

Erasmus+ National Policy Reviews 2024

Uruguay



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Contributor

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Ministry of Education and Culture of Uruguay

This national policy review provides a detailed analysis of Uruguay's educational policies and their alignment with the Erasmus+ programme. It offers official, first-hand information into the country's engagement with Erasmus+ from 2021 to 2024, highlighting opportunities for improvement and identifying strategies to enhance integration and outcomes. Prepared and submitted by the Erasmus+ National Focal Point, this review contributes to ongoing efforts to strengthen international cooperation and to maximise the benefits of the Erasmus+ programme in Uruguay.

Reviews of policies, initiatives, projects, and/or stakeholders

The Ministry of Education and Culture of Uruguay

The Ministry of Education and Culture of Uruguay is a comprehensive governmental body with several key responsibilities:

- **Education Coordination:** Overseeing and coordinating national educational policies and systems
- **Cultural Development:** Promoting and fostering cultural development while preserving the nation's artistic, historical, and cultural heritage
- **Innovation, Science, and Technology:** Supporting advancements in these fields to drive progress
- **Human Rights:** Promoting and enforcing human rights within Uruguay
- **Multimedia Communication:** Developing and managing the state's multimedia communication systems and ensuring widespread digital access to information
- **Judicial Defense and Law Application:** Formulating policies for the judicial protection of state interests and ensuring accurate application of the law.

This broad mandate reflects a commitment to enhancing education, culture, technological innovation, human rights, and legal integrity across Uruguay.

Higher Education Area (AES)

The Higher Education Area (AES) is a technical unit within the National Directorate of Education under Uruguay's Ministry of Education and Culture. Its key responsibilities include:

- **Policy Development:** Crafting and implementing policies for tertiary and higher education
- **Authorisation and Recognition:** Managing the authorisation and academic recognition of privately managed tertiary institutions (university and non-university). This includes monitoring and evaluating these institutions
- **Public and Non-University Institutions:** Handling recognition requests for academic levels of tertiary education proposals from public organisations and entities not constituted as universities, such as teacher training institutes, military, police institutions, and other ministries
- **Coordination and Interaction:** Coordinating with advisory councils of the Executive Branch and the Ministry of Education and Culture on relevant issues.
- **Revalidation and Representation:** Organizing actions for the revalidation of foreign degrees, providing public information on tertiary and higher education, and representing Uruguay nationally and internationally in these fields.

- Registry and Documentation: Maintaining the Registry of Degrees for graduates of recognised institutions and holding documentation of institutions that have ceased their educational activities
- Knowledge Contribution: Contributing to knowledge creation on national higher education topics, incorporating best practices and international agreements
- AES plays a crucial role in ensuring the quality and integrity of higher education in Uruguay. It engages with various stakeholders and contributes to the international representation of the country's educational standards.
- The Higher Education Area (AES) is focused on achieving several key objectives:
 - Standards Compliance: Ensure that public and private tertiary education institutions meet organisational and academic conditions to provide educational services aligned with national standards
 - Degree Record: Maintain an up-to-date record of career titles recognised by the Uruguayan State
 - Promotion and Representation: Promote the Ministry of Education and Culture's actions related to tertiary education on both national and international platforms
 - Information Provision: Offer accurate and reliable information about tertiary education in Uruguay, including authorised institutions and recognised degrees, to meet the needs of all stakeholders
 - Foreign Degree Revalidation: Manage the system for revalidating foreign university degrees
 - Quality Assurance: Facilitate initiatives to ensure the quality of tertiary education and coordinate with regional and international efforts
 - Technical Input: Generate technical insights and analyses on relevant higher education topics, mainly through a comparative perspective

Legislative reforms and/or policies that have been put in place in the past three years or that are still being discussed

Education Training Programme

This programme is responsible for creating and implementing educational initiatives associated with the university's acknowledgement of the education training profession (referenced in Law No. 19.899) and enhancing teachers' professional growth.

Regulation for the Registration of private and public university tertiary education degrees of professions eligible for recognition at an academic level by the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Resolution No. 481/022 approves two key ordinances:

- Ordinance for the Registration of Tertiary and University, Private and Public Education Degrees: establishes the process for registering educational degrees from tertiary and university institutions, both private and public. It outlines the procedures for recognising these degrees at their respective academic levels by the Ministry of Education and Culture
- Ordinance for the Certification of Student Records and Legalization of Educational Documents: provides guidelines for certifying student records and legalising educational documents, ensuring their authenticity and acceptance

Decree 420/021

Its purpose is to extend the application of requirements and procedures established by Decree 104/014 to the postgraduate courses taught by FLACSO. This ensures that the postgraduate programmes at FLACSO meet specific standards and align with national educational regulations.

Approval of instructions

For institutions and guidelines for evaluators.

Resolution No. 863/021 provides:

- Detailed instructions and guidelines for the recognition of academic levels of careers from non-autonomous public tertiary institutions.
- Guidelines for evaluators of applications for recognition of academic levels for the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of National Defense.
- Guidelines for Evaluators of Applications for Recognition of Academic Levels for Training Schools of the Official Service of Broadcasting, Representation, and Entertainment (SODRE)

Decree 84/021 Art. 2

Regulation for the recognition of non-university tertiary courses taught or to be taught by schools belonging to the Official Service of Broadcasting, Performances and Shows (Sodre)

Approval of guidelines and instructions

Higher Education

Resolution No. 137/021

Approves guidelines and instructions for advisors/evaluators.

Projects which are examples of good practice that have been launched in the past three years

Education Training Programme

This programme is responsible for creating and implementing educational initiatives associated with the university's acknowledgement of the education training profession (referenced in Law No. 19.899) and enhancing teachers' professional growth.

The first edition of "Docente Acreditado"

A university recognition test for teacher training is run by the Education Training programme of the National Directorate of Education (DNE) of the Ministry of Education and Culture (MEC) in conjunction with the National Institute of Educational Evaluation (INEED).

During the registration period, from 30 August to 30 September, 7,483 teachers were registered, which represents 18.70% of the teaching population considered in practice (according to the ANEP teacher census of 2018, there are approximately 40,000).

The purposes to be carried out are:

- Promote and support the development of university training programmes in education, within a framework of respect for the autonomy of training institutions and in coordination with the National Administration of Public Education as appropriate.
- Create a National Education Training Scholarship System that rewards the continuity and quality of studies by students from all over the country who follow university education training programmes.
- Develop, in coordination with the National Institute of Educational Evaluation and the National Administration of Public Education, a permanent system of evaluation and monitoring of teaching quality, which serves as support for the development of support and improvement policies.

- Support ANEP and educational institutions in their efforts to improve teaching quality, the conditions of the practice of the profession, and the professional development horizons of educators throughout the country.

<https://www.gub.uy/ministerio-educacion-cultura/formacioneducacion>

Key players and networks (stakeholders) at the national level (or at the regional level with a national component)

Ministry of Education and Culture (MEC)

Founded in 1847, the Ministry of Education and Culture is responsible for coordinating national education, promoting the country's cultural development, preserving the nation's artistic, historical, and cultural heritage, promoting innovation, science, and technology, and promoting and strengthening human rights.

<https://www.gub.uy/ministerio-educacion-cultura/>

High Education Area (AES)

The technical unit of the National Directorate of Education of the Ministry of Education and Culture is responsible for the development of tertiary and higher education policies of that Ministry. It organises the actions assigned for the revalidation of foreign degrees and public information on tertiary and higher education.

<https://www.gub.uy/ministerio-educacion-cultura/politicas-y-gestion/area-educacion-superior>

University of the Republic (UdelaR)

The Universidad de la República is Uruguay's largest public university. According to 2018 data from the continuous student survey, it has more than 135 thousand undergraduate students. It was founded on 18 July 1849 in Montevideo and currently has a presence in 14 country departments.

<https://udelar.edu.uy/>

Technological University of Uruguay (UTEC)

It is a public university oriented to the collective construction of knowledge and the link with the productive sector to promote Uruguay's social, economic, and technological development, especially in the provinces. The educational offer responds to the needs identified in the different regions of the country.

<https://utec.edu.uy/>

Universidad ORT Uruguay

Its purpose is to contribute to the country's development through the training of professionals who can perform with solvency in the knowledge society, the link with the productive sector, and applied research. The Jean Monnet module is part of the bachelor's degree in international studies.

Its objectives are the dissemination and teaching of European studies, dialogue between the academic world and civil society, networking, and collaboration with other modules, chairs, and Jean Monnet centres during the years 2023, 2024, and 2025.

<https://www.ort.edu.uy/>

University of Montevideo (UM)

Private University in Uruguay.

<https://um.edu.uy/>

Catholic University of Uruguay (UCU)

It is a private university whose teaching model puts the student at the centre. It uses flexible academic programmes that place special emphasis on active learning methodologies.

<https://www.ucu.edu.uy/>

Association of Universities of the Montevideo Group (AUGM)

The AUGM Group is a network of public, autonomous, and self-governed universities in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay. These universities are united due to their similarities, vocations, public nature, similarities in academic structures, and equivalence of the levels of their services. These characteristics place them in a position to develop cooperative activities with certain prospects of viability.

<https://grupomontevideo.org/site/institucional/presentacion/>