

2026-2 APPLICATION GUIDELINES BECA COLOMBIA PROGRAM FOR FOREIGNERS 2026-2

❖ CALL STATUS AND SCHEDULE:

ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE	DATE
Call Status		Open
Opening of the 2026-2 call	ICETEX	From March 25th 2026
Closing of the 2026-2 call	ICETEX	Until 5:00 p.m. (GMT-5) on June 5 th 2026
Evaluation and selection of applicants	ICETEX	From June 6th to June 17 th , 2026
Publication of results on the ICETEX website	ICETEX	June 18th 2026
Email notification to selected applicants	ICETEX	June 19th 2026
Submission of scholarship acceptance letter by selected applicants	SCHOLAR	From June 20th to June 21st, 2026, 11:59 p.m. (GMT-5)
Beginning of studies in Colombia	SCHOLAR	According to academic program

NOTE 1: This schedule may be modified. Any update will be published in the official call on the ICETEX website.

NOTE 2: All dates and times correspond to GMT-5 (Colombia time). Documents must be uploaded to the ICETEX platform no later than 5:00 p.m. (Colombia time). Documents not uploaded to the platform will not be considered.

❖GENERAL:

Country	Colombia
City	Different cities throughout the national territory (according to the Academic Offer Catalog 2026-2)
Field of study	Various fields of Knowledge (according to the programs included in the 2026-2 Academic Offer Catalog)
Offered by	ICETEX in coordination with Colombian public and private Higher Education Institutions
Host Institutions	Colombian Higher Education Institutions included in the 2026-2 Academic Offer Catalog
Program duration	Spanish Courses: Up to 6 months Specializations programs: Up to 12 months Masters: Up to 24 months
Program start date	Second semester of 2026
Program end date	According to the academic program duration
Language	Mainly Spanish
Study modality	In-person Virtual

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Degree awarded	Official Specialization or Master's degree granted by the corresponding Colombian Higher Education Institution
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❖ DESCRIPTION OF THE CALL

This program offers foreign citizens the opportunity to strengthen their academic training through culture, knowledge, and technology, fostering the creation and consolidation of social networks that promote interactions between foreigners, nationals higher education institutions, cooperants and other allies.

Through this call, up to 70 scholarships will be awarded and two types of postulations will be offered:

- For foreign citizens who wish to pursue postgraduate studies (specialization or master's degree) at Colombian public or private Higher Education Institutions included in the **2026-2 ACADEMIC OFFER CATALOGUE**, published along with this call.
- For foreign citizens from non-Spanish-speaking countries who wish to pursue specialization or master's degree studies at Colombian public or private Higher Education Institutions and who require Spanish language training prior to starting their postgraduate program, in accordance with the **2026-2 ACADEMIC OFFER CATALOGUE**, published along with this call.

***Note 1:** In order to be selected for a Spanish language course, the applicant must have a definitive admission letter to one of the specialization or master's programs included in the **2026-2 Academic Offer Catalogue**. Once the Spanish course is completed, the scholarship holder must begin the postgraduate program. Likewise, the scholarship holder agrees to prioritize the selection of programs offered by the Higher Education Institution where the Spanish course is undertaken.

***Note 2:** In order to promote geographical diversity and maintain balance in the allocation of scholarships, ICETEX may establish a maximum number of beneficiaries per country. For the present call, a maximum of five (5) scholarships per country of origin may be granted. However, ICETEX reserves the right to award a lower number of scholarships per country, taking into account institutional criteria, budget availability, compliance with requirements, and the overall evaluation of applications within the framework of the call.

❖ APPLICANT PROFILE

The scholarships are intended for foreign citizens who meet the following conditions:

1. **Age:** The applicant must be over 18 years of age and under 50 years of age at the time of the closing of the call. This requirement is strict and does not admit exceptions.

To verify compliance with this requirement, the applicant's date of birth will be compared with the closing date of the call.

2. **Definitive admission to a university:** Applicants must have a final admission letter to at least one (1) and up to three (3) postgraduate programs included in the **2026-2 Academic Offer Catalogue**, attached to this call.

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3. **Nationality and residence:** The applicant must be a foreign citizen and must not hold Colombian nationality under any circumstance, including cases of dual nationality. The applicant must not be residing in Colombia, nor have resided in the country during the six (6) months immediately prior to the application, and must not have started studies in Colombia at the time of applying to the call.
4. **Previous beneficiary status:** The applicant must not have previously been a beneficiary of ICETEX through the Beca Colombia Program in previous calls.
5. **Marital status in Colombia:** The applicant must not have a marital relationship or de facto union with a Colombian citizen at the time of application.
6. **Academic background and performance:** The applicant must hold a professional undergraduate degree (Bachelor's degree or equivalent) in any field of knowledge and must certify a minimum cumulative GPA of 4.0 out of 5.0 at the undergraduate level, or its equivalent according to the Colombian grading scale based on the grading system of the country of origin. Grades obtained in postgraduate studies will not be valid for the purpose of meeting this requirement.
7. **Health condition:** The applicant must certify good physical and mental health through a medical certificate issued by a licensed general physician.

❖ **FUNDING:**

Number of Scholarships	Percentage
Up to 70 Scholarships	100 % of tuition fees

Benefits covered by the program	
Scholarship Benefits	Description
Tuition	Full tuition coverage will be granted by the Colombian Higher Education Institution, only for academic programs included in the 2026-2 Academic Offer Catalogue published with this call.
Health insurance allowance / medical coverage support	The program provides financial support for medical and hospital assistance for the scholarship holder during the period of study in Colombia. This benefit applies exclusively to the scholarship holder and does not extend to family members. Costs related to medications, copayments, or other medical expenses must be covered by the scholarship holder and are not considered unforeseen expenses. Note: If ICETEX does not have budget availability to provide the health insurance allowance, the scholarship holder must obtain, at their own expense, a valid health insurance policy in Colombia covering the required risks for the entire duration of their stay.
Courtesy Visa	ICETEX will provide each scholarship holder with a letter to request the Courtesy Visa type "V", issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia for the duration of the academic program. This benefit applies exclusively to the scholarship holder. If family members

	<p>require a visa, they must complete the process independently in accordance with Colombian immigration regulations.</p>
<p>Monthly stipend / living allowance</p>	<p>ICETEX will provide each scholarship holder with a monthly living allowance equivalent to two (2) Colombian legal minimum monthly wages (SMLMV), updated annually according to the adjustment approved by the Ministry of Labor of Colombia. This allowance will only be granted to scholarship holders who are physically present in Colombia and enrolled in in-person academic programs. Payments will be made on a quarterly basis in arrears.</p>
<p>Foreigner ID allowance (Cédula de Extranjería)</p>	<p>The scholarship holder will receive a one-time financial support of two hundred fifty thousand Colombian pesos (COP \$250,000) to cover the costs related to the issuance of the Foreigner Identification Card in Colombia.</p> <p>This benefit will be disbursed only once during the academic program and will be paid together with the first living allowance payment, subject to verification of the required conditions.</p> <p>Previous Requirements:</p> <p>Once the Courtesy Visa has been issued, the scholarship holder must apply for the Foreigner Identification Card before Migración Colombia and, with this document, open a bank account in Colombia. Afterwards, the scholarship holder must send a copy of the bank certificate and the Foreigner ID to ICETEX.</p> <p>Conditions for virtual programs</p> <p>For scholarship holders enrolled in virtual programs from their country of origin, only tuition exemption will be granted. All other benefits are granted exclusively to scholarship holders who are physically present in Colombia and enrolled in in-person programs.</p>

❖ SCHOLARSHIP DURATION

The duration of the scholarship will be determined according to the type of academic program selected, in accordance with the following parameters:

Spanish Language Courses: They may have a maximum duration of up to six (6) months, equivalent to one (1) academic semester. Spanish courses longer than six (6) months or one academic semester will not be accepted. Spanish courses must be taken during the second academic semester of 2026 (2026-2) and may not be postponed. Once the course is completed, the scholarship holder must begin the specialization or master's program in the first academic semester of 2027 (2027-1), without the possibility of deferral.

Specializations: They may have a maximum duration of up to twelve (12) months, equivalent to two (2) academic semesters. Admission letters for specialization programs exceeding two (2) academic semesters will not be accepted.

Maaster´s: Scholarships for master’s degree studies in Colombia may have a maximum duration of up to twenty-four (24) months, equivalent to four (4) academic semesters.

Master’s programs longer than 24 months or four academic semesters will not be accepted. In the case of master’s programs with a curriculum of three (3) academic semesters, coverage will be granted for up to eighteen (18) months (3 academic semesters), in accordance with the duration established in the 2026-2 Academic Offer Catalogue.

***NOTE 1:** Costs related to inter-semester courses, thesis preparation and defense, mandatory language courses, international internships, or any other academic activity not explicitly covered by the scholarship must be assumed by the scholarship holder.

***NOTE 2:** Deferral of the start of the academic program will not be allowed under this call. Scholarship holders must begin their studies in the academic semester 2026-2. If the program is not started due to causes attributable to the scholarship holder or to the Higher Education Institution, ICETEX will automatically withdraw the scholarship and all granted benefits. In such case, the applicant may apply again in future calls.

❖ SCHOLARSHIP RENEWAL

The renewal of the scholarship is not automatic. Scholarship holders must request renewal for each academic period as an essential condition to continue receiving the benefits granted under this call.

ICETEX will authorize the requested renewal, subject to verification of full compliance with the academic and administrative obligations assumed by the scholarship holder. For this purpose, the scholarship holder must submit the following documents within the deadlines and conditions established by ICETEX:

- a) Letter requesting scholarship renewal.
- b) Academic transcript issued by the Higher Education Institution, showing the cumulative GPA of the program, which must be at least 4.0 out of 5.0.
- c) Experience report signed by the academic tutor or program director.
- d) Certificate issued by the Higher Education Institution confirming that enrollment is active and indicating the duration of the academic program.

NOTE: Failure to submit the required documents within the established deadlines, or submission without meeting the required conditions, will result in the denial of the renewal request and, consequently, the definitive suspension of the benefits granted by ICETEX.

❖REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION:

No	Document	Detail	Quantity
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1.	Definitive admission letter from the Higher Education Institution	<p>The final admission letter to the academic program must be issued by the Colombian Higher Education Institution to which the foreign applicant applied, and it must specify the start and end dates of the academic program.</p> <p>All admission letters must correspond to programs starting in the second semester of 2026. Admission letters for programs starting in the first semester of 2026 or in later semesters will not be accepted</p> <p>Note: Programs for which the applicant has final admission must start exclusively in the 2026-2 academic period. If, for any reason beyond ICETEX's control, including the inability of the Higher Education Institution to open the program in 2026-2, the scholarship and its benefits will be automatically withdrawn. In such case, the applicant may apply again in the next call of the program.</p>	Minimum 1 letter — Maximum 3 letters
2.	Copy of university degree(s) or diploma(s)	The copy of the diploma must be certified by the issuing Higher Education Institution or notarized. IMPORTANT: Copies of short courses, certificates, or training programs will not be accepted.	1
3.	Undergraduate academic transcript	Document certifying undergraduate studies, which must show a minimum cumulative GPA of 4.0 out of 5.0, or its equivalent according to the Colombian grading scale. The transcript must explicitly include the grading scale, indicating the minimum and maximum passing grades, as well as the weighted GPA of the program, in order to allow comparison with the Colombian grading system. If this information is not included, the application will be rejected. This document may be evaluated in Spanish, Portuguese, French, or English. If the original language is different, an official translation into Spanish or English must be attached.	1
4.	Motivation letter and program prioritization	<p>The applicant must complete the motivation letter section directly in the application platform during the application process. This document must not be uploaded separately.</p> <p>In this section, the applicant must clearly explain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic and professional reasons for choosing the selected program in Colombia • The relevance of studying in Colombia considering their previous academic and professional background • The expected impact of the studies on their personal and professional development • How the knowledge acquired will be applied upon returning to their country of origin <p>The maximum length, character limit, and other formal requirements will be specified in the application platform.</p> <p>If the applicant has more than one admission letter, they must indicate the order of priority from 1 to 3, where 1 corresponds to the first choice.</p>	1
5.	Passport	<p>Clear copy of the first page of the valid passport showing the applicant's personal data and photograph.</p> <p>The passport must have a minimum validity of one (1) year counted from the closing date of the call.</p> <p>Failure to meet this requirement will result in rejection of the application.</p>	1

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6.	Medical certificate	The applicant must submit a medical certificate stating their physical and mental health condition, issued by a licensed physician authorized to practice in the country of issuance. The certificate must not have been issued more than thirty (30) calendar days prior to the closing date of the call. The document must include the physician's signature and stamp, as well as the corresponding identification and professional registration information.	1
7.	Professional experience Certificate	<p>The applicant must submit certifications proving a minimum of twelve (12) months of professional experience. The certificates must clearly indicate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Position held or contractual activity performed • Functions or duties carried out • Start date and end date of the employment or contractual relationship <p>La experiencia deberá acreditarse en meses, por ser la unidad de medida utilizada para su verificación y contabilización.</p> <p>Experience must be certified in months, as this is the unit of measurement used for verification and calculation. Only professional experience obtained after the completion of the undergraduate degree will be considered valid. The minimum required twelve (12) months of experience must be directly related to the academic program for which the applicant has final admission.</p>	Mínimo 1

***NOTA 1:** All required documents must be uploaded digitally to the ICETEX application platform in PDF format. Documents will not be accepted in physical form, nor by email, nor by any means other than the official platform, nor after the closing date of the call. Failure to submit any required document, or submission without meeting the conditions of form, content, and validity established in this call, will result in rejection of the application, without the possibility of correction, unless ICETEX expressly determines otherwise.

❖ APPLICATION PROCESS:

The rules of this call for applications, its annexes, the 2026-2 Academic Offer Catalogue, and the requirements published on the application platform constitute a single and integral document.

By submitting the application, the applicant guarantees the authenticity, validity, and accuracy of the information provided for the purpose of obtaining the scholarship. However, ICETEX reserves the right to verify the documents and the information provided in the application.

Foreign applicants must submit their application online through the following link:

<https://portal.icetex.gov.co/Portal/Home/HomeEstudiante/becas/programa-de-reciprocidad-para-extranjeros-en-colombia/becas-colombia-extranjeros>

If any inconsistency, alteration, or falsification is detected in the documents submitted by the applicant, the application will be immediately rejected. ICETEX, through the International Portfolio Committee, shall exercise the authority to select the beneficiaries of the Beca Colombia Program, considering institutional convenience, availability of quotas, geographical balance, international reciprocity, and other factors that ensure the proper development of the program.

For the evaluation of applications, objective elements may be considered, such as compliance with requirements, previous participation history in calls, and other relevant background information that contributes to a fair and efficient allocation of scholarships. The decision of the International Portfolio Committee shall be final and not subject to appeal, in accordance with the applicable regulations and ICETEX institutional policies.

❖ SELECTION CRITERIA:

The following selection criteria will be used to evaluate applicants who meet the requirements. The maximum score that may be obtained is one hundred (100) points.

Criteria	Documents for Evaluation	Range	Points
Academic Excellency: 35 %	It will be evaluated based on the undergraduate academic transcript, with a minimum required GPA of 4.0 out of 5.0.	Greater than 4.8 and up to 5.0	35 points
		Greater than 4.5 and up to 4.8	20 points
		Greater than 4.2 and up to 4.5	10 points
		From 4.0 up to 4.2	5 points
Professional Experience: 30 %	It will be evaluated based on the certificates of professional experience, with a minimum required experience of one (1) year.	More than 60 months	30 points
		More than 36 months and up to 60 months	20 points
		More than 12 months and up to 36 months	10 points
		12 months	5 points
Geographic location of the Colombian Higher Education Institution – 20%	It will be evaluated according to the city where the selected academic program will be carried out.	Small cities included in the 2026-2 Academic Offer Catalogue: Popayán, Sincelejo, Tuluá, Palmira, Yopal, Tunja, Mocoa, Puerto Colombia, Sabaneta; Envigado, Santa Rosa de Osos, Santa Rosa de Cabal, Riohacha.	20 points
		Ciudades intermedias en el Catálogo de Oferta Académica 2026-2: Cartagena de Indias, Bucaramanga, Santa Marta, Pereira, Manizales, Cúcuta, Ibagué, Villavicencio, Montería, Pasto, Armenia, Neiva.	10 points
		Ciudades grandes en el Catálogo de Oferta Académica 2026-2: Bogotá, Medellín, Cali, Barranquilla = 5 puntos.	5 points

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Reciprocity of the country of origin	It will be evaluated based on the nationality indicated in the applicant's passport.	Applicant from a country that offers scholarships to Colombians through ICETEX	15 points
15%		Applicant from a country that does not offer scholarships to Colombians through ICETEX	0 points

NOTE: The following is the list of countries that offer scholarships to Colombian citizens administered through ICETEX:

LIST OF COUNTRIES THAT OFFER SCHOLARSHIPS TO COLOMBIANS THROUGH ICETEX
<p>Applicants from the following countries will receive the 15% score under the criterion Reciprocity of the country of origin:</p>
Canada
United States of America
Swiss Federation
Japan
Russian Federation
Hungary
Kingdom of Spain
Kingdom of the Netherlands
Kingdom of Sweden
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Republic of Chile
Republic of Korea
Republic of India
Portuguese Republic
Republic of Singapore
Republic of France
People's Republic of China

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ADDITIONAL SCORE:

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Up to one (1) additional point may be granted, which will be added to the maximum score of 100 points (for a total possible score of 101 points).

This additional point is not cumulative and will be awarded under the following condition:

Criteria	Document that Will be evaluated	Range	Points
Gender Equality	Passport	Priority will be given to the selection of female applicants according to the gender indicated in the passport.	Female applicant = 1 additional point Male candidate = 0 additional points

❖ **TIE-BREAKING CRITERIA:**

Tie-breaking criteria will be applied in the following order of priority:

First Tie-Breaking Criteria	Reciprocity of the country of origin	Priority will be given to the applicant whose country offers scholarships to Colombians through ICETEX.
Second Tie-Breaking Criteria	Academic GPA	Priority will be given to the applicant with the highest undergraduate GPA.
Third Tie-Breaking Criteria	Geographic location of the Colombian institution	Priority will be given to the applicant whose selected program is located in a small city according to the Academic

		Offer Catalogue
Fourth Tie-Breaking Criteria	Date the application was submitted.	Priority will be given to the applicant who completed the application first on the ICETEX platform, based on the final submission date.

❖ **SCHOLARSHIP ACCEPTANCE PROCESS:**

Acceptance of the scholarship:

Foreign applicants who are selected and notified must formally express their acceptance within two (2) calendar days following the date of notification of selection. The response must be sent to the same email address from which the notification was received. Failure to respond within the established period will be understood as automatic withdrawal from the scholarship, without the possibility of subsequent claims or appeals. In such case, ICETEX may assign the scholarship to the next applicant in the order of eligibility.

Commitment Letter: Selected scholarship holders must send by email the Scholarship Acceptance Letter, which must be read and signed by each beneficiary. This letter establishes the academic, migratory, and legal obligations that the scholarship holder must comply with during the period of study in order to receive the benefits of the scholarship. Failure to submit this letter within the established deadlines may result in the loss of the benefit.

Courtesy Visa:

Once the acceptance has been formalized, ICETEX will send the scholarship holder an official communication addressed to the Coordinator of the Internal Working Group for Visas and Immigration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, or to the Consul of Colombia in the applicant's country of origin, including the relevant information required for the issuance of the Courtesy Visa.

Each scholarship holder must apply for the Courtesy Visa online through the official website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This visa is free of charge, and the applicant must follow the instructions contained in the visa application manual provided together with the notification of selection.

The application must be completed through the following link:

https://www.cancilleria.gov.co/tramites_servicios/visa

Visa Denial

If the competent authority denies the Courtesy Visa and the beneficiary was selected for an in-person academic program, ICETEX will definitively withdraw the scholarship granted, without any right to financial compensation.

❖ **SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER COMMITMENTS:**

In order to achieve the best academic results, ensure a successful experience, and maintain personal well-being and safety, the scholarship holder must fully comply with the following obligations:

Legal obligations:

- a) To comply with and respect the laws and regulations in force in the Republic of Colombia, including those related to the prevention and punishment of sexual offenses and any other provisions of the Colombian legal system.
- b) To respect the rules of conduct, institutional values, and social customs of the country.
- c) To complete, in a timely manner, the application for the Courtesy Visa type “V” and the Foreigner Identification Card (Cédula de Extranjería), within the deadlines established by the immigration authorities. The scholarship holder must ensure that the visa does not expire, as this may generate penalties and costs that must be assumed entirely by the scholarship holder. ICETEX will grant up to sixty (60) calendar days from the date of entry into Colombia for the submission of the Courtesy Visa and the Foreigner Identification Card.
- d) If ICETEX does not have contractual coverage or budget availability to provide the health insurance policy, the scholarship holder must obtain, at their own expense, a health insurance policy valid in Colombia covering the required risks for the entire duration of their stay.

For this purpose, the scholarship holder must submit to ICETEX, within ten (10) business days following notification of this situation, or in any case before the beginning of the academic period, the documents proving the acquisition and validity of the insurance policy.

The scholarship holder must maintain the policy valid during the entire duration of the scholarship and submit the corresponding renewals when required.

Failure to comply with this obligation may result in the temporary suspension of the benefits granted under the scholarship until the requirement is fulfilled.

- e) To remain in Colombian territory during academic periods, as a condition for the recognition and payment of the quarterly living allowance.

Failure to comply with this obligation may result in the suspension of benefits and the adoption of the corresponding administrative and immigration measures, in accordance with the applicable regulations.

- f) To notify and request prior authorization from ICETEX and the Higher Education Institution

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for any travel outside Colombian territory. If it is verified that the scholarship holder left the country without authorization, ICETEX may deduct from the next payment the amount corresponding to the days of absence.

- g) To submit the Migration Movement Certificate when required by ICETEX, as part of the monitoring and control of the benefits granted.
- h) The scholarship recipient must inform ICETEX, with due notice, of any decision to withdraw from the scholarship before the disbursement corresponding to the accrued quarterly maintenance allowance is made. If ICETEX has already made such disbursement and the withdrawal occurs thereafter, the scholarship recipient shall reimburse the amount of the last quarterly payment granted by ICETEX, by depositing the corresponding funds into the bank account designated for that purpose.
- i) To submit within the established deadlines all documents required by ICETEX for scholarship renewal and disbursement processes.

Academic Obligations:

- a) To enroll in and successfully complete the academic program within the period established in the scholarship. Changing the academic program or institution, as well as postponing courses or academic credits, is not allowed.
- b) To devote full-time and exclusive dedication to the academic activities corresponding to the study program. The Courtesy Visa granted within the framework of this program does not authorize, under any circumstances, the performance of paid work activities.
- c) To maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 4.0 out of 5.0, certified by the corresponding Higher Education Institution.
- d) The scholarship holder must submit a quarterly report describing their academic experience and the social or academic contribution activities carried out, in accordance with the methodology and deadlines established by ICETEX.
- e) To fully comply with the internal rules, academic regulations, and disciplinary policies of the institution where the studies are being pursued.
- f) To notify ICETEX of any change of residence or address during the period of study.
- g) To attend all meetings, induction sessions, and official activities convened by ICETEX.
- h) To select one social or academic contribution activity within the options offered by the host institution and complete the required number of hours. Progress must be reflected in the quarterly report submitted to ICETEX.
- i) Upon completion of the academic program, to submit to ICETEX the certificate of completion of coursework, the graduation record, and the official diploma issued by the Higher Education Institution.
- j) To notify ICETEX of the completion of studies and the exact date of return to the country of origin or residence.
- k) To participate in the final evaluation of the academic experience, in accordance with the methodology established by ICETEX.

Special obligations:

ICETEX

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- a) Upon arrival in Colombia, the scholarship holder must submit to ICETEX a notarized declaration stating that they do not have a marital relationship or de facto union with a Colombian citizen. Likewise, the scholarship holder must inform ICETEX of any change in marital status during the validity of the scholarship.
- b) The scholarship holder must obtain the Foreigner Identification Card (Cédula de Extranjería) and, with this document, open a bank account in Colombia, in which the living allowance and other financial benefits will be deposited.
- c) The scholarship holder agrees not to participate in activities related to money laundering, terrorism financing, or any related offenses, and must inform ICETEX or the competent authorities of any information known in relation to such activities.
- d) The scholarship holder must immediately inform the Higher Education Institution and ICETEX of any relevant change in health condition, especially in cases of serious or permanent medical conditions. Any situation arising after submission of the medical certificate must be reported within five (5) business days to both the Higher Education Institution and ICETEX.
- e) The scholarship holder must inform ICETEX in advance and obtain prior authorization for any temporary international travel during the period of study.
- f) The scholarship holder commits to the Government of the Republic of Colombia to return to the country of origin or residence in the following cases:
 - Upon completion of the academic program for which the scholarship was granted
 - If the scholarship holder voluntarily withdraws from the program
 - If the scholarship is suspended or terminated
 - In case of visa cancellation or expiration
 - If deportation or expulsion from the country is ordered
- g) In the event of non-compliance with the obligations assumed, abandonment of the program, loss of the scholarship for reasons attributable to the scholarship holder, misuse of the Courtesy Visa, engagement in unauthorized work activities, obtaining immigration benefits unrelated to the scholarship, or irregular stay in Colombian territory, ICETEX may terminate the scholarship immediately.

Likewise, the scholarship holder must return to their country of origin or residence, in accordance with the applicable immigration regulations and the commitments undertaken with the Government of the Republic of Colombia.

Finally, the scholarship holder may not apply for a residence visa in Colombia during the two (2) years following the completion of the scholarship, in accordance with the purpose of the Beca Colombia Program, which seeks to train foreign citizens in Colombian Higher Education Institutions so that they may apply the knowledge acquired in their countries of origin or residence, thereby contributing to the development of their communities.

❖ GROUNDS FOR SCHOLARSHIP SUSPENSION

ICETEX may temporarily or definitively suspend the disbursements and the scholarship granted when the scholarship holder incurs in any of the following situations

Temporary Suspension:

Temporary suspension of the scholarship may be granted in the following cases, for a maximum period of one academic semester (6 months):

- a) Due to illness diagnosed by a licensed physician and certified by a legally authorized health institution in Colombia, which generates physical or mental incapacity that temporarily prevents the continuation of academic activities.
- b) Limitations of the health insurance policy, when the medical condition is not covered by the insurance provided by ICETEX.

Note: Any of the situations described above must be reported simultaneously to the Higher Education Institution and to ICETEX within five (5) business days following the issuance of the supporting certification.

Failure to report within the required time frame will invalidate the request for suspension, and the scholarship holder must continue fulfilling academic obligations and remain in the country until the corresponding academic period ends.

Definitive Suspension:

ICETEX may definitively suspend the scholarship or deny renewal in any of the following cases:

- Failure to comply with the academic obligations established in these rules.
- Abandonment of studies, as defined in the rules of the Beca Colombia Program.
- Failure to obtain the Courtesy Visa required to pursue an in-person academic program.
- Expulsion from the Higher Education Institution for violation of institutional regulations.
- Failure to maintain the required academic GPA.
- Proven alteration, falsification, or concealment of information or documents in order to obtain the scholarship.
- Failure to submit required academic or administrative documents within the established deadlines.
- Medical incapacity exceeding one academic semester (6 months).
- Proven non-compliance with any legal, academic, or special obligations of the scholarship holder.
- At the express request of the scholarship holder, duly justified and supported with the corresponding documentation.
- Non-compliance with immigration obligations, misuse of the Courtesy Visa, engagement in unauthorized work activities, or stay in Colombia for purposes different from those of the

scholarship.

Note: Any request for definitive suspension shall be decided by the International Portfolio Committee of ICETEX, and the scholarship holder must comply with the academic, legal, and special obligations until the decision issued by this Committee is formally notified.

❖ **LIVING ALLOWANCE DISBURSEMENT:**

The scholarship holder must have sufficient financial support to cover at least three (3) months of living expenses (approximately USD 700 per month, since the living allowance will be disbursed on a quarterly basis in arrears. The disbursement of the living allowance will be subject to prior compliance with the following requirements:

- i) Obtaining the Foreigner Identification Card (Cédula de Extranjería);
- ii) Opening a savings account in Colombia at a financial institution located in the city where the scholarship holder will carry out the academic program;
- iii) Submission to ICETEX of the bank certificate showing the account number and indicating that the identification document associated with the account is the Foreigner Identification Card;
- iv) Submission of the residential address and mobile phone number in Colombia.

The disbursement will be processed once the required documents are received, and the scholarship holder will receive the funds within a maximum of six (6) weeks from the date on which the bank certificate and the Foreigner Identification Card are submitted.

Bank accounts may not be opened using a passport, and the corresponding payment will not be made until the scholarship holder submits the bank certificate showing the Foreigner Identification Card as the identification document.

Once the scholarship holder has obtained this document, they must send to the Office of International Relations of ICETEX, via email to beca_colombia@icetex.gov.co, the certification issued by the financial institution showing the account number and the identification number corresponding to the Foreigner Identification Card.

The disbursement will be made according to the official start date of the academic program certified by the Higher Education Institution in the admission letter, and not according to the date of entry into Colombian territory.

This means that if the scholarship holder enters the country before the official start date of the program, the allowance will only be recognized from the academic start date certified by the institution.

The allowance will be disbursed on a quarterly basis under the modality of payment in arrears. This means that payments will be made at the end of each three-month academic period, provided that the scholarship holder submits the experience report reflecting academic progress, personal experience, and social contribution activities, together with the required signatures, in accordance with the methodology and deadlines established by ICETEX.

For example, the allowance corresponding to January, February, and March will be paid at the beginning of April, subject to verification of compliance with the established requirements.

Migration monitoring and stay in Colombian territory

The granting and continuation of living allowance disbursements will be strictly conditioned on the scholarship holder's presence in Colombian territory during the corresponding academic period.

The scholarship holder must inform and obtain prior authorization from both the Higher Education Institution and ICETEX in case of temporary travel outside the country during the validity of the scholarship.

Leaving Colombian territory without prior authorization will constitute a breach of the obligations assumed and may result in the immediate and definitive suspension of the scholarship and the corresponding payments.

ICETEX may carry out periodic verifications, before or after disbursement, including the request and validation of the Migration Movement Certificate before the competent authority, in order to verify the scholarship holder's presence in the country and compliance with the scholarship conditions.

❖ MONITORING AND FOLLOW-UP:

The monitoring and follow-up of foreign scholarship holders will be carried out by ICETEX, through the Office of International Relations, which will accompany the scholarship holders during their academic experience and will conduct the necessary follow-up to verify compliance with the commitments established in this call.

Based on this monitoring, ICETEX may determine the continuation, suspension, or termination of the scholarship granted, in accordance with the conditions established in the present rules and the applicable institutional regulations.

❖ ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE BECA COLOMBIA 2026-2 CALL

Para información adicional, realización de preguntas o solicitud de aclaraciones sobre la postulación a la convocatoria, se debe contactar a la Oficina de Relaciones Internacionales del ICETEX. correo: beca_colombia@icetex.gov.co

❖ Application platform

For additional information, questions, or clarification requests regarding the application process, applicants must contact the Office of International Relations of ICETEX at the following email address:

<https://internacionalizacion.icetex.gov.co/login/auth/login>

- Required documents must be uploaded digitally to the application platform designated by ICETEX in PDF format. Documents will not be accepted under any circumstances in physical form or through any digital means other than those uploaded to the official ICETEX platform, nor after the closing date of the call for applications.

- Documents submitted in physical format, by email, or at any ICETEX service point nationwide will not be accepted.
- ICETEX aims to promote access to higher education as a social development mechanism, prioritizing individuals with limited financial resources and those with academic merit, under criteria of coverage, quality, and educational relevance, in conditions of territorial equity.
- ICETEX has no intermediaries and does not charge any fees for procedures related to the services offered by the institution, nor for the awarding of loans or scholarships.
- In order to follow up on the application process, applicants agree to be contacted by ICETEX from the moment of application, during the selection process, and after the publication of results, including for the purpose of sharing their experience or testimonial.
- All information provided by applicants must be truthful and will be subject to verification in accordance with Article 83 of the Colombian Constitution and Articles 286 to 296 of the Colombian Penal Code related to document falsification. Applicants must strictly comply with the requirements established in this call and must upload the supporting documentation within the deadline indicated in this call.
- If any inconsistency or discrepancy is found between the requirements established in the call, the information entered in the online form, and the documentation submitted as support for the application, the applicant will be disqualified from the process and no claims will be accepted.
- ICETEX reserves the right to make modifications to the terms of reference of this call, which will be communicated through the official ICETEX communication channels prior to the closing date of the call.

❖ Glossary

This glossary includes clear and detailed definitions of the most relevant terms used in the rules of the Beca Colombia Program for Foreign Citizens – 2026-2, in order to facilitate the full understanding of the requirements, stages of the process, and conditions of the scholarship.

Beca Colombia Program: Academic cooperation program administered by ICETEX aimed at foreign citizens for the pursuit of postgraduate studies at Colombian Higher Education Institutions.

2026-2 Academic Offer Catalogue: Annexed document to this call containing the official list of Spanish language courses, specialization programs, and master's degree programs available for this call.

Benefits/Scholarship: Financial or academic benefits included in the scholarship, such as tuition, monthly living allowance, health insurance support, courtesy visa, and Foreigner Identification Card allowance.

Living Allowance: Monthly financial support granted by ICETEX to cover living expenses during the period of in-person studies in Colombia.

Courtesy Visa Type V: Visa issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia to the beneficiaries of the program for the purpose of pursuing academic studies in the country. The application must be completed through the official website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Foreigner Identification Card (Cédula de Extranjería): Identification document issued by Migración Colombia for foreign citizens with legal stay in the national territory. The scholarship

holder must be physically present in Colombia to complete this process.

Tuition Waiver: Coverage of 100% of tuition fees granted directly by the participating Colombian Higher Education Institution included in the program.

Health insurance allowance / medical insurance support: Financial support granted by ICETEX to cover medical and hospital assistance for the scholarship holder during the period of study in Colombia.

This benefit applies exclusively to the scholarship holder and does not extend to family members.

The allowance covers medical and hospital care in accordance with the conditions of the insurance policy contracted or arranged by ICETEX. It does not include expenses related to medications, copayments, deductibles, or services not expressly included in the coverage.

If ICETEX does not have budget or contractual availability to provide this benefit, the scholarship holder must obtain, at their own expense, a valid health insurance policy in Colombia covering the required risks for the entire duration of their stay.

Required documents: Set of mandatory documents that must be uploaded to the application platform within the established deadline.

Failure to submit them, alteration, or non-compliance with the formal requirements will result in rejection of the application.

Final admission letter: Official document issued by the Colombian Higher Education Institution certifying the formal acceptance of the applicant into the academic program for the 2026-2 academic period.

In-person modality: Academic program that requires the physical presence of the scholarship holder in Colombian territory during the period of study.

Virtual modality: Academic program carried out remotely from the scholarship holder's country of origin.

Under this modality, only tuition coverage is granted.

Academic transcript: Official document issued by the Higher Education Institution where the undergraduate program was completed, including the cumulative GPA and grading scale.

Certificate of professional experience:

Document issued by the employer certifying the applicant's professional experience after completion of the undergraduate degree.

The certificate must indicate at least:

- Name of the institution or employer
- Position held or type of contractual relationship.
- Functions or duties performed
- Exact start and end dates of the employment relationship

Only professional experience obtained after completion of the undergraduate degree will be

considered valid.

Motivation letter: Statement completed by the applicant in the application platform explaining the academic, professional, and personal reasons for studying in Colombia and the expected impact in the country of origin.

Medical certificate: Document issued by a licensed physician certifying the physical and mental health condition of the applicant within the required validity period.

Application platform: Official digital system provided by ICETEX for registration, document upload, and formal submission of applications. It is the only valid channel to apply for this call.

Application: Process through which the applicant completes the online form, uploads the required documents, and submits the application within the established deadline.

Selected applicant: Applicant who obtains the required score within the available quota and is officially notified as a scholarship beneficiary.

Scholarship acceptance letter: Document that the selected applicant must sign to formally accept the scholarship and commit to complying with the academic, migratory, and administrative obligations.

Scholarship holder: Foreign citizen selected by ICETEX who formally accepts the scholarship and complies with the conditions established in this call.

Automatic withdrawal: Automatic loss of the scholarship when the applicant or scholarship holder fails to comply with the deadlines or conditions established in the call.

Scholarship renewal: Process through which the scholarship holder requests continuation of the benefits for the following academic period, subject to verification of compliance with requirements.

**OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
COLOMBIAN INSTITUTE OF EDUCATIONAL CREDIT AND TECHNICAL STUDIES ABROAD –
ICETEX**

ICETEX

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