

## **Submission on the Australia's relationship with Mexico**

I am Associate Professor at Curtin University and a citizen of both Australia and Mexico. I believe there is great potential in academic exchanges between Mexico and Australia. The following are some ideas that I believe deserve some consideration:

### **Mutual recognition of academic degrees**

I would like to suggest the establishment of agreements to mutually recognise professional qualifications obtained in both countries. The best Mexican universities are ranked as high as the best Australian universities or higher ([see link](#)). I have been a university academic in both countries and know that the best Mexican students are as good as the best Australian students ([see link](#)).

I am not suggesting recognising every single degree from every single university, but it would make very good sense to create a commission to evaluate Mexican universities and then recommend a set of rules to guide the mutual recognition of qualifications.

This program could be linked with immigration plans to attract Mexican professionals who could make great contributions to the Australian economy and society. Currently it is virtually impossible to immigrate to Australia and find a job based on Mexican qualifications.

### **Student exchange programs**

Mexico and Australia have very different socio-economic profiles; nonetheless they share similar higher education agendas. Undergraduate and postgraduate students from any discipline would benefit from study exchanges in regional and metropolitan universities. In order to tighten the link between Mexico and Australia the Government could promote among Australian universities the establishment of exchange programs with Mexican universities.

### **Research exchange programs**

Mexico and Australia have first-world research centres in areas of mutual interest like: Astronomy, Marine Biology, Robotics, Agriculture and Health, just to name a few. Both countries would benefit from research collaboration agreements. First point of contact in Mexico would be CONACyT ([see link](#)).

Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit these ideas.

Best regards,

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