as an advisory body. UDUALC convenes universities and higher education institutions across six regions: Andean, Central America, Southern Cone, Mexico, and Brazil.

Our association serves as a paramount instrument for the harmonization of endeavors among higher education institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean region, fostering the exchange of knowledge, experiences, resources, and best practices between its members.

Furthermore, it actively promotes inter-institutional integration, as it has consolidated diverse initiatives for academic exchange and student mobility among its affiliated universities.

It has become an important advocate of quality improvement processes in higher education, as well as of the defense of university autonomy and public education within the region.

UDUALC, inaugurated on September 22, 1949, at the behest of the First Latin American University Congress, held at the University of San Carlos of Guatemala, was entrusted with specific mandates. Firstly, to advance, affirm, foster, and refine the relations between Latin American and Caribbean universities, as well as with other institutions and cultural organizations.

Secondly, to coordinate, guide, and unify the academic and administrative framework of the affiliated universities, and to nurture academic exchange in the realms of teaching, studentship, and research. This includes the creation and dissemination of various publications aimed at facilitating communication, comprehension, and harmonious coexistence among its members.

In response to the political and economic transformations witnessed across the American continent, English, and French-speaking Caribbean universities became full members in 2004.

The General Secretariat is headquartered in Mexico City, in the facilities of the Tlatelolco University Cultural Center, which is a constituent of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM, in Spanish).





Functions

Defense of university autonomy

Advocating university autonomy means upholding academic, research and institutional management freedom, as well as social relevance, transparency, and accountability.

Autonomy is a crucial component of the social agenda of the peoples, and guarantees the human right to comprehensive education, gender equality, environmental respect, the affirmation of plurality and difference, interculturality, and the decolonization of knowledge.


Integration of universities in Latin America and the Caribbean

It focuses on the promotion, affirmation, and enhancement of relations between Latin American and Caribbean universities through participation in cooperation and study organizations, thematic networks, publications, and collaboration agreements.

In this way, universities are encouraged to become instruments that contribute to social, economic, and cultural development, in their immediate localities and the broader expanse of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Internationalization and academic cooperation

The internationalization of higher education, with respect to interculturality, fosters cooperation between affiliated universities and related international organizations. The ultimate objective is to transform them into instrumental entities for the social, economic, cultural and technological development of their countries and regions.



Government

UDUALC's bodies

Based on Article 10 of its Statutes, the UDUALC's bodies are the following:

- a) General Assembly
- b) Executive Council
- c) Presidency
- d) Regional Vice-Presidencies
- e) Vice-Presidency of Organizations and Networks
- f) Vice-Presidency of Autonomy
- g) General Secretariat
- h) Vice-Presidency of Cooperation and Study Organizations

The General Assembly is the UDUALC's supreme body. It is composed of the rectors, or their equivalent, of the affiliated universities; the heads or representatives of the national or regional university organizations; and the heads of the affiliated networks.

The Executive Council is the body delegated by the General Assembly for the UDUALC ordinary governance. It consists of the President of UDUALC, six regional Vice-Presidents, the Vice-President of Organizations and Networks, the two Board Members, and the Secretary-General.

The Presidency of UDUALC represents the organization, chairs the Executive Council, convenes the meetings of the Council, and oversees the operation of the General Secretariat. Additionally, this role convenes the Special Regional Assemblies or Assemblies of Organizations and Networks for the election of their respective Vice-Presidents.

The functions of the Regional Vice-Presidencies are directed towards promoting cooperation between universities in each region and seeking solutions in the field of higher education that contribute to social, cultural, economic and technological development.

The General Secretariat is the permanent body responsible for executing the resolutions of the Assemblies, the Executive Council and the President, as well as the central administration of the UDUALC.

Cooperation and Study Organizations, and Thematic Networks

One of UDUALC's functions is to promote the creation of thematic networks focused on specific areas of higher education in the region. Multiple networks work collectively with UDUALC, such as the ones dedicated to the gender issues, the relationship between companies and academic entities, or the archival matters. Each operates independently while striving to develop joint agendas to achieve common and significant objectives for our universities.

Furthermore, our association brings together Cooperation and Study Organizations, constituted by deans and heads of departments, schools, faculties, and research institutes, specialized in health (medicine, nursery, dentistry and psychology), social sciences (accounting, economics and social sciences), law and architecture. They are professionals in the same field who share a cross-cutting agenda on the current state of university curricula and the relevance of their professions, among other topics.


Both bodies, whether created or driven and approved by the Executive Council, provide relevant elements to the education that our Latin America and the Caribbean rightfully deserve.




Council for International Assessment and Accreditation (CEAI)

The Council for International Evaluation and Accreditation (CEAI, in Spanish) is a collegial evaluation body driven by UDUALC. Its work focuses on enhancing the performance of the objects under evaluation, and granting two statuses: accredited and accreditation in progress. It arises in response to the need for an international organization, and an evaluation model that aligns with the peculiarities of Latin America and the Caribbean, while considering international requirements.

Its purpose is to strengthen the systematic and ongoing development of higher education in Latin America and the Caribbean. Its main objectives are: a) to help understand the state of objects under evaluation in order to identify issues, needs, deficiencies, and strengths; b) to provide guidance for improvement and quality assurance; c) to contribute to the planning of objects under evaluation for continuous improvement and quality management; d) to assess the merit of the object under evaluation for accreditation purposes in those that meet established quality criteria; e) to promote a culture of evaluation and quality focused on excellence in higher education institutions; f) to foster closer ties between universities and their internationalization; g) to facilitate the recognition of degrees and credits, and encourage the mobility of teachers and students among the affiliated universities.





Academic Program for Student Mobility (PAME)


The Academic Program for Student Mobility (PAME, in Spanish) is an initiative by UDUALC that provides the opportunity for mobility between higher education institutions.

It is aimed at students in technical, undergraduate, and graduate programs and offers two forms of mobility: in-person and virtual. This promotes internationalization and integration among universities affiliated with UDUALC, enhancing the academic development of university communities.

In-person mobility encompasses two forms: the traditional one, where the student travels to the host country and university while attending all proposed courses in person for credit recognition; and the hybrid mode, which requires travel to the host country and university, where most of the courses are taught in person, while some others are taken virtually from the host country.

Virtual mobility includes credit-bearing and non-credit-bearing options. It also encompasses collaborative virtual projects such as Mirror Classes and COIL projects (Collaborative Online International Learning).

Requirements for participation in PAME include affiliation with UDUALC, being up-to-date with membership payments, and submitting the requested documentation during the enrollment period as outlined in the Program's Guidelines.






Common Space for Online Higher Education (ECESELI)

In April 2013, the UDUALC, the Coimbra Group, Virtual Educa, and the Organization of American States jointly established the Common Space for Online Higher Education (ECESELI, in Spanish). Its purpose is to create a space for convergence, collaboration, and exchange, serving as a body for consultation, advice, opinion, management, evaluation, connection, promotion, and dissemination of higher education using media and technologies in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Cooperation is the cornerstone of ECESELI, driving the creation, promotion, and advancement of a high-quality offering of post-graduate and continuing education with topics of mutual interest. This supports the professional development of the region. We share with affiliated institutions seven master's programs, including topics such as indigenous rights or public policies and interculturality, and six doctoral programs centered around sustainability and university planning and management, to name a few thematic examples. Additionally, there is a wide range of online seminars available.

ECESELI has a network of expert researchers from higher education institutions affiliated with UDUALC. They come together in the International Research Network on Online Education (RIIEL, in Spanish) with the aim of strengthening teaching and university extension, creating communities of learning.



DE LAS MAQUINAS DE BILLETE...
ER DE COSTURAS DE...
APRENDI QUE REINA EN...
DE UNA GRAN VERVO...
NOS YA NO LOS...
M. 26 M. DESPUES...
M SE ESTA PRE...
ON RESISTENTE...
E DEVIENEN...
A EL SENTIR...
TEXTILES...
NES TEXT...
CIONAM...
ARIA...
O...
3A...
DES...
IDA...
ESAMOS ALGO...
A SE VA HILANDO...
I... 2M...
TRAN EN LA HISTORIA...
REALIZADAS...
HILAR, LAS MUJERES...
S, COSMOGONICAS...
MENINO...
CTICAS TEXTILES...
DE LO QUE SER...
ICCION...
QUEN RESISTIENDO...
ESTE HILAR HA SIDO...
LA INMEDIATEZ...
HAY PERSONAS...
TEXTIL...
ETERNA...
UN CUERPO...

Pensamientos hilados (Textile. A Collaboration with her mother, Martha León Arana, preparation and sewing of the piece, measurements: my measurements, 2022), Melissa Liera.

Publications

There are three publishing areas currently developed at UDUALC. On the one hand, the *Universidades* has been the editorial body accompanying the association since its beginnings. It is a space where the academic world has expressed its concerns, ideas, and discussions. Always an intellectual platform open to dialogue, it is now one of the distinctive features of UDUALC and one of the most influential journals in the region. Since 2019, it has exclusively adopted an electronic format, aiming to reach a wider and more engaged readership within the academic community. ([Editorial criteria of the journal](#))

On the other hand, the *Cuadernos de Universidades* collection compiles texts that critically examine and provide insights and long-term proposals from specialists in higher education in our region. A recent addition, it consolidates and projects many of the concerns that, around a common agenda, seek to offer a comprehensive view of Latin American and Caribbean universities. ([Editorial criteria for this collection.](#))

The initiative to co-publish widely influential books, alongside prestigious imprints such as Siglo XXI Editores, UNAM, or the University of Guadalajara, has always been a constant effort to position UDUALC within the most specialized editorial environment in higher education.

Social Communication and Media

The area of social communication and media disseminates activities associated with higher education and the dissemination of knowledge. It also coordinates radio and TV projects focused on communicating new ideas about higher education in Latin America and the Caribbean.

It utilizes various channels of dissemination and a transmedia strategy to inform about its own activities, as well as cultural and internationalization projects of the affiliates. The goal is to share the university's work among the academic and student communities.

Additionally, it supports the promotion of initiatives from Cooperative and Study Organizations and thematic networks of UDUALC, emphasizing the link between knowledge disciplines and social issues.

Social media platforms, each with their unique narratives, serve as the primary communication channels. The reach of [Facebook](#), the dynamism of [Twitter](#), and the originality of [Instagram](#) complement each other and are vital for achieving greater interaction and engagement with the institutional position.

[UDUALC TV](#) is a YouTube channel that disseminates topics such as the defense of university autonomy, the internationalization of higher education, and Latin American and Caribbean integration. It employs a language that reflects the cultural diversity of the region. Its content offering includes interviews, reports, discussions and webinars, analytical forums, and artistic documentaries, among other audiovisual products.



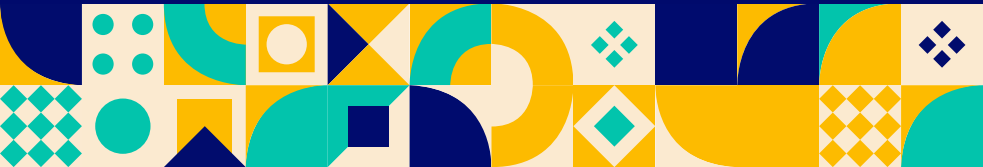
Agreements

Throughout its history, the UDUALC has signed agreements, collaboration agreements, and memoranda of understanding with international and multilateral organizations. To highlight just a couple, there are those signed with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, or with the International Cooperation Group of Brazilian Universities.

These agreements serve to outline the specificities and purposes of the collaborations, fostering an environment of solidarity, mutual benefit, and diversity among the various parties, thereby facilitating regional and international cooperation.

Awards

UDUALC periodically calls upon its affiliates to nominate distinguished figures from the academic world for two awards: the Andrés Bello Award, which recognizes and honors outstanding research on higher education in the region; and the Carlos Martínez Durán Award, which commends careers dedicated to promoting Latin American and Caribbean integration.



Henning Jensen Pennigton Collection

This academic space provides open access, in digital format, to scientific and outreach information on higher education and its history in our region.

The repository is categorized into the following communities: books, periodical publications, and institutional historical archive, which dates back to 1949, the year of the UDUALC's foundation. Additionally, the entire UDUALC library, digitized and managed by the Koha system, is hosted on this platform.

The collection's name pays tribute to the career and contributions of Dr. Jensen, former president of UDUALC (2016-2020), who left behind a legacy of intelligence, humanity and certainty.

Affiliation

Membership consists of titular members, and public and private higher education institutions committed to the mission of education within their societies and operated on a non-profit basis. National or regional university networks, as well as cooperative and study organizations, and thematic networks, are also members.

For detailed information regarding the requirements, documents, and procedures for higher education institutions, university organizations, or networks to affiliate with UDUALC as full members, please refer [here](#).

Contacto

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