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Asociación de colombianos HEds for International Education

# GO COLOMBIA PROJECT:

strengthening Colombian - US study abroad programs



**PROCOLOMBIA**  
Embajadas y Consulados de Colombia en el extranjero



**COLOMBIA**  
Tu destino de estado



El futuro es de todos

Gobierno de Colombia



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# SURVE FOR US CITIZEN IN COLOMBIA



Phase 1:  
AMERICAN VOICES  
2021-2022



PROCOLOMBIA  
ESTRATEGIA NACIONAL PARA EL COMERCIO EXTERIOR



CO  
LOM  
BIA  
Tu destino  
de estudio



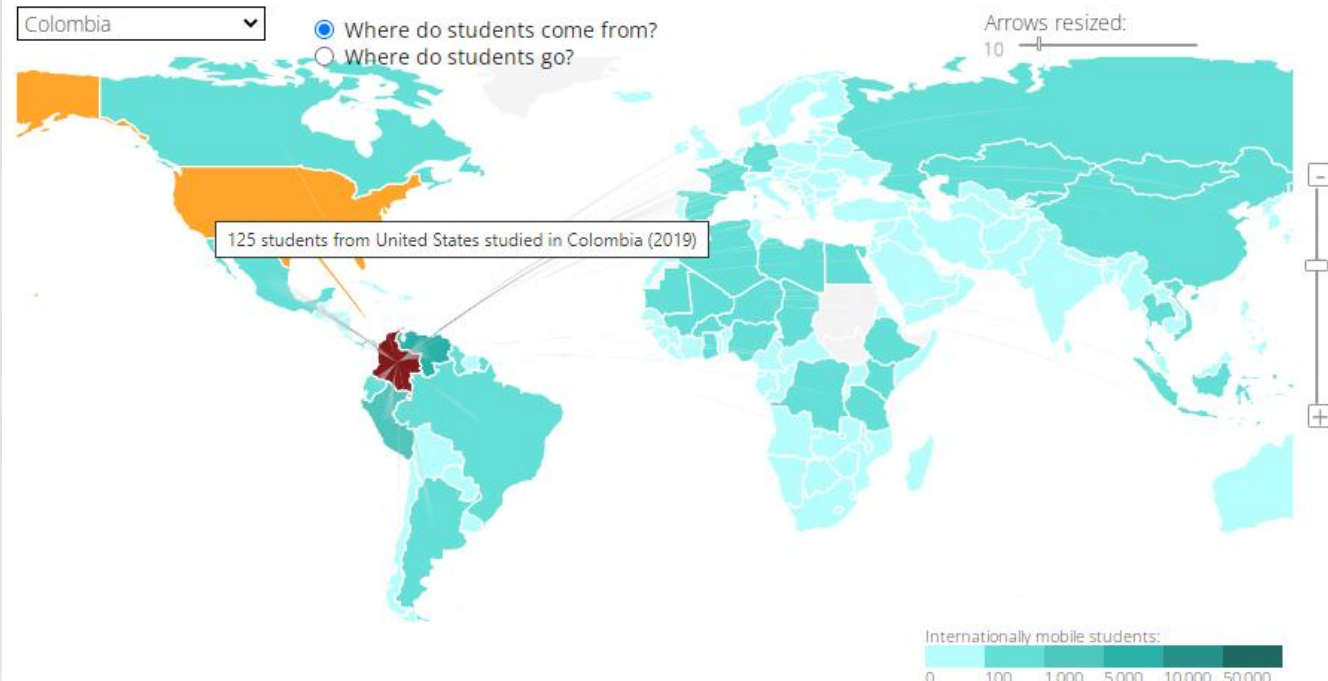
El futuro  
es de todos  
Gobierno  
de Colombia



## » INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

Where do students go to study? Where do they come from? UIS data on the mobility of students shed light on the shifting demand for higher education in the developing world.

To explore the data select a country from the menu, or click on the map.



According to **UNESCO**, the balance of student mobility in Colombia and the US is quite deficient.

The US received a total of **7,391** tertiary level students from Colombia in 2019.

Colombia received a total of **125** tertiary level students from the US in 2019.

Taken from: <http://uis.unesco.org/es/uis-student-flow#slideoutmenu>



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## ➤➤ INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

From the **Inbound Mobility Report** carried out by CCYK with the support of the MEN in 2020, it was evidenced that during the period **2016 - 2019**, Colombia presented the following data in relation to incoming student mobility:

**19,740** international students in academic semester.

- **38%** from North America (Canada, USA and Mexico).
- **6%** from the US. (1,185 students) (4th country with the highest origin of international students).

**19,459** international students in other mobility modalities (Short courses, academic missions, internships, practices, clinical rotations, Spanish courses, double degrees, volunteering, language assistants, others).

- **10%** from the US (**1,946 students**), as the 3rd country with the highest number of international students in Colombia.
- According to the **2019 Open Doors Report**, Latin America is the second favorite region, after Europe, for American students to study or develop an academic experience abroad. The report also reveals **that 65% of US students** who travel abroad for an international academic experience do so for summer school or short-term programs of less than eight weeks.

Tomado de: [https://www.ccyk.com.co/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/mobility\\_Report\\_v\\_web.pdf](https://www.ccyk.com.co/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/mobility_Report_v_web.pdf)



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## » INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

In order to support the **GO COLOMBIA strategy led by the Ministry of National Education - MNE**, the US Embassy built the GO COLOMBIA project for US HEIs to increase Study Abroad programs in Colombia by US HEIs.

In its first phase, AMERICAN VOICES conducted a survey of US citizens who have been in Colombia for academic or scientific purposes during the last 4 years with the aim of:

- To collect information from American students about their experience before, during, and after studying in Colombia, in order to define the main challenges and opportunities for higher education institutions in the United States to better connect with Colombian institutions.
- To identify study motivations, expectations, realities, logistics and academic content of US citizens in Colombia.
- To discover trends about why American students choose Colombia and their experience in the country. This information is essential when promoting Colombia as an academic destination.





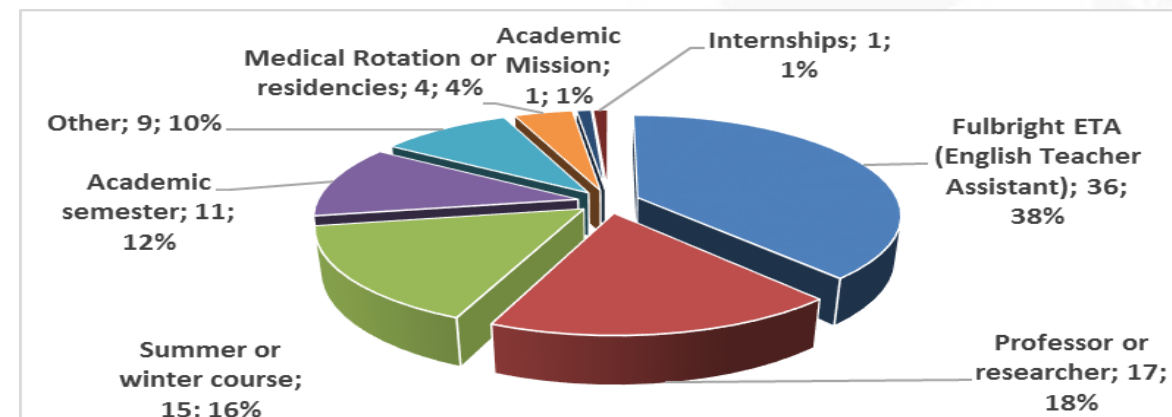
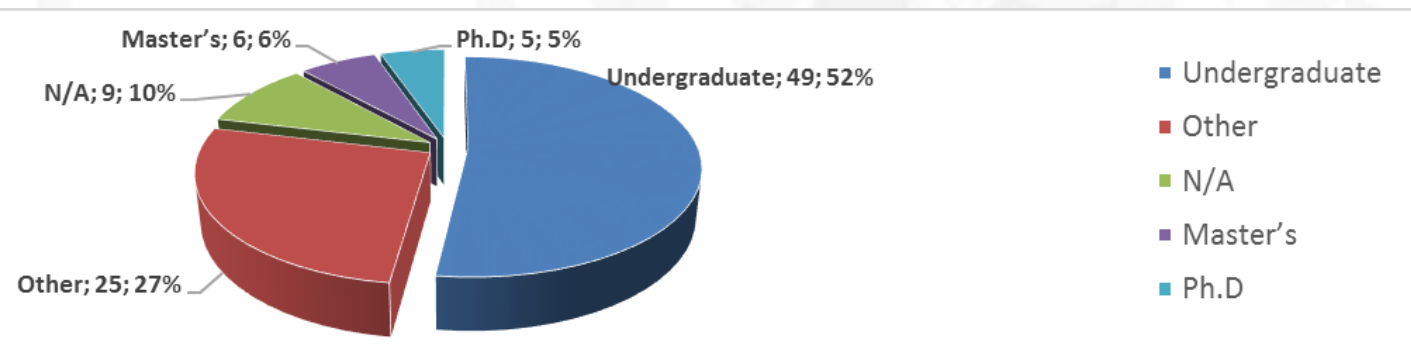
# GENERAL RESULTS:



## 95 USA citizens

Level of study in Colombia	Total
Undergraduate	49
Other	25
N/A	9
Master's	6
Ph.D	5
<b>Total general</b>	<b>94</b>

Type of exchange	Total
Fulbright ETA (English Teacher Assistant)	36
Professor or researcher	17
Summer or winter course	15
Academic semester	11
Other	9
Medical Rotation or residencies	4
Academic Mission	1
Internships	1
<b>Total general</b>	<b>94</b>





## RESULTS BY GROUP: STUDENTS

### 41 USA students

#### Motivations

The strongest motivations identified for US students to decide to study in Colombia are:

1. Existence of **Exchange/Study Abroad Programs** and other agreements with US Institutions.
2. **Biodiversity and landscapes** of Colombia.
3. Interests in Colombian **Culture**.
4. The **Spanish** spoken in Colombia and the possibility of improving your Spanish levels

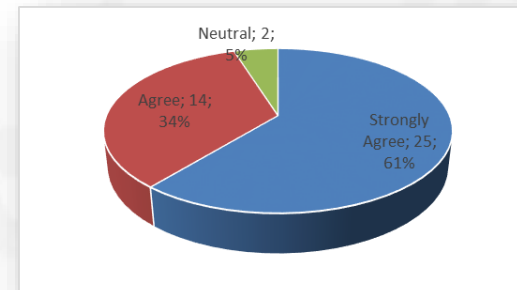
#### Expectation and Experiences

Regarding the expectations and their evaluation against the realities, all the categories were significantly positive. The following are highlighted with the best qualifications:

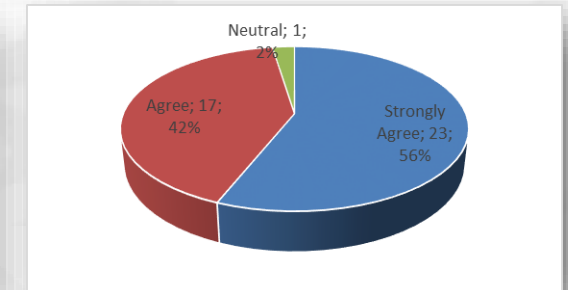
- **A welcoming country**, with friendly and helpful people.
- A country with **significant social and cultural** development.
- A country with a variety of **attractive climates** for foreign students.
- A country with a very **attractive gastronomy**
- A **safe country** for foreign students

i. The existing exchange programs (study abroad) or agreements with my US institution.	Cuenta
Strongly Agree	23
Agree	11
Neutral	3
Disagree	2
Strongly Disagree (en blanco)	2
Total general	41

c. The Colombian biodiversity and landscapes.	Cuenta
Strongly Agree	19
Agree	15
Neutral	5
Strongly Disagree (en blanco)	2
Total general	41



Welcoming country



Country with social and cultural development



## » RESULTS BY GROUP: STUDENTS



**41 USA students**



### Other reasons to study in Colombia

The guitar building class pulled me to going as well.

The class offered to me was very exciting - Political Economy. This was offered to Boston College graduate students.

I was in the Purdue AAMB and Colombia was chosen for a trip with the band.

The internships available to me were very unique and interesting

The faculty at the University are highly knowledgeable and I enjoyed the opportunity to learn with them. We share some common courses for PhD students and classroom teachers.

### Why recommend your experience in Colombia to others?

Great experience overall. Great people, very good support by Colombian institution on site, Colombian students were very helpful to us foreign students, many beautiful places to see that were relatively affordable, Colombian Spanish seemed to me to be very clear and easy to understand, so it helped with learning Spanish.

We had a great tour of the Medellin area and participated in the Feria de las Flores. This was an amazing experience to be in and around the people of Colombia as well as celebrate one of their traditions with them.

The faculty and students are very interested in improving mathematics education globally.

Beautiful people, beautiful landscape and a great cultural experience! Plus amazing coffee and fruits!

I was in the Purdue AAMB and Colombia was chosen The Colombian people are more open and generous than any I have worked with, which includes Spaniards, Mexicans, British, and Finns. They will give you hours of their time, open their homes to you, explain anything and everything you ask, and share whatever they have that you need. They have a positive attitude toward Americans, which is NOT something you can assume in Europe or the UK, and are patient and kind when you make cultural and linguistic mistakes. They are humble to a fault about their rich and vibrant culture, and there is so much the US needs to learn from Colombia! a trip with the band.







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## » CONCLUSIONS

- For US students, aspects such as the political context of Colombia, researchers or academics, funding and available scholarships, the possibility of studying in specific cities, the geographical proximity of Colombia with respect to the US and the quality of the academic offer of Colombian HEIs.
- Although aspects such as the academic offer in English, the academic diversity in the offer of Colombian HEIs, acquaintances who have visited or studied in the country, the low cost of living in

Colombia, the mentoring of professors, researchers and academics, are not relevant and significant aspects when choosing Colombia as a destination.

- Aspects such as heritage or family of US students as a motivation factor for studying in Colombia or the academic quality of the offer in Colombia are not relevant.
- Regarding the realities encountered by US students in Colombia in relation to their experience, all categories were positively rated with lower performance: i) an interesting and relevant academic offer for professional development and ii) a country where the Projected academic goals.

# RESULTADOS POR GRUPOS: ETAs

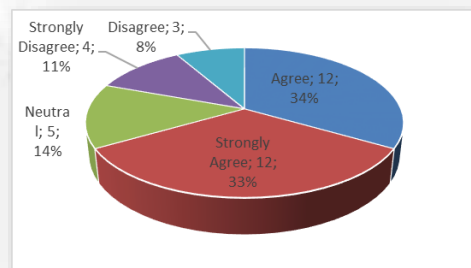


## 36 USAETAs

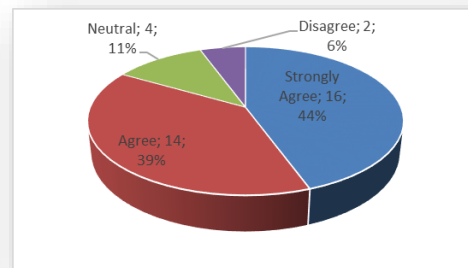
### Motivations

The strongest motivations identified for ETAs from the US to decide to move to Colombia are:

1. A high probability of winning an ETA scholarship, due to the available places compared to other countries.
2. Interest in Colombian culture
3. Biodiversity of Colombia.
4. Interest in the political context of Colombia (peace process, human rights, etc.).
5. Opportunity to teach English to university students.



Probabilidad beca ETA



Cultura de Colombia

### Expectations and experiences

Regarding the expectations and their evaluation against the realities, all the categories were significantly positive. The following are highlighted with the best qualifications:

1. A country with significant social and cultural development.
2. A country as a relevant and interesting option for professional development.
3. A welcoming country, with friendly and helpful people.
4. A country with a variety of attractive climates for foreign students.
5. A safe country for foreign students

a. A country with significant social and cultural development. 2	Cuenta	f. A relevant and interesting option for my professional development.	Cuenta
Strongly Agree	23	Strongly Agree	21
Agree	11	Agree	15
Neutral (en blanco)	2	(en blanco)	
Total general	36	Total general	36



# » RESULTADOS POR GRUPOS: ESTUDIANTES



**36 ETAs de EEUU**



## Other reasons to study in Colombia

I visited colombia on vacation the year before my grant, and instead of feeling "culture shock" I felt "culture fit--" it seemed my personality had a lot more in common with the day to day ways Colombians (in general) expressed themselves and I wanted to explore that

Specifically my connection to Colombian music and it's important role in the hispanohablante music industry...also dancing

My credentials best fit the requirements of Colombia.

Specifically wanting to learn more about Afro-Colombian culture.

The racial and ethnic diversity of Colombia, as well as relations between different groups, really interests me! I am passionate about social justice and racial reconciliation in the U.S., si I was interested to see those dynamics play out in Colombia. I also studied abroad in Barranquilla in 2018 and was excited to learn more about the country and experience as different region/role. The economics and exchange rate of the country also allow an ETA to experience a lot of things they may not be able to in a more expensive country.

## Why recommend your experience in Colombia to others?

I have learned so much from being in Colombia, from learning about its fascinating history to its culture and nature to learning about myself and my personal and professional interests..

Colombia is a country in a period of sociopolitical evolution and should be welcomed as a top academic destination. The countries institutions are working to provide high quality education and the best way to ensure that happens is by investing in the country!

I think Colombia has an easier transition than other latin countries. Also the fact that it's such a diverse area means there is something for everyone. Lastly, teaching at a university gives us so many more resources than other teaching programs.

I've learned so much and gained a valuable perspective from living in Colombia. It has really helped my personal and professional development.

Colombia has great biodiversity and population diversity and is a great place for personal and professional development.





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## » CONCLUSIONS:

- For English Teacher Assistants-ETAs, the factors related to the available scholarships, the teaching of English at the university level are important motivations for choosing Colombia as a destination.
- Also highlighted within their motivations is interest in the political context of Colombia, a peculiarity that differentiates them from the motivations of other groups of students in the US.
- The motivations assigned to academic advisors and professors at their universities are motivations to take into account when choosing Colombia as a Destination.
- In relation to the realities with respect to the expectations, gastronomy, although it was a positive factor, did not have the same significant evaluation compared to the group of students.

# RESULTADOS POR GRUPOS: Profesores e Investigadores



## 18 profesores de EEUU

### Motivaciones

Las motivaciones que se identificaron más fuertes para que los profesores de EEUU decidieran realizar movilidades a Colombia son:

- Interés en la cultura de Colombia
- Motivaciones influenciadas por colegas, profesores, investigadores o académicos.
- La posibilidad de estar en una ciudad específica.
- Interés en el contexto político de Colombia (proceso de paz, DDHH etc).
- Calidad académica de la oferta de las IES de Colombia.

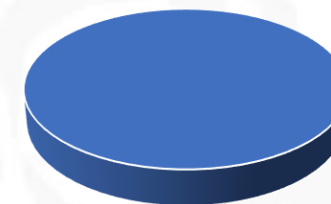
a. My interest in Colombian culture. 3	Cuenta	f. Motivations influenced by professors, researchers or academics (mentorships)	Cuenta
Strongly Agree	12	Strongly Agree	11
Agree	4	Neutral	3
Disagree	1	Agree	2
Neutral	1	Disagree	1
(en blanco)		(en blanco)	
Total general	18	Total general	17

## Expectativas y Realidades

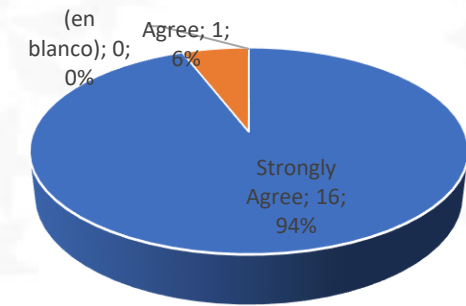
Respecto a las expectativas y su evaluación frente a las realidades, todas las categorías fueron significativamente positivas. Se resaltan con las mejores calificaciones las siguientes:

- Un país con un desarrollo social y cultural significativo.
- Un país como una opción relevante e interesante para el desarrollo profesional.
- Un país acogedor, con personas amigables y serviciales.
- Un país con una gastronomía atractiva
- Un país con una variedad de climas atractivos para estudiantes extranjeros.

Strongly Agree; 17; 100%



Desarrollo Social y cultural



Desarrollo profesional



## RESULTS BY GROUP: TEACHERS



### 18 USA Faculty



#### Other reasons to study in Colombia

I was invited as an external jury of graduate student theses, and I was invited to give talks at the University of Antioquia. I have also hosted 2 students in my lab in the US.

Being part of a USDA-FAS research team. Without this funding, no program.

Vulnerable populations with specific needs

The wonderful people of Colombia

AfroColombian heritage.

#### Why recommend your experience in Colombia to others?

Great people, great academics, great innovaton

Colleagues were competent, helpful and motivated to accomplish research goals.

Opportunity to meet local colleagues and develop collaborations; opportunity to recruit students for research in a US lab.

The academic level of research is first class. Although there are limitations, we got things done and happy to work with amazing graduate students.

Working in Colombia is a wonderful experience because we can learn a lot about their population and help to address their needs once we know their needs.

On the other hand, the safety needs to improve and specially the civil education in terms of respect for pedestrians as well as it is unsafe to walk around with a computer, watch or cameras... it is really important to let the foreign partners about those issues to decrease harm in the future.





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## ➤ CONCLUSIONS:

- For US professors and researchers, the main motivating factors for traveling to Colombia to develop academic and/or scientific activities are interest in the country's culture and motivations influenced by colleagues (professors, researchers, or academics).
- For teachers, the quality factor of the offer and the possibility of carrying out an activity in a specific city are more important than the other groups of citizens surveyed (students and ETAs) when choosing Colombia as a Destination.
- For some teachers the factor of scholarships or economic support for mobility is important, but for others it is not a relevant factor. Perhaps this is due to the fact that some universities have resources and others do not, and there is also a lack of knowledge in many of the US universities regarding financial support for teachers.
- Although the existence of agreements between Institutions are still important, for teachers it is not as fundamental a factor as in the case of students.
- Spanish continues to be an important factor to be taken into account by teachers when choosing Colombia as a destination.
- Factors such as the low cost of living or the location are not of greater relevance for the choice of teachers.



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# RESULTS:

## Phase 2:

# DESTINATION COLOMBIA



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asociación nacional de escuelas colombianas

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Tu destino  
de estudio

 **El futuro  
es de todos** **Gobierno  
de Colombia**





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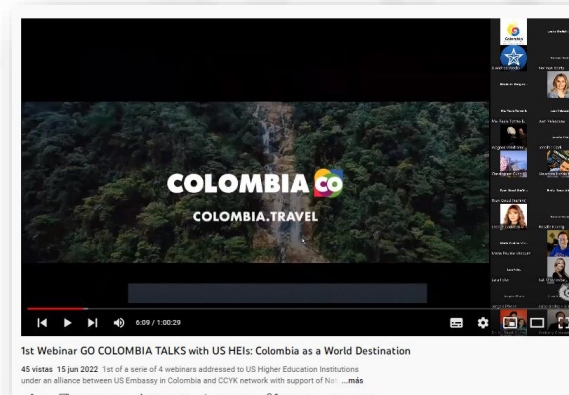
# » "DESTINATION COLOMBIA"

## Promoting Colombia as a destination for US students

### Go Colombia Talks:

Serie of 4 webinars addressed to USA Higher Education Institutions focused in providing useful information as a toolkit to know and connect with Colombia HEIs with special interest in building Study Abroad programs.

1. **Colombia as a World Destination**  
June 15th, 2022. <https://youtu.be/UHLSFLnx88k>
2. **Colombia as a Safe and Welcoming Destination**  
June 29th, 2022. [https://youtu.be/\\_VwkzML3444](https://youtu.be/_VwkzML3444)
3. **Go Colombia Strategy: Colombia as Academic and Scientific Destination**  
July 13th, 2022. [https://youtu.be/JHLgF\\_b3e2M](https://youtu.be/JHLgF_b3e2M)
4. **Building Partnerships US - Colombia**  
July 27th, 2022. <https://youtu.be/R2ZSvxal-jo>



1st Webinar GO COLOMBIA TALKS with US HEIs: Colombia as a World Destination  
45 vistas 15 jun 2022 1st of a serie of 4 webinars addressed to US Higher Education Institutions under an alliance between US Embassy in Colombia and COYK network with support of...



2nd Webinar GO COLOMBIA TALKS with US HEIs: Colombia as a Safe and Welcoming Destination  
18 vistas 29 jun 2022 2nd of a serie of 4 webinars addressed to US Higher Education Institutions under an alliance between US Embassy in Colombia and COYK network with support of...



3rd Webinar: Go Colombia Strategy - Colombia as Academic and Scientific Destination  
33 vistas 13 jul 2022 GO COLOMBIA STRATEGY: Colombia as Academic and Scientific Destination



4th Webinar: How building US-Col partnerships  
19 vistas 28 jul 2022 Success projects with important impact to strengthening study abroad programs between US-COL Higher Education Institutions ...más





## »» Activities

1. Coordination meetings between CCYK representative and US Embassy to articulate the organization of the call to US HEIs and Colombia Institutions.
2. Plannification of 4 webinars focused in:
  - 1) Colombia as a World Destination
  - 2) Colombia as a Safe and Welcoming Destination
  - 3) Go Colombia Strategy: Colombia as Academic and Scientific Destination
  - 4) Building Partnerships US – Colombia
3. Articulation with Ministry of National Education, PROCOLOMBIA and more than 11 CCYK universities representing colombian regions.
4. Design of virtual and printed flyers to US HEIs invitation
5. Identification and relationship management of US HEI for invitation to participate in webinars
5. Call for registration of US HEIs.



## »» Activities

6. Coordination of panelists, presenters and themes.
7. Design of ZOOM and PPT templates aligned with Project Image.
8. Design of infographics related to each webinar for US HEIs
9. Submission of material presented in the webinar (recordings, presentations, infographics and others).
10. Making report of activities and results.

# Webinars Go Colombia Talks

Time

1:00pm ET / 12:00pm CT - Colombian Time

Webinars

1) Colombia as a World Destination  
June 15th, 2022

2) Colombia as a Safe and Welcoming Destination  
June 29th, 2022

3) Go Colombia Strategy: Colombia as Academic and Scientific Destination  
July 13th, 2022

4) Building Partnerships US - Colombia  
July 27th, 2022

Goals

Presentar las fortalezas turísticas, medioambientales y culturales de Colombia en el mundo de manera general

Presentar los datos sobre la seguridad en Colombia para estudiantes y profesores extranjeros

Presentación Sistema de Educación Superior, tipos de IES, Entidades de Gobierno, Redes y Asociaciones  
Perfiles académicos de ciudades y regiones  
Oportunidades de estudio, docencia, Investigación y Colaboración por regiones

Presentación experiencias y casos de éxito de proyectos entre IES Colombia y EEUU sobre el fortalecimiento de movilidad de estudiantes y profesores.

Speakers

Embajada de EEUU  
Procolombia  
MEN  
CCYK

Embajada de EEUU  
Pulse International  
Autores capítulo seguridad  
Inbound Mobility Report:  
(Universidad del Norte)

Embajada de EEUU  
MEN  
CCYK

Embajada de EEUU  
CCYK

Presenters

Lina González: Universidad Santo Tomás

Lina Reyes: Universidad del Rosario

Laura Peña: Universidad de Medellín

Carlos Vecino: Universidad Industrial de Santander

CCYK participants

Universidad Santo Tomás: Cátedra de Colombianidad

Pulse International  
Universidad del Norte.

Presentación MEN: Go Colombia.  
Universidad EAFIT: Presentación de Antioquia (María Alejandra Saleme)  
Universidad de La Sabana: Presentación Cundinamarca Región. (Esperanza Ramírez)  
Universidad Tecnológica de Bolívar: Presentación del Caribe (Vicerrector Académico - Daniel Toro).  
Universidad de Caldas: Presentación Eje Cafetero. (Margarita López)

Universidad Autónoma de Occidente. Programa de Ingeniería.  
Universidad Nacional de Colombia.  
Universidad de Medellín: proyecto 100K - Universidad de Oregón ( mujeres como agentes de cambio en el posconflicto colombiano en el año 2019).  
Universidad de La Sabana The Influence of Culture and the Macroenvironment on Global Marketing Strategy" Universidad de La Sabana and RCC State University of New York.  
Universidad Tecnológica de Bolívar



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## Invitación universidades CCYK: postulación expertos y buenas practicas para liderar GO COLOMBIA TALKS orientados a IES de Estados Unidos.

La Embajada de EEUU y la Red Colombia Challenge your Knowledge<sup>®</sup> (CCYK) desean invitar a las universidades de la RED a postular sus expertos y buenas prácticas de visibilidad y relacionamiento con IES de EEUU, y así liderar los diversos conversatorios de Colombia como Destino Académico y Científico, en el marco del proyecto **GO COLOMBIA**, en su segunda fase: **Destination Colombia**.

Webinars dirigidos a: tomadores de decisión y gestores de internacionalización (Directores y coordinadores de Study Abroad) de IES de Estados Unidos interesadas en Colombia.

- Idioma de los webinars: inglés.
- Fecha: 15 de junio, 13 de julio y 27 de julio.
- Hora: 12.00pm a 1.00pm (hora Colombia).

### Webinars a liderar:

- ★ **Colombia as a World Destination:**  
15 de junio.

Invitación a profesores CCYK que deseen presentar aspectos llamativos de Colombia en el mundo desde una perspectiva académica y su oferta para extranjeros.

- ★ **Go Colombia strategy Colombia as Academic and Scientific Destination:**  
13 de Julio.

Invitación a universidades CCYK para que compartan los perfiles académicos de sus ciudades, oportunidades y oferta académica, docente, de investigación y colaboración por regiones del país.

- ★ **Building Partnership-US and Colombia:**  
27 de Julio.

Invitación a universidades para compartir casos de éxito y buenas prácticas con aliados de EEUU en el marco de proyectos apoyados por la Embajada o el Departamento de Estado de EEUU y/o Educación (100K, Fulbright etc) o por programas y/o proyectos bilaterales de gran impacto para estudiantes de EEUU en Colombia.

Para mayor información:  
[info@ccyk.com.co](mailto:info@ccyk.com.co)

[www.ccyk.com.co](http://www.ccyk.com.co)



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**Save the Date - YOU ARE INVITED!**


## Go Colombia Talks for US Higher Education Institutions 2022

Join the U.S. Embassy and Colombia Challenge Your Knowledge<sup>®</sup> (CCYK) network to learn about Colombia as an academic and scientific destination and discover opportunities for student and faculty exchange.


- Who: For Study abroad professionals and international education decision makers at U.S. higher education institutions
- What: A series of four virtual conversations about Colombia
- When: From June 15th to July 27th:

Colombia as a World Destination June 15th	Colombia as a safe and welcoming Destination June 29th	Go Colombia strategy: Colombia as Academic and Scientific Destination July 13th	Building Partnerships – U.S. and Colombia July 27th
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1:00pm (Eastern Time-ET) / 12:00pm (Central Time-CT, Colombian Time)

Where: Register here 

For more information: [info@ccyk.com.co](mailto:info@ccyk.com.co)



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Join us and participate for a **Colombia Immersion Program** funded by US Embassy in Bogota and Colombia-Challenge your Knowledge<sup>®</sup> (CCYK) network.

Go Colombia Project - Phase 3rd:  
"PAVING THE WAY".

You will be able to learn more about Colombia and its Higher Education ecosystem and contribute to strengthening Study Abroad programs between the US and Colombia.

**SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 2022**  
Contact us: [info@ccyk.com.co](mailto:info@ccyk.com.co)




**NAFSA 2022**  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPO  
BUILDING OUR SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



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ASOCIACION NACIONAL DE UNIVERSIDADES Y ESCUELAS DE ESTUDIOS



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**Go Colombia project:**  
strengthening Colombian - US study abroad programs

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Gobierno de Colombia

Preguntas

Respuestas **109**



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## REGISTRATION: GO COLOMBIA TALKS - COLOMBIA AS AN ACADEMIC AND SCIENTIFIC PARTNER FOR USA

YOU ARE INVITED to participate in **Go Colombia Talks** for US HEIs under **Colombia Destination** project from **USA Embassy in Colombia** and Colombian network of high quality to Promote International Education **Colombia - Challenge your Knowledge® (CCYK)**

Our objective is USA HEIs universities, their International, Study Abroad Officers and institutional decision-makers get to know more about Colombia as an academic and scientific destination, discovering student and faculty exchange opportunities.

From **May 15th to July 27th, 2022** at  
10.00 - 11.00 (Pacific Time-PT),  
12.00 - 13.00 (Central Time-CT and Colombian Time),  
13.00 - 14.00 (Eastern Time-ET).

We will offer 4 webinars aimed at USA HEIs in connection with:

- **Colombia as a World Destination** - June 15th, 2022.
- **Colombia as a safe and welcoming Destination**, June 29th, 2022



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Gobierno de Colombia



## ➤➤ 105 representatives registered from 55 US HEIs in Go Colombia Talks

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## ➤➤ 105 representatives registered from 55 US HEIs in Go Colombia Talks

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## ➤➤ 105 representatives registered from 55 US HEIs in Go Colombia Talks

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30	Ajaya Francis Jonas	<b>NC State University</b>	Director of Global Programs, College of Education	atjonas@ncsu.edu
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## ➤➤ 105 representatives registered from 55 US HEIs in Go Colombia Talks

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## ➤➤ 105 representatives registered from 55 US HEIs in Go Colombia Talks

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4. CEN
5. Children Beyond our Borders
6. City College of New York
7. Coastal Carolina University
8. College of Lake County
9. College of Staten Island
10. College of Canyons
11. DePaul University
12. Florida Atlantic University
13. FLS International
14. Glendale Community College AZ
15. Global Gateways
16. Kansas State University
17. Kent State University
18. Lehigh University

18. Mission College
19. Morgan State University
20. North Carolina State University
21. Northeastern State University
22. Northwestern State University
23. Oakland Community College
24. Ohio State University
25. Partners of the Americas
26. Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico
27. Prairie View A&M University
28. Purdue University
29. St. Cloud State University
30. Stockton University
31. SUNY Purchase
32. Texas A&M University, Kingsville
33. Texas International Education Consortium
34. The Catholic University of America
35. The College of New Jersey
36. Forum On Education Abroad
37. The New School/City College CUNY

38. The University of Texas at Tyler
39. The University of Tulsa
40. UC Berkeley
41. University of Alabama
42. University of Florida
43. University of Florida-Gainesville, Florida
44. University of Illinois-Chicago
45. University of Miami
46. University of Nebraska at Omaha
47. University of Northern Iowa
48. University of Pittsburgh
49. University of Puerto Rico
50. University of Texas at Arlington
51. University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
52. University of Tulsa
53. University of Wisconsin
54. University of Wyoming
55. Zakat Foundation Institute

**1.**  
**Colombia as a World Destination**  
June 15th, 2022

**2.**  
**Colombia as a Safe and Welcoming Destination**  
June 29th, 2022

**3.**  
**Go Colombia Strategy: Colombia as Academic and Scientific Destination**  
July 13th, 2022

**4.**  
**Building Partnerships US - Colombia**  
July 27th, 2022

<https://youtu.be/UHLSFLnx88k>

[https://youtu.be/\\_VwkzM L3444](https://youtu.be/_VwkzM L3444)

[https://youtu.be/JHLGf\\_b3e2M](https://youtu.be/JHLGf_b3e2M)

<https://youtu.be/R2ZSvxal-jo>



Go Colombia Talks for US Institutions  
1ST WEBINAR: Colombia as a World Destination  
June 15th, 2022

Presented by: Vice President, National Director of International Office, Universidad Nacional de Colombia

**Introduction:** Colombia is a country with a rich and diverse culture, history, and natural resources. It is a country that offers a unique experience for its visitors, from its beautiful beaches and mountains to its vibrant cities and traditions.

**Country of regions:**

- Andean Region
- Caribbean Region
- Insular Region
- Orinoquía Region
- Santander Region
- Urabá Region

**Some culture and environmental aspects of Colombia:**

- 1) Santander:** Known for its coffee and gold mining.
- 2) Valle del Cauca:** Known for its coffee and gold mining.
- 3) Cauca:** Known for its coffee and gold mining.
- 4) Quindío:** Known for its coffee and gold mining.

Go Colombia Talks for US Institutions  
2ND WEBINAR: Colombia as a Safe and Welcoming Destination  
June 29th, 2022

Presented by: Vice President, National Director of International Office, Universidad Nacional de Colombia

**Introduction:** Colombia is a safe and welcoming destination for international students. It offers a high quality education and a rich cultural experience.

**Safe and Welcoming:** Colombia has a long history of welcoming international students. It has a high quality education and a rich cultural experience.

**High Quality Education:** Colombia has a high quality education system. It offers a wide range of programs and degrees.

**Rich Cultural Experience:** Colombia has a rich cultural heritage. It offers a unique experience for its visitors.

Go Colombia Talks for US Institutions  
3RD WEBINAR: Go Colombia Strategy - Colombia as Academic and Scientific Destination  
July 13th, 2022

Presented by: Vice President, National Director of International Office, Universidad Nacional de Colombia

**Introduction:** Colombia is a country that offers a unique experience for its visitors, from its beautiful beaches and mountains to its vibrant cities and traditions.

**GO COLOMBIA Strategy:** Colombia as Academic and Scientific Destination. Ministry of National Education

**Key Points:**

- High Quality Education System
- Rich Cultural Experience
- Safe and Welcoming Environment
- High Quality Infrastructure
- High Quality Services

Go Colombia Talks for US Institutions  
4TH WEBINAR: How building US-COL partnerships  
July 27th, 2022

Presented by: Vice President, National Director of International Office, Universidad Nacional de Colombia

**Introduction:** Building partnerships between the US and Colombia is a key strategy for the future of both countries.

**Opening:** Colombia is a country that offers a unique experience for its visitors, from its beautiful beaches and mountains to its vibrant cities and traditions.

**Universidad Autónoma de Occidente (UAO, Valle del Cauca):** Alvaro José Rojas, PhD. Director - Master in Engineering of Product Development.





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# Phase 3: PAVING THE WAY



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Join us and participate for a **Colombia Immersion Program** funded by **US Embassy in Bogota and Colombia-Challenge your Knowledge<sup>®</sup> (CCYK)** network.



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You will be able to learn more about Colombia and its Higher Education ecosystem and contribute to strengthening Study Abroad programs between the US and Colombia.

**SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 2022**  
Contact us: [info@ccyk.com.co](mailto:info@ccyk.com.co)



Immersion Program in Colombia for 3 US HEI officials focused on Study Abroad Programs.

October 22 to November 3, 2022

3 destinations:

- a) Caribbean: Barranquilla, Santa Marta, Cartagena
- b) Santander and Antioquia: Bucaramanga and Medellin
- c) Valle del Cauca and Coffee Axis: Cali, Manizales and Pereira



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Selected by the project.

Funded by the US Embassy and the CCYK Network.

13 US experts nominated from the following institutions:

1. City College of New York (CUNY)
2. Global Gateways
3. Kansas State University
4. Prairie View A&M University
5. State University of New York-College at Oneonta
6. Texas A&M University-Kingsville
7. Texas International Education Consortium (35 Texas universities)
8. The University of Alabama
9. University of California Berkeley
10. University of Florida
11. University of North Florida
12. University of Wisconsin - Madison



**Mona  
Menking**

Director of Global  
Education  
Outreach

**Kansas State  
University**



**Marcus King**

Director of  
International  
Relations Office

**Prairie View A&M  
University**



**Nicolette Dacke**

Program Coordinator -  
Office of Global  
Engagement

**Texas A&M University-  
Kingsville**



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➤➤ Additional guests with external resources.



**Eder A. Intriago**

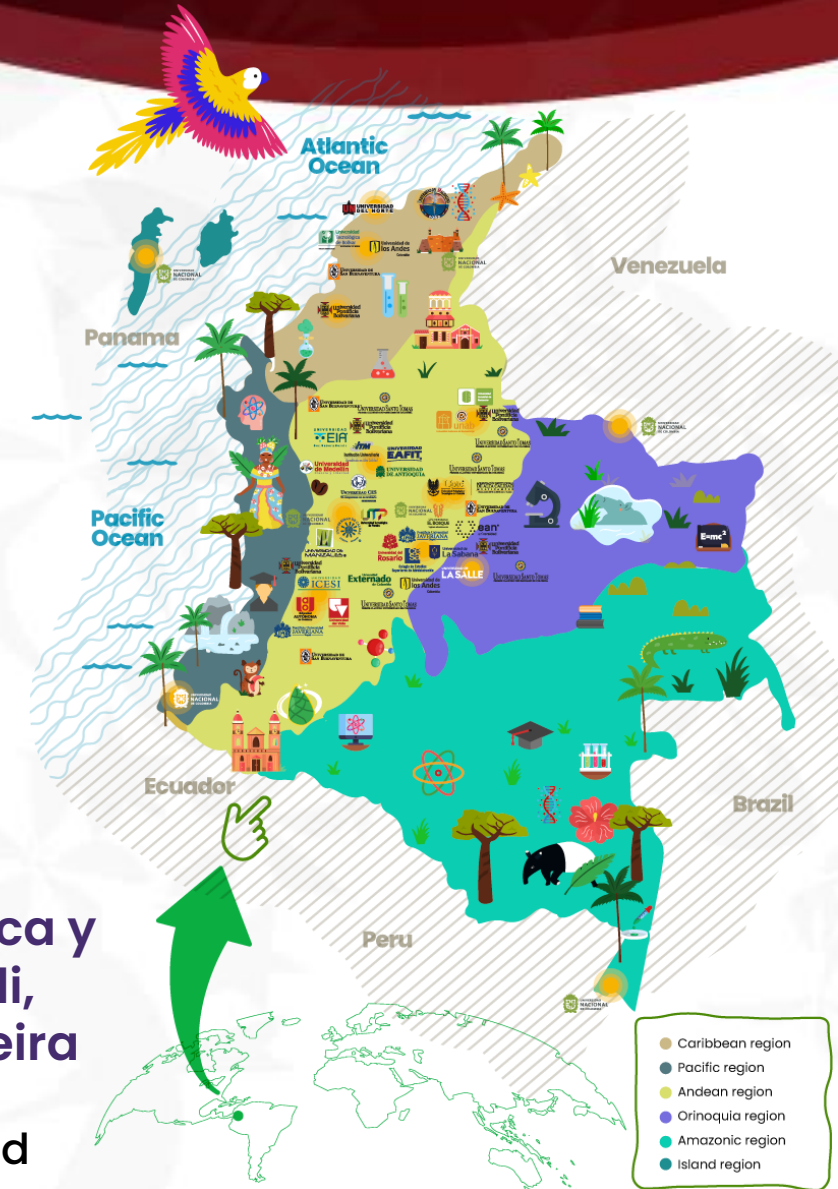
Teaching Assistant  
Professor  
Kansas State  
University

Kansas State  
University



**Shameka Reed**

Executive Director  
Global Gateways



- Caribbean region
- Pacific region
- Andean region
- Orinoquia region
- Amazonic region
- Island region

a) Caribe: Barranquilla,  
Santa Marta,  
Cartagena  
Mona Menking  
Eder A. Intriago

b) Santander y  
Antioquia:  
Bucaramanga y  
Medellín  
Nicolette Dacke

c) Valle del Cauca y  
Eje Cafetero: Cali,  
Manizales y Pereira  
Marcus King  
Shameka Reed





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# » PROPOSALS FOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROJECT

**KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY**



**MONA MENKING**



**MARCUS KING**



**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY KINGSVILLE**



**NICOLETTE DACKE**

- To Set up opportunities for our students through partnerships with K-16 (schools and universities) that can help provide safe placements for our students as well as set up faculty led experiences that will take our future teachers to Colombia. We do have funding for them to go, we just need to make sure we find the right sites for them which is ideally done once visited in person.

- I have a very extensive personal **network of colleagues** mostly at state universities that I would have the opportunity to share this with if I am selected, this is in addition to our K-State Office of International Programs sharing with the various college and departments across our campus.

- To be able to establish new faculty-led opportunities with PVAMU faculty and semester-long transfer credit options for our students.

- to serve as chair of the **HBCU Member Interest Group for NAFSA**: The Association of International Educators. In this role, I will have the platform to share my experience during this site visit and encourage the establishment of more partnerships between Colombian HEIs and American-based HBCUs.

- to make connections within Colombia that can be developed into collaborative programs such as **virtual and in-person student exchanges**, faculty-led programs and study tours that are designed to support these efforts.

- I am a member of both professional associations of the **Forum on Education Abroad and NAFSA**. If selected for this opportunity, I would utilize my experience and how I was able to apply it to my professional efforts on-campus **to submit as conference proposals for both organizations**. I would also share this information with colleague universities appointed the Seal of Excelencia and to future applicants wanting to achieve this recognition.





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# ➤➤ PAVING THE WAY: Development of the immersion program in Colombia

## a) Caribe region





## ➤➤ PAVING THE WAY: Development of the immersion program in Colombia

### a) Caribe region

- Visits to academic, administrative and research units of CCYK universities in the Caribbean.
- Cultural activities in the 3 main cities of the Caribbean.
- Special attention in meetings with academic and research units in Education programs.
- Exploration of collaboration on energy issues.

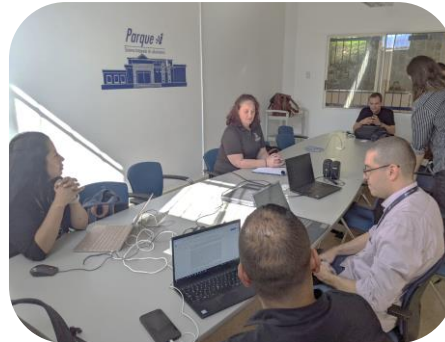


➤➤ b) Santander & Antioquia regions:  
Bucaramanga & Medellín.





## » b) Santander & Antioquia regions: Bucaramanga & Medellín.



- Visits to 7 universities in Medellín:  
Universidad de Medellín,  
Universidad CES,  
Universidad de Antioquia,  
ITM,  
Universidad EAFIT  
Universidad EIA and  
Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana-UPB
- Tours of the campuses of each of the HEIs visited
- Management of visits with academic, administrative, research units and laboratories of the CCYK universities of Bucaramanga and Medellín
- Conversations with FULLBRIGHT students, presentation of summer schools.
- Cultural activities in the 2 cities



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## ➤➤ c) Valle & Eje Cafetero regions: Cali, Manizales y Pereira.



Universidad del Valle



Universidad AUTÓNOMA de Occidente



UNIVERSIDAD DE SAN BUENAVENTURA



UNIVERSIDAD ICESI



Pontificia Universidad JAVERIANA Cali



Universidad de Caldas



UNIVERSIDAD DE MANIZALES



Sistema Universitario de Manizales



Universidad Tecnológica de Pereira



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## » c) Valle & Eje Cafetero regions: Cali, Manizales y Pereira

- Visitas a unidades académicas, administrativas y de investigación de las universidades CCYK de Cali, Manizales y Pereira, laboratorios de ingeniería y ciencias naturales, hospital universitario del Valle y reunión con estudiantes.
- Actividades culturales en las 3 ciudades.
- Visita a Granja Solar de Cesia.
- Reunión con la Red SUMA de Manizales y la Fundación Luker.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJXcVXWiYRI>



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## ➤ MAIN RESULTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUTURE COLLABORATIONS

- ✓ Agreements and MoU in the process of signing between Kansas State University and UTB, UniNorte and UniMagdalena.
- ✓ Proposal that these exercises be carried out between January–March of each year and not at the end of the year, since Study Abroad proposals are generally presented in August–September. In the same way, it is proposed that the people chosen to represent their HEIs in the US have greater preparation when connecting collaborations with various faculties and departments of their Institutions.
- ✓ It must be taken into account that the dynamics and conditions of academic and scientific collaboration between Colombia and the US are limited by the travel warnings issued by the US Government. This influences the negotiating times with HEIs in the US.
- ✓ It is proposed to look for early victories:
- ✓ interest in carrying out short term programs for 2023 and 2024, exchange programs between undergraduate degrees with components of Social Justice and strengthening of Intercultural Competences for students and professors from the US and Colombia in the case of the Caribbean.
- ✓ Search for external funding for projects in Education with the Caribbean.

- Double Degree Opportunities between Col–USA.
- Collaborations for accreditations of joint programs.
- Work collaboratively among HEIs to participate in programs such as 100K Strong in the Americas.

Possibility of agreement with Prairie View A&M University and the universities of Cali. In addition to collaboration in areas such as Engineering, Natural Sciences and Social Sciences.

A Study Abroad program for US students offered online by universities in Cali is proposed.

Think of an activity or event in NAFSA 2023 where a final report can be delivered to the US and Colombian Governments, the US Embassy, NAFSA directors, CCYK Network, other Colombian HEIs and US HEIs that participated in any of the 3 axes of the project and interested in Colombia.



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# Final Report (Cartagena, Barranquilla, Santa Martha)

by Mona Menking and Éder Intriago-Palacios

**Director of Global Education Office and Teaching  
Assistant Professor**



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## » Strengths

- The three universities we visited were Universidad Tecnológica de Bolívar (UTB), UNINORTE and Universidad del Magdalena. They were very impressive with strong academic portfolios
- The location, since the Caribbean is a tourist destination;
- Currency exchange rates are favorable to the USD, which makes Colombia an affordable destination for K-State students and faculty.
- All three universities are in the top 30 in the country as member of the CCYK network;
- UTB's board is composed of the most business associations;
- Uninorte has a very strong student success and well-being system including a peer-peer system
- Universidad del Magdalena's College of Education Deanship is very committed to Internationalization initiatives
- Excellent in-country collaboration and support offered through CCYK and their partner institutions



## » Weaknesses

- English/Spanish language barriers will have to be overcome.
- Difficult process for Colombians to get U.S. VISA
- Travel warning in place makes Colombia a hard sale due to risk management for Americans
- UNINORTE currently has students teaching in the United States on their own initiative;
- UTB limited to summer faculty-led programs due to limited English proficiency;
- Universidad del Magdalena showed the least English proficiency;



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## » Opportunities

- Opportunity for Colombian students to experience Midwest hospitality and culture
- Opportunity for Kansas State University to increase student mobility;
- Opportunities for COIL collaborations with Universidad del Norte;
- Short-term faculty-led exchange is very possible for Spring and Summer 2024
- Master in Logistics at UTB;
- Opportunity for Universidad del Magdalena's College of Education to receive curricular advising to develop Bilingual academic programs;
- Opportunity for K-State to conduct Summer STEAM Camp engagement in K-12 schools.
- Teacher Trainee Program at Universidad of Magdalena.



## » Threats

- For Colombia's the current exchange rate makes programs cost-prohibitive
- Complex Legal processes to get agreements signed for countries under travel warning
- Lack of funding



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## ➤➤ Additional Notes

- Testimonial video available below

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K15Bbky\\_XG0&ab\\_channel=%C3%89deIntriagoPalacios](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K15Bbky_XG0&ab_channel=%C3%89deIntriagoPalacios)



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## Participant Introduction

With over 15 years of experience as a higher education professional, Nicolette Dacke has found her niche for creating transformative student experiences through the experiential learning and high-impact practice of global learning.

Under her direction, the Office of Global Engagement at Texas A&M University-Kingsville has aligned its mission to more intentional and impactful practices that better serve the campus community as a designated Hispanic-Serving Institution. This has included creating more accessible programming for underrepresented students in traditional study abroad with options that offer various modalities to reduce the socioeconomic and cultural barriers for a global learning experience.

Nicolette is an alumni of Texas A&M University-Kingsville, earning her bachelors degree in communications and masters degree in adult education. In 2021, she was selected as one of five higher education professionals for the prestigious fellowship program with The Forum on Education Abroad to become a certified professional in the field of education abroad/global learning.



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## Program Overview

In September 2022, the U.S. Embassy in Bogota and the Colombia-Challenge Your Knowledge (CCYK) Network released a call for applications for their, Paving the Way US-Colombia Immersion Program, to foster study abroad mobility from U.S.

The purpose of the program was to support U.S. study abroad in Colombia by selecting three (3) study abroad professionals from U.S. Higher Education Institutions to visit local institutions in Colombia to understand the context, review the institutional capacity to host students from the U.S., and offer recommendations to help increase study abroad capacity.

The program was funded by a U.S. State Department grant from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Office of Study Abroad to support the selected study abroad representatives interests in developing and strengthening mobility from the U.S. to Colombia.

On October 4, 2022, I was informed by CCYK, Colombia Network that I was selected as one of the three representatives to participate in the program and would be visiting institutions in Antioquia and Santander region.



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## » Program Itinerary

# Antioquia and Santander Region

**Bucaramanga: October 22nd - 26th, 2022**

Universidad Industrial de Santander (UIS) Universidad Autónoma de Bucaramanga (UNAB)

- 
- 

• **Medellin: October 26th - November 3rd, 2022**

- Universidad de Medellín (UDM) Universidad CES
- Universidad EIA
- Instituto Tecnológico Metropolitano (ITM) Universidad EAFIT
- Universidad de Antioquia (UDEA)
- Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana (UPB)



## » Strengths

- Innovative degree programs that supported each institution's unique academic focus.
- Top of the line facilities to support research and the development of practical skills for all academic areas.
- Each campus's use of sustainable practices and incorporation of green spaces to create a supportive learning environment.
- The commitment to community and the various strategies each institution implemented to nurture that connection.



## » Opportunities

- Institutions with language schools to offer immersion programs in Spanish, both virtually and in-person, which are aligned to various sectors of the U.S. market.
- Expand efforts for faculty exchanges with U.S. partners and Fulbright.
- Incorporate virtual exchange programs with U.S. partners to connect U.S. and Colombian students that are outside of the classroom setting.
- Expand CCYK's promotional efforts to include the Forum on Education Abroad to reach more study abroad professionals.



## » Areas to Improve



### » Weaknesses

- Limited interactions has caused a lack of understanding for the research and grant practices of U.S. Institutions.
- Many of the institutions lacked summer semester courses which minimizes options for U.S. students to study abroad in Colombia.
- All but one institution had on-campus housing available, though some did offer other options for U.S. students studying abroad to secure.
- Little to no English options for academic courses, limiting a U.S. student's ability to participate in an exchange program.



### Threats

- U.S. Department of State's Travel Warning for Colombia dramatically restricts many U.S. institutions ability to collaborate with Colombian intuitions.
- Current exchange rates for Colombians drastically limit their abilities to participate in reciprocal exchanges.
- Most grant opportunities are very competitive and limit funding to support a one-time project, not long-term, hindering the sustainability of some collaborative efforts.



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## » Recommendations

- Universities offering services to US Institutions use the exchange rate to their benefit and not be afraid to charge more than their operating costs to create a revenue source.
- Research universities wanting to partner with U.S. partners need to evaluate their institutional standing compared to the Carnegie Foundation Classification to find appropriate partnerships.
- Create virtual exchange opportunities for both U.S. and Colombia students to engage in and help build incentives for U.S. students to study abroad in Colombia.
- Market Colombia/University/study abroad through the student perspective, i.e. "day in the life" and show the Colombian experience through the student perspective.
- CCKY to expand networking efforts to include the Forum on Education Abroad to align with more U.S. Institutions study abroad offices.

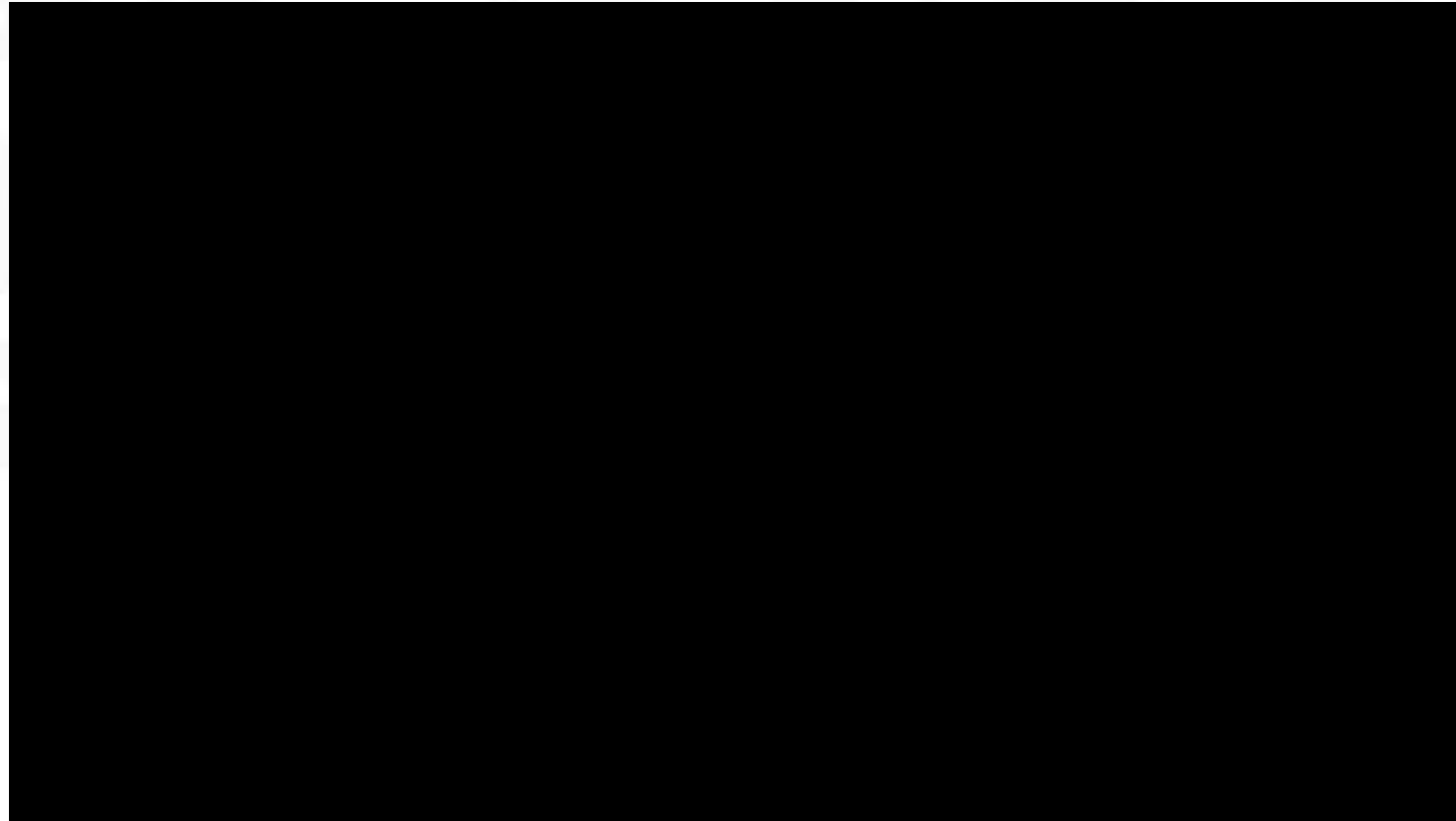


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## » Testimonial



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## ➤ I would like to thank the following individuals, who without their support, this experience would not have been possible:

Camilo I. Puerto, Secretario Técnico, CCYK

Rosalyn Wiese, Cultural Attaché, U.S. Embassy in Bogota

Diana Patiño, Senior Cultural Affairs Specialist, U. S. Embassy in Bogota

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Claudia Molina, National and International Relations Office Director, UNAB

Angelica Orozco Rojas, Director of Institutional and Corporative Relations, UDM

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Elena Gomez Ricco, Directorate of Cooperation and International Relations, ITM

Diana Marcella Nieto, Coordinator off Agreements and Academic Mobility, EAFIIT

Marcella Garcés Valderrama, Director of International Relations, UDEA

María Vanegas, Academic Cooperation Advisor, UDEA

Cristian Camillo Rodriguez Quinchia, Postgraduate Mobility Advisor, UDEA

Miguel Ángel Betancur, Director of International Relations and Interagency, UPB







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»» **Thank you for the opportunity to partake in Go Colombia Program and become a champion for strengthening U.S./Colombia collaborations!**

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## Contact

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»» **Final Report**  
**(Cali, Manizales, Pereira)**

Provided by Mr. Marcus King

**International Programs Coordinator**

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## » Strengths

- Colombian Universities we visited were very impressive with strong academic portfolios
- UAO & ICESI in particular had very impressive laboratories and research we were able to visit.
- Students were observed to be very hands-on.
- Industry partners and internship opportunities for students with companies like CELSIA are a plus
- Currency exchange rates are favorable to the USD, which makes Colombia an affordable destination for HBCU students.
- Excellent in-country collaboration and support offered through CCYK and their partner institutions



## » Opportunities

- Short-term faculty-led exchange is very possible for Spring and Summer 2024
- COIL programs are possible in the meantime.
- Spanish - Language immersion programs in-person and virtually are of interest.
- Grant projects such as 100K in America's Cacao for Peace Innovation Fund – San Buenaventura
- ICESI/PVAMU – Biology Collaboration
- Teacher Trainee Program at Universidad de Manizales
- PVAMU professor Dr. Justin Bryant proposal for advancing global competence, collaboration, and research to improve educational quality for all.
- PVAMU African-American Studies collaboration with Juan Pablo from Uniclairetiana.
- UAO project with Freddy Vasquez on Journalism, Communication, Audiovisual Communication and Digital Narratives.



## »» Weaknesses

- English/Spanish language barriers will have to be overcome.
- Difficult process for Colombians to get U.S. VISA
- No on-campus housing options at Universities
- International offices in Colombia and America are small and sometimes over-extended and lacking capacity.



## »» Threats

- COVID restrictions
- U.S. Dept of State travel warnings
- Rising cost of flights
- Time – the clock is always ticking!





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## ➤➤ Additional Notes:

- I hosted the NAFSA HBCU Forum in Mid-November and had a chance to present my experience in Colombia with other HBCU members. The link to the full recorded presentation is below. Colombia slides start at 41 minutes 40 seconds.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcUOS5HTbTw&t=559s>

- I am in the process of developing an HBCU directory of contacts.
- I am open to participating in a webinar in 2023 with the US Embassy.
- Testimonial video available below

<https://youtu.be/IYtKdBcmu8w>



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