


Incoming students' guide



Office for International Studies



Universidad
Pontificia
Bolivariana



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Vigilada Mineducación

Manual de movilidad

Oficina de Relaciones Internacionales e Interinstitucionales Multicampus

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Editorial Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, 2021

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Radicado: 2097-26-04-21

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General information

The UPB aspires to a promotion, a projection and integration at a regional and international scale, through programmatic strategies in each of its functions: teaching, investigation, extension and cooperation for development, thanks to the establishment and reinforcement of projects, agreements and technical, scientific and investigation cooperation networks. It supports professors, students, graduates and the whole Bolivarian community in developing their capacity to interact within different cultural contexts, with people from different countries, social and political systems, languages and cultures.

In this perspective, it offers consulting and support services regarding everything related to opportunities to study abroad in Pregrado (Undergraduate programs) and Posgrado (Postgraduate programs), and financing possibilities; it coordinates relations and strategic cooperation conventions with universities of Colombia and of the entire world, with the institutions that unite the national and international academic sectors, and with public, private and third-sector institutions and organizations.



The International Relations Office offers the following services

- Administration of exchange agreements to promote the mobility of the UPB, community.
- Consulting regarding studying abroad, whether it is for languages classes or a Master.
- Information about scholarships and study abroad opportunities.
- General information about visas and useful tips for travelling.



Services to foreign students

- Contacts to help you find accommodation.
- Information about life in Colombia and at the UPB.
- A study guide.
- Information about visas and conditions to enter the country legally.



Incoming Students' Guide

ESPEX // Spanish classes for foreigners

Is a Spanish program for foreign students created at UPB Language Center to meet the demand for Spanish learning programs offered not only to foreigners, but also to customers or institutions abroad. <https://www.upb.edu.co/en/centro-lenguas/espex-spanish-program-foreign-students>

Exchange semester at the UPB

If your university in Colombia or abroad has an exchange agreement with the UPB, you will be able to take courses from your degree and obtain the corresponding credits.

Besides, the university offers a large choice of subjects related to religious, cultural, historical, anthropological, philosophical, political aspects of Colombia and Latin America, amongst others. The programs are multidisciplinary.

Documents you will need to send for an exchange semester under agreement:

1. Duly completed form with the subjects you wish to take at the UPB.
2. A copy of grades from your University of origin (in English or in Spanish).
3. A covering letter from the International Relations Office of your University.
4. A short Curriculum Vitae (CV).
5. Copy of your passport.
6. If you are accepted, you will have to take out national or international health insurance that covers you in Colombia during your stay.
7. It is mandatory to pay the UPB emergency insurance and the student card (approx. 50 USD).

If your university does not have an exchange agreement for undergraduate or postgraduate degrees with the UPB, you will be able to come as a Visiting Student (free mover). The conditions are the same as mentioned above, but you will also have to pay the UPB tuition fees. For more information:

▶ **Medellín**

International Relations Office, e-mail: relaciones.internacionales@upb.edu.co

▶ **Bucaramanga**

International Relations Office, e-mail: orii.bga@upb.edu.co

▶ **Montería**

International Relations Office, e-mail: ori.monteria@upb.edu.co

▶ **Palmira**

International Relations Office, e-mail: ori.palmira@upb.edu.co

NB: all documents must be sent in a PDF format with the candidate's name and university of origin: Example: "JuanMuller-UniversidadABC.pdf". File size cannot exceed 10 Mb.



Additional Services

You can ask for information about accommodation in town once accepted. Period to send the documents:

- a. Semester 1: from mid-January till end of May –limit date, October 30
- b. Semester 2: from mid-July till mid-November –limit date, April 30

Procedure for students who wish to study at the UPB as regular students

Instructions for Colombian or foreign secondary education graduates who wish to be accepted in an Undergraduate program at the UPB.

If you graduated abroad, you will be able to enroll in this University only if:

You have one of the following diplomas:

- The International Baccalaureate (IB); the German ABITUR; the French Baccalaureate; the European BAE; the Swiss MATURA; the USA Scholastics Assessment Test (SAT); the American College Testing (ACT).
- Another type of diploma recognized by the Andres Bello Convention (www.convenioandresbello.info) and/or approved by the Embassy of Colombia in your country of residence.

You have another Secondary Education diploma from the country which you finished your secondary education in, which allows the access to Superior Education in the country of origin (equivalent to the Colombian ICFES www.icfes.gov.co). If this type of diploma does not exist in your country, you will have to take the ICFES in Colombia (for more information: relaciones.internacionales@upb.edu.co)

The following documents must have the Hague Apostille in order to be sent to the Office of Admissions (Registro Académico) of the UPB, in the case that you are accepted in an Undergraduate program:

- Secondary Education Certificate or Diploma.
- International test or baccalaureate score.
- Secondary Education diploma obtained in the country where you finished your Secondary Education (equivalent to Colombian ICFES).



- If accepted, you will have to obtain the equivalence of your diploma:
- For a diploma issued by a country member of the Andres Bello Convention (www.convenioandresbello.info), contact the Bogotá headquarters.
- For a diploma issued by another country, you will have to obtain the equivalence through the procedure established by the Ministry of National Education of Colombia (www.mineducacion.gov.co).

You will also have to consider the admission requirements of each Postgraduate program, which you can consult on the web page of the program that you are interested in. www.upb.edu.co, Medellín, Bucaramanga, Monteria or Palmira – Posgrados.

For more information

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Laureles campus map // UPB Medellín





Useful links about Colombia



Colombia

General information about Colombia

Government of the Republic of Colombia's official website.

www.presidencia.gov.co

Official website of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism; contains the tasks, activities and objectives of this institution, as well as general information about commerce, tourism, the crafts industry and the press, amongst others.

<https://www.mincit.gov.co/>

Portal of the Ministry of Environment, main organism of the public management of the environment. This institution develops a relationship of respect with nature and defines politics to preserve and protect the environment.

www.minambiente.gov.co

Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Procedures, news and information about consulates.

www.cancilleria.gov.co



Touristic Guide Colombia

www.colombia.travel

Official portal of tourism containing the complete information about the most important places of the country, along with maps, a currency converter and a tourism directory, as well as a multimedia section with videos and pictures.

Videos

These videos show the tourism campaign: Colombia is Magic Realism. Official Colombia Travel page on YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/user/Colombiatravel>

Antioquia

Government of Antioquia

www.antioquia.gov.co

Presentation, activities, legal support, registrations, news and information about the department of Antioquia.

Medellín

City Hall of Medellín

www.medellin.gov.co

Municipality's official website. Services, programs, public administration, general information.

Bogotá

City Hall of Bogotá

www.bogota.gov.co

Federal district government's official website. General information and by theme, programs, news, cultural calendar and information about the capital.

Tourism

<https://www.idt.gov.co/>

Information about the city and its surroundings, news, videos, events calendar, restaurants, hotels, museums, theaters and more.

Bucaramanga

City Hall of Bucaramanga

www.bucaramanga.gov.co

Official website of the municipal administration. Information about the municipality and the local government.

<https://colombia.travel/es/bucaramanga>

Cali

City Hall of Santiago de Cali

www.cali.gov.co

Municipality's official website. Government, history, services, programs and general information.

Montería

City Hall of Montería

<https://www.monteria.gov.co/>

Municipality's official website. Government, history, services, programs and general information.



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International Exchange Students

Other Campus

Bucaramanga Campus

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▶ Palmira Campus

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