Colciencias launched an academic mobility program at the UN

Undergraduates of the U.N. are now able to participate in the call for Colciencias Global Nexus, which in its first phase will take 40 teenage students to internships to research in Purdue and Cornell universities in the United States.

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Ulia Yemail, director of Colciencias Knowledge Networks, explains that in this new program of international mobility, young Colombians will have the opportunity to access the best laboratories of universities worldwide to participate in research related to knowledge areas of strategic interest for the country, such as science, technology, engineering, mathematics and agricultural sciences.

Colciencias has shown interest in making a commitment to young talent and so, through this program seeks to promote the scientific and research vocation: "We want science, technological development and innovation to be in the panoramic of young Colombians," said the official.

Because of this reason, the call was open with 40 spots for top students from all branches of the Universidad Nacional de Colombia, in a way in which they represent the global nexus network and open new spaces for students in laboratories from different regions of the world to participate in international knowledge networks.

Mrs. Yemail also explained that Colciencias will fully finance the international mobility of these undergraduate students.

For this first edition, they have been selected two US universities who meet criteria for global excellence, Purdue University, which has one of the best engineering schools in the country, and Cornell University, which is ranked No. 13 in the Shanghai world ranking.

The requirements for applicants who have a month to run for the call are: be an adult, demonstrate academic excellence, advanced knowledge of English, write a motivational letter, submit a letter of reference from a U.N. tutor to support his research and express their interest in representing the University, Colciencias and the country prominently.

During the month of call, applicants must pass three filters that will select the 40 candidates who will travel to the two US universities in January 2016.

Meanwhile, Luis Carlos Bohorquez Diaz, adviser of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the UN (DRE), explained that these filters correspond to three stages of evaluation: the first one will
check that the candidate has submitted the required documents; for those who pass this first filter, the academic history and motivation essay in which they describe their research proposal will be evaluated.

Finally, a third evaluation will be implemented through a personal interview in English, which will be conducted by a representative from each of the universities and by delegates from Colciencias, who will verify the language skills and coherence between the ideas that the candidate exposes in interview and indicates in his essay of motivation.

The call will be published on the website of the DRE (www.dre.unal.edu.co) and will bavailable through the System Information section of calls; the appropriate advice will be provided through the Office of International Relations in the Andean headquarters in Bogota, Medellin, Palmira and Manizales.

The internship starts with an English strengthen course for 180 hours. The 40 selected will attend to a laboratory for six months, will receive methodology sessions to learn how to present results to different audiences (including research-related topics) and will have access to various cultural activities.

According to Yemail official, the Universidad Nacional de Colombia was selected to support the first round of Global Nexus thanks to the academic excellence of its students, the possibility of participation in regions where the university is present and the experience of the institution in international mobility programs for research internships.

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