



GOBIERNO DE CHILE
MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES



TAFEDirectors
AUSTRALIA

**Agreement on Cooperation in
Human Capital (Skills)
Development**

between

The Government of the Republic of Chile

and

TAFE Directors Australia



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CHILE- TAFE Directors Australia Memorandum of Understanding on Vocational Education and Training and Skills Development

GENERAL STATEMENTS

TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) is the national peak body representing Australia's 57 Technical and Further Education (TAFE) and technology institutes. TDA represents the interests of its members in domestic and international engagement.

The Government of the Republic of Chile as represented by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Alejandro Foxley is responsible for the implementation of this agreement through its various Ministries, offices and the Bicentennial Committee for Human Capital Development.

An Australia – Chile Free Trade Agreement (FTA) will be signed in July 2008 for mutual implementation from 1 January 2009. This FTA includes a chapter on cooperation that states both countries agree to establish a framework for cooperative activities as a means to expand and enhance the benefits of the FTA.

Further, The Australian Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and the Chilean Ministry of Education are signatories to a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of education and training. This agreement, signed in April 2004 outlines the intent of both parties to encourage and facilitate the development of contacts and cooperation between government agencies, educational institutions and other bodies for the conduct of cooperative activities.

In line with the Free Trade Agreement and government to government Memorandum, the Government of the Republic of Chile and TAFE Directors Australia (hereinafter referred to as "the Parties"), wish to enhance cooperation between their two countries under the Chilean Bicentennial Fund in the interests of the higher education in both countries.

Acknowledging friendships and excellent bilateral relations;

Recognising a long standing relationship between governments in Chile and Australia and the need to strengthen cooperation under the Chilean Bicentennial Fund for human capital development;

Considering this agreement complements the existing government to government agreements on cooperation between both countries; the Parties

Agree the following:

Article I

PURPOSE



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- 1.1 In response to the Government of Chile's desire to increase access and promote equal opportunities to Chilean students to undertake skills development and vocational education and training in Australia, the parties hereby establish an agreement to support the placement of scholarship students.
- 1.2 This agreement complements the Free Trade Agreement and government-to-government agreement on cooperation in the field of education between Chile and Australia.
- 1.3 Australian TAFE institutes are invited to negotiate individual agreements with the Chilean government through its representatives in Australia. These individual agreements will form annexes to this Agreement.
- 1.4 The program will emphasise Chile's needs to strengthen human capital development and improve the scope and quality of vocational education and training, in areas associated with its socio-economic development in order to improve its global competitiveness.

Article II

FIELDS OF COOPERATION

- 2.1 The Cooperation between the Parties will involve scholarships and exchange using the following instruments:

INSTRUMENTS	BENEFICIARIES	TIMING
English Language Proficiency course in Chile	Students enrolled in Certificate and Specialisation Programs	Up to eight (8) Months, according to student's needs
English Language Proficiency course in Australia	Students enrolled in Certificate and Specialisation Programs	Up to six (6) Months, according to student's needs
Certificate and specialisation at vocational level	Vocational graduates	One (1) Year

- 2.2 Priority fields of study for Chilean scholarship recipients and other joint initiatives could include among others: Mining, Agriculture and Food Industry, Aquaculture and Fishing, Tourism and Hospitality, Logistics, Biotechnology, Information and Communication Technologies, Energy, Environmental Issues, Health, Education, Housing and Public Security.
- 2.3 Further fields of cooperation may be added by mutual consent of the Parties.



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Article III

CHILEAN BICENTENNIAL FUND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

3.1 The Chilean Government has created the Bicentennial Fund to improve the quality of higher education. In response to the Government of Chile's desire to increase access and promote equal opportunities to Chilean students to advanced degree studies in Australia, the Parties hereby establish a scholarship program, known as the "CHILE- TAFE DIRECTORS AUSTRALIA Agreement on Cooperation in Human Capital Development", (hereinafter the "Program").

3.2 The program will grant up to 400 scholarships to Australia per year.

3.3 Under the Bicentennial Fund Scholarships, the Government of Chile will:

- (a) Determine annually, in collaboration with the steering committee, and after the selection process, the number of scholarships to be awarded during the following academic year.
- (b) Cover living expenses for scholarship holders while enrolled in Australia
- (c) Fund tuition and fees for scholarship holders towards the cost of their TAFE tuition-
- (d) Provide roundtrip air ticket (economy) from Chile to the corresponding destination(s) in Australia.
- (e) Fund English language training courses in Chile for those who do not meet the language entrance requirements established by each Australian TAFE.
- (f) Provide up to six months allowances for living expenses for scholarship holders in need of full time English language proficiency courses in Australia.
- (g) Cover administrative costs incurred for selection, data processing, supervision and monitoring of participants.
- (h) Cover additional expenses of the selected grantees and/or their dependents that the Government of Chile might deem necessary.

3.4 TAFE Directors Australia through the Steering Committee and its member TAFE institute's shall:

- (a) Determine each year, in collaboration with the Bicentennial Committee for Human Capital Development, and after the selection process, the number of grants to be awarded during the following academic year.
- (b) Work with the Australian Government to provide access to accurate information on study permits/visas to the participants and dependents for



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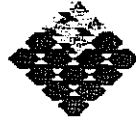


- entry into Australia, subject to Australia laws and regulations, covering the duration of the program of study.
- (c) Work with member institutes to develop a quality vocational education and training programs that meet the needs of the Government and industry of Chile.
 - (d) Supply guidance as needed (in partnership with member institutes) to participants to make their applications to Australian TAFE appropriate to each participant's needs.
 - (e) Seek support from member TAFE institutes to include in their individual annex agreements to offer best rate for health insurance cover for participants and their dependents, in accordance with Australia requirements, laws and regulations.
 - (f) Seek support from member TAFE institutes to include in their individual annex agreements competitive rate of tuition English language proficiency courses in Australia for scholarship recipients (for a maximum of six months) who may need training to improve their proficiency prior to beginning their academic programs.
 - (g) Seek support from member TAFE institutes to offer the vocational and skills training tuition at a competitive rate for scholarship recipients.
 - (h) Seek support from member TAFE institutes to include in their individual annex agreements a commitment to supervision and monitoring of participants, including academic progress, visa compliance and emergencies.

Article IV

IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 The Parties will implement this agreement via a Steering Committee that will convene periodically in order to evaluate and serve as an advisory body with regard to the implementation of this Agreement. Membership of the Steering Committee will be determined by the Parties but should at a minimum include: one representative of the Ministers of Education of Chile; the CEO TAFE Directors Australia and the Executive Officer of Chilean Bicentennial Committee for Human Capital Development; representatives of the Chilean Scholarship Program Agencies; a representative of the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and representatives of Australian TAFE.
- 4.2 Meetings of the Steering Group shall be held in Australia or Chile as required.
- 4.3 TAFE Directors Australia shall assist the Steering Committee in the following:
- Identify the best programs in accordance with Chilean requirements;
 - Support information dissemination activities related to the Program; and
 - Assist in participant recruitment, screening, selection, placement and enrolment.



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Article V

DURATION AND VALIDITY

- 5.1 This agreement shall be valid for 5 years from the date of signing, and after the expiry of that time, unless otherwise arranged between the Parties, it will come into effect for another period of five years. Amendments to the agreement shall come into effect after the Parties have agreed in writing.
- 5.2 This agreement has been drawn up in English and Spanish. Both texts are equally valid.

Mr Alejandro Foxley
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Chile

29 July 2008

Mrs Deb Daly
Chair
TAFE Directors Australia

29 July 2008