### BENEMÉRITA UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE PUEBLA



# HIGH SCHOOL INTERNATIONALISATION AT BUAP

## Students Exchange Project with US Highschools

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A Project that proposes the internationalization of high schools at BUAP through an exchange program with US high school institutions or counterparts.

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#### **BUAP'S HIGH SCHOOL INTERNATIONALISATION**

There is no need to wait that students attend university in order to build a culture of internationalization and even less to provide the necessary skills to students from high school, so that they face the challenges of a society of knowledge and information.

#### INTRODUCTION

BUAP's internationalization movement has been increasing significantly under Alfonso Esparza Ortíz Term, taking into account the globalization and the internationalization processes as necessary to build a knowledge and information society. Thus, the internationalization of the academic processes cannot wait until students enter a bachelor degree program; rather it should start at high school level, so that students gain the necessary skills, to strengthen their individual and personal conditions, to meet present and future challenges.

According to the Institutional Development Plan 2013-2017 in the analysis made of the necessary changes that our university has to undertake; it was established that internationalization is a process that will allow positioning the university through the international certification of educational programs, partnership agreements with the best universities of the world, research networks, students and teachers mobility, among others. To achieve this, it is necessary to establish the basis for the development of a culture of internationalization at high school level; taking advantage of globalization, technology and the knowledge of different foreign languages.

To achieve this, we propose to start with the implementation of an exchange programme with US High Schools. The International Development Office will help us to achieve this, first of all to contact possible partners with institutions equivalent to ours.

The implementation of an exchange programme with High Schools in the United States, will lay a path of better options for our students.

#### **GENERAL OBJECTIVE**

To generate an international culture in both, students and teachers, in order to take advantage of technological tools and language knowledge to prepare them for the environment of a society of knowledge and information by exchanging them with American High School institutions or equivalent counterparts.

#### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

- 1. To strengthen English language teaching in all BUAP high schools;
- 2. To train teachers to teach curricular learning units from the current curricular map in English; that is to train second and third year teachers from other curricular learning units as biology, mathematics, arts, literature, etc., in learning English to be able to teach them in English;
- 3. To link BUAP with similar institutions and sign the necessary collaborative agreements.
- 4. To translate the studies plan to English, with the collaboration of the Faculty of Languages.
- 5. To present the project to the Teaching Council, and obtain the corresponding authorizations to implement it.
- 6. To contribute to the process of international sections of the plan 06 by competences.

#### **IMPACT**

It is intended to make an impact in all academic units, particularly in those students who wish to improve their command of English and to become part of any career which involves the use of other languages.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The development process of a society of knowledge and information rests on broad and far-reaching processes such as globalization and internationalization where Universities play a major role due to their substantive role is the generation of universal knowledge.

Thus, the high school system facing the challenges of the processes that lead to a society of knowledge and information will answer the call of institutional planning and aims to give students the skills and conditions which will enable them to acquire this culture of internationalization, so that it is not longer delayed.

According to 06 Plan by competences, an international bi-multilingual section is an academic group taking two foreign languages as an obligatory requirement, English and French in BUAP's high school case, with five curricular hours, four theoretical hours and a practice that totals nine credits.

Those sections will be available in all BUAP high schools starting with the application of a diagnosis test to all new students to determine their foreign language learning skills. This way, students can join voluntarily those sections and will take both language courses (English and French).

It must be also noted that today, French is taught as "suplementary" to English in four BUAP high schools, but is not considered as a curricular learning unit; therefore, teachers do not grade it directly. It will soon be part of the curriculum.

For the exchange programme, it is proposed that the current studies plan be translated in English and French and. Students who will come to our High Schools as exchange students during a term or an academic year, will have the opportunity to take the courses in English and French they could also opt to take the classes in Spanish.

High school student form BUAP, will spend a term or an academic year abroad. We expect to sign agreement that will also allow teachers to spend a term teaching abroad.

At the end of the exchange, it will be expected that both the students and the teachers will have the international experience and that this will have an impact.

#### **BASIS AND GUIDELINES**

This Project is based on 06 Plan by competences approved on April 26<sup>th</sup> of 2012 by the Teaching Board Ordinary Session. This plan contains the annex entitled bi-lingual international sections.

Likewise, it is in agreement with the PDI 2013-2017 according to the fundamental changes that must take place at the BUAP, as well as in the Program III named Positioning, Visibility and International quality, which aims:

"To place the University internationally, through international accreditation of educational programs of high school level, the consolidation and the expansion of networks of academic cooperation with the best universities in the world, the international mobility of students and teachers, as well as the significant presence of researchers, teachers and students in magazines, conferences and scientific research groups with global impact." (BUAP, 2013, p. 93)

Similarly, the outlined goals in the programs are:

- To implement an international program that will help to increase in 30% the teachers and students mobility at all university levels by the implementation of an institutional program for students and teachers that will allow them to have courses for the acquisition of a second and third language and to be able to certificate their English knowledge supported by the Faculty of Languages of the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla.
- To expand training programs for teachers and students to achieve the mastering of a second
  and third language, to support the incorporation of English taught subjects in the educational
  programs of the institution and during mobility.

Thus, the implementation of the bi-lingual international sections will fulfill the objectives and goals proposed by the PDI 2013-2017 for BUAP and its high schools.

#### **AUXILIARY PROCEDURES**

- 1. To keep and countersign the cooperation Agreement with the necessary institutions
- 2. To translate the current studies plan
- 3. To establish along with the *Vicerrectoría de Docencia*, the joint administrative work with the International Development Office, the legal office of the university implement the international bi-multilingual sections at high school level.
- 4. To propose the selection criteria of the students that will participate in the exchange programme with US high schools.
- 5. To celebrate in each high school institution the internationalization week;
- 6. To generate the training programme of teachers in a second languages (French and English).

#### **RESOURCES**

In order to fulfill the international sections implementation, it is required the hiring of English teachers and the training of teachers to teach in English or French, consequently the Agreement with the American embassy will be kept to English-speaking classes and with other institutions as the Trinity College of London for English classes; therefore, the training cost raises to \$ 150,000.00, -One hundred fifty thousand pesos, zero cents in national currency.