

INFOCARD ELANBiz

Education Services including Post Graduate Studies in Peru¹

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The purpose of this infocard is to provide an overview of Education Services including Post Graduate Studies in Peru

Introduction

The Peruvian University system has expanded during the last years (2015-2019), reflecting the increase in demand and supply of higher education.²

The Peruvian State introduced the “University Reform” in 2014³ through Law N° 30220 (the “[University Law](#)”)⁴ passed in July of the same year. The University Reform allows students to receive **quality education with basic standards, trained and continually re-trained professors**, as well as system of information, both swift and accesible, to allow for adequate decision making.

In addition, the **free trade agreement between the EU, Peru and Colombia**, applicable on a provisional basis since 1 March 2013 and was joined by Ecuador in 2016 (hereinafter the “Agreement”), has established the necessary provisions for the progressive liberalization of education services including the right of establishment as well as facilitating the temporary presence of providers of education services.⁵ These obligations require Peru to have a predictable legal framework for the recognition and validation of qualifications in higher education.

On the other hand, it is common for Peruvian students to travel abroad to obtain their postgraduate degrees which presents **a market opportunity for universities who wish to export their education services to Peru** or recruit Peruvian students for their institutes in Europe. The task is made easier by the short-stay visa waiver agreement between Peru and the European Union, signed on 14 March 2016.⁶ In addition, thanks to the “**Erasmus+**” program, Peruvian students have been able to benefit from scholarships to study at European universities.⁷ **Erasmus+** is a mobility program that benefits graduate and post graduate students (Masters and Doctorate degrees) as well as administrative

¹ The information contained in this infocard is only general. For more detailed info and commercial promotion events, as well as possible business contacts, please contact the Commercial Offices of the Member States and the bilateral Chambers in Lima.

² https://www.britishcouncil.pe/sites/default/files/la_reforma_del_sistema_universitario_peruano_-_internacionalizacion_avance_retos_y_oportunidades.pdf

³ <http://www.minedu.gob.pe/reforma-universitaria/>

⁴ http://www.minedu.gob.pe/reforma-universitaria/pdf/ley_universitaria.pdf

⁵ See [Agreement](#), Title IV: Trade in Services, Establishment and Electronic Commerce and Annexes: VII, VIII y IX.

⁶ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/03/14/eu-peru-visa-waiver/>

⁷ <https://andina.pe/agencia/noticia-peruanos-estudiaran-mejores-universidades-europa-gracias-a-beca-erasmus-762898.aspx>

personnel and university professors. In fact, a significant number of universities in Peru have allowed their students to benefit from the internal credit mobility program thanks to the bilateral agreements between Peruvian and European universities whereby students have the possibility to study for 6 -12 months at European universities with all expenses paid.

The **Erasmus Mundus** program allows students to undertake post graduate courses in several European universities. Through this program European universities form a consortium and provide Masters' degrees in common.⁸ This post graduate scholarship program targets Masters' students from all over the world provided they pass the selection process allowing them to study for their Masters' degrees in up to four EU countries.

Description of the sector

According to the magazine "*América Economía*",⁹ in 2019, Peruvian universities displayed **an improvement in the quality** of their professors and research, owing to the requirements established by the University Law. Nevertheless, in comparison to countries such as Chile or Mexico, Peru still maintains a gap in research capacity and internationalization.

The following universities rank among the top 10 in Peru according to the 2019 Ranking of the best universities in Peru:

1. Pontificate Catholic University of Peru (*PUCP*)
2. Cayetano Heredia University (*UCH*)
3. Pacific University (*UP*)
4. National Agrarian University La Molina (*UNAM*)
5. Peruvian University of Applied Sciences (*UPC*)
6. National Engineering University (*UNI*)
7. Piura University (*UDEP*)
8. San Ignacio de Loyola University (*USIL*)
9. Continental University of Huancayo (*UC*)
10. Catholic University of San Pablo in Arequipa (*UCSP*)

In 2020, the biggest international network of higher education institutions (including Laureate International Universities, owner of the Peruvian University of Applied Sciences – *UPC*; the Private North University – *UPN*; and the Cibertec institute) announced that they would evaluate potential options for their business such as sales, spin offs and business mergers. This measures will be adopted in order to pay their debt and reimburse capital to their shareholders. This sale would significantly affect the merger and acquisition market, highlighting the investments funds of The Carlyle Group, Advent International and *Enfoca*, which could potentially create significant opportunities for European

⁸ https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/opportunities/individuals/students/erasmus-mundus-joint-master-degrees_en

⁹ <https://mba.americaeconomia.com/articulos/notas/conozca-los-resultados-de-ranking-de-las-mejores-universidades-de-peru-2019>

providers of education.¹⁰

National Superintendence of Higher University Education (Sunedu)¹¹

The SUNEDU was created within the framework of the [University Law](#) as an entity affiliated to the Ministry of Education. This institution is in charge of **licensing** and **oversight** of the higher education sector as well as **oversight of the use and expenditure of public resources** and benefits granted to universities for education and quality improvement purposes.

The **licensing and accreditation** of universities **are two different processes** managed by the SUNEDU and the National System of Evaluation, Accreditation and Certification of Educational Quality (SINEACE), respectively.¹² While **licensing is mandatory** for any university that provides higher education services in Peru - obtained upon **fulfilling basic quality conditions** established by the SUNEDU,¹³ **accreditation is optional** for universities that wish to differentiate themselves from others. The process verifies quality standards of the specializations at universities.

There are only 78 career choices and 136 graduate and post graduate university study programs in Lima accredited by SINEACE.¹⁴

In addition to the licensing and accreditation of academic institutions, SUNEDU is tasked with establishing the technical criteria for the **recognition** of qualifications and **revalidation** of studies, degrees and titles obtained by graduates in other countries.

Procedures for the recognition and revalidation of degrees and titles¹⁵

Peru has established two procedures for granting value to diplomas issued abroad: **recognition and revalidation or standardization**. In addition, interested parties are required to contact their corresponding professional association to obtain the necessary licensing to exercise their profession. Relevant provisions of the Agreement including its Annex of Commitments on Establishment (Annex VII, Section C), Cross-border Supply of Services (Annex VIII, Section C), and Reservations regarding Temporary Presence of Natural Persons for Business Purposes (Annex IX, Appendixes I and II, Section C in both cases) stipulate that:

“In order to provide professional services in Peru, diplomas which have been obtained abroad must be recognised by the competent authority in Peru. Residence in Peru is required, with no nationality discrimination, for the recognition of diplomas. Moreover, in some professions it is required to be an active member of the relevant professional body in order to practice the profession”.

¹⁰ <https://elcomercio.pe/economia/dia-1/laureate-fondos-de-inversion-tambien-pujan-por-su-compra-laureate-upc-upn-cibertec-enfoca-safi-noticia/>

¹¹ www.sunedu.gob.pe

¹² www.sineace.gob.pe

¹³ See list of universities accredited by SUNEDU: <https://www.sunedu.gob.pe/lista-de-universidades-licenciadas/>

¹⁴ <https://www.sineace.gob.pe/estas-son-las-78-carreras-universitarias-acreditadas-por-el-sineace-en-lima/>.

¹⁵ Chapter VII of the Resolution of the Board of Directors N° 009-2015-SUNEDU/CD “Rules of Procedure of the National Registry of Degrees and Titles”.

Recognition of degrees and titles

By means of **recognition**, the Peruvian State, through SUNEDU, recognizes academic degrees and titles issued by universities or academic institutions of the same rank **abroad**, at the request of Peruvian or foreign citizens. The recognition grants **official value** to the degrees and/or titles obtained abroad, which are registered at the **National Registry of Degrees and Titles**.

Recognition of diplomas is granted alongside the Honorable Mentions on it without establishing equivalence between it and a national degree or title. SUNEDU recognizes **academic degrees** (bachelor, master and doctorate), **professional and specialist titles**, so long as the studies were carried out in countries that have outstanding treaties with Peru, including the recognition of higher education at the university level.¹⁶

The requirements for obtaining recognition of qualifications and deadlines for applications are available on the following link: <https://www.sunedu.gob.pe/procedimiento-de-reconocimiento-de-grados-y-titulos-extranjeros/>

Procedure for the revalidation or standardization of degrees and titles

Through the **revalidation process or standardization**, **Peruvian universities accredited by SUNEDU** grant validity to academic degrees and professional titles issued by universities or institutions of similar rank **abroad** at the request of Peruvian or foreign citizens.

As opposed to **recognition**, **revalidation** of degrees takes place when the degree or title was issued in a country that does not have an outstanding International Agreement with Peru on the matter.

The procedure, requirements and fees for revalidation and standardization are currently determined by the accredited university. Upon approval, the resolution of the University revalidating the degree is written on the back of the original title.

Authorized universities to validate academic degrees and professional titles issued abroad are listed in the following link: <https://www.sunedu.gob.pe/universidades-nacionales-autorizadas-para-revalidar-diplomas-de-grados-academicos-y-titulos-profesionales-del-extranjero/>

Professional Associations/Bodies

Professional associations are recognized in the constitution¹⁷ and are defined as autonomous institutions subject to Public Law. Association in professional associations/bodies is mandatory if established in a special law. The professional association must be contacted to ascertain whether the applicant requires **revalidation** or **recognition** for their professional titles.

¹⁶ The entire list of countries with which Peru has signed treaties, which include the recognition of university studies, can be found in the following link: <https://www.sunedu.gob.pe/procedimiento-de-reconocimiento-de-grados-y-titulos-extranjeros/>

¹⁷ Professional Associations

Article 20.- Professional associations are autonomous institutions with public personhood. The law establishes the cases in which association to these entities is mandatory.



In the case of engineers, for example, as established by [Law N° 28858](#) and its [Rules of Procedure](#), all professionals who perform labor on their own account or teach engineering require an **academic degree and professional title** issued by a national university or a foreign university, **duly revalidated in Peru**. Likewise, they will need to be associated with a professional association and be enabled by **the [Professional Association of Engineers in Peru to practice their profession](#)**. It is expressly established that professional engineers, **including foreign engineers** who act in professional capacity, whether in a dependent or independent fashion or through temporary services must be associated with a professional association; in accordance with Article 18 of the Rules of Procedure for Association to the Professional Association of Engineers in Peru.¹⁸

In the case of the Kingdom of Spain, Peru passed the [“Rules of procedure for the recognition of Unique Titles granted by the Kingdom of Spain”](#). As stipulated in Article 1 of these Rules of Procedure, the purpose is to “regulate the recognition of unique titles issued by universities or institutions of university rank in the Kingdom of Spain within the framework of the Free Trade Agreement between Peru and the European Union”. These Rules of Procedure establish the technical criteria for the recognition or the validation of titles obtained from Spanish universities.

Main fairs of relevance to the sector

- **EXPOUNIVERSIDAD 2020:** Jockey Exposition Center – Santiago de Surco, Lima, 03 - 06 June. <https://expouniversidad.pe/>
- **ACCESS MBA - LIMA 2020** organized by Advent Group. 02 March, 2020 <https://www.accessmba.com/events/city/lima-es>

Useful Links

- **Free Trade Agreement Peru – EU**
http://www.acuerdoscomerciales.gob.pe/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=52&Itemid=75
- **Ministry of Education (MINEDU)**
<http://www.minedu.gob.pe/>
- **National System of Evaluation, Accreditation and Certification of Educational Quality (Sineace)**
<https://www.sineace.gob.pe/>
- **SUNEDU’s System of University Information**
<https://www.tuni.pe/>
- **National Superintendence of Higher University Education (Sunedu)**
<https://www.sunedu.gob.pe/>

¹⁸ http://www.cip.org.pe/publicaciones/reglamentosCNCD2018/reglamento_de_colegacion_del_cip.pdf

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