

Higher Education System in Nicaragua

Stages of Study:

Grados (graduate degrees) and Postgrados (Specialist, Master and Doctor)

University level first stage: Licenciatura

The Licenciatura is awarded after four to six years' study, depending on the subject. A professional qualification is awarded after studies lasting five years in Engineering (Ingeniero) and Architecture (Arquitecto) and six years in Medicine (Doctor).

University level second stage: Maestría, Especialización

A Maestría is conferred after studies lasting for one to two years after the Licenciatura. Students must present a thesis. There are also postgraduate courses in various specialities in Medicine, Health Sciences, Law, Psychology, Education, Economics and Social Sciences.

University level third stage: Doctorado

A Doctorado is conferred after studies lasting for two to three years after the Maestría or graduate degree. Students must present a thesis. There are also doctoral research courses in various specialities including Business Administration, Education, Law, Psychology and Health Sciences.

Nicaraguan Higher Education Legal Framework /Marco Legal de la Educacion Superior de Nicaragua

Quotation from Political Constitution of Nicaragua:

Article 125

"Universities and Higher Technical Education Centers enjoy academic, financial, organizational and administrative autonomy, in accordance with the law.

They shall be exempt from all taxation and tax contributions, regional and municipal. Their assets and income shall not be subject to intervention, expropriation or seizure, unless the obligation is asserted, has its origin in civil contracts, commercial or labour.

Teachers, students and administrative workers are involved in university management.

Universities and Higher Technical Education Centres which by law must be funded by the state, will receive an annual contribution of 6% of the general budget of the Republic, which will be distributed in accordance with the law. The State may grant additional contributions for extraordinary expenses of such universities and centres of higher technical education.

It guarantees academic freedom. The State promotes and protects the free creation, research and dissemination of science, technology, arts and letters, and ensures and protects intellectual property. "

Quotations from the Law No. 89 on the Autonomy of Institutions of Higher Education^[1]

Article 7. Universities and Higher Technical Education Centres legally constituted have legal personality. Consequently, they enjoy full capacity to acquire, manage, hold and dispose of property and rights of every kind; issuing academic and professional qualifications and incur obligations in connection with its purposes and shall be governed by this Act and its own Regulations and Statutes. The state will finance all Universities and Higher Technical Education, included in this Act.

Article 8. The Universities and Higher Technical Education in the country shall enjoy academic, financial, organizational and administrative autonomy understood as follows: 1. Teaching or academic autonomy: it implies that it alone can appoint and dismiss teachers and academic staff, through the procedures and requirements of the laws themselves, select their students, by evidence and necessary conditions to develop and approve plans and programs of study and research, etc. (...)

Article 9. Autonomy gives also the power to: 1. Enjoy its own assets. 2. Issue certificates of study, graduate letters, certificates, diplomas, academic degrees and titles and equivalency of studies conducted in other universities and higher education institutions, domestic or foreign. State universities have the authority to recognize academic degrees and diplomas and university diplomas issued abroad. 3. Authorize professional practice except advocacy and notary, which by

law is the responsibility of the Supreme Court. 4. The inviolability of the university premises and campuses. The police can only enter them with written authorization from the competent university authorities. 5. Approve their statutes and regulations.

Article 10. Universities and Higher Technical Education Centres will maintain and develop relationships with academic, scientific and cultural institutions based inside or outside the country.

Article 11. Academic freedom is a fundamental principle of higher education in Nicaragua.

Article 12. Universities and private Higher Technical Education Centres shall have all such powers and authorities designate, as provided by its own statutes and regulations.

Quotations from the General Law of Education No. 582^[2]

Higher education subsystem

Article 48: The Higher Education Subsystem is the second stage of the education system that consolidates the integral formation of persons, produces knowledge, develops research and innovation and trains professionals in the highest level of expertise and development in all fields of knowledge, art, culture, science and technology to meet the demands of society, ethnic community and contribute to the development and sustainability of the country.

University institutions are governed by Law 89 on Autonomy of Institutions of Higher Education.

Article 82: The Centres or Institute for Studies and Research, will meet the needs of professional, scientific, social and economic interest of the nation, not intended to substitute in any case those colleges or universities, which according to current regulations also have the right to award titles themselves, studies of the Centres or Institutes for Studies and Research will include updating studies, postgraduate, specialization, master's or doctoral degrees, certificates whose diplomas, specialist, master's and doctoral enjoy full legal recognition nationally and internationally.

Quotations from the Law No. 704 on Quality Assurance in Education^[3]

Section 6 Definitions.

For the purposes of this Act the following definitions: (...)

10. Institution of higher education: Entity legally established in the country, which aims to generate, disseminate and apply knowledge through teaching, research, and extension, authorized to grant academic or professional degrees (...)

13. Academic Programs: Educational offers oriented on granting academic or professional degrees at the levels of higher technical degree, licenciatura or engineer, specialist, doctor and others which qualify for the practice of a profession, (...)

^[1] Ley No. 89 Ley de Autonomía de las Instituciones de Educación Superior, published in the Official Journal on April 20, 1990

^[2] Ley General de Educación, Ley 582 de 2006

^[3] Ley No. 704, LAW ON CREATION OF THE NATIONAL SYSTEM FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE OF EDUCATION AND REGULATING THE COUNCIL OF NATIONAL EVALUATION AND ACCREDITATION - Law No. 704

Nicaraguan System of Higher Education

