

Cuba

National Higher Education Equity Policy

Governance

The Ministry of Higher Education (MES) is the entity in charge of directing, proposing, implementing and managing higher education policy.

Higher Education Policy Documents

- Law 1306 of 1976 creating the Ministry of Higher Education.
- Law 1307 on the structure of the higher education system.
- Resolution 1509/99 through which the University System of Accreditation Programs SUPRA is created.
- National Plan for Economic and Social Development until 2030 (PND2030)
- Higher Education Policy Documents

Equity Policy Documents

What broad and specific equity objectives do the policy documents identify?

- Promote quality universal access to higher education.
- Promote the efficiency and control in the use of the resources for higher education.
- Protect higher education from any form of privatization in socialist Cuba.
- Design and implement the Higher Education Short Cycle Level (ESCC) which is recognized by UNESCO in its International Standard Classification.
- Promote, in accordance to the development of the economy and society, a greater number of students in different careers and specialties to increase employment opportunities.
- Promote part-time studies and distance education.

The following equity target groups are identified in the policy documents.

- Gender groups
- Students in remote areas
- Black students
- Persons demobilized from the military services
- Students with a disability

Does the country have concrete targets for the participation of specific equity groups?

- To increase access to higher education of young people between 18 and 24 years of age.

Is there a standalone policy document dedicated to equity promotion in higher education?

- Cuba does not have a standalone higher education equity policy. However, its entire approach to the development of education in general and higher education in particular is based on a philosophy of equity in access and quality. The high proportion of students with parents with a higher education degree attests to the success of that policy.

Cuba has specific anti-discrimination provisions embedded in the following legislation:

- National Action Plan for the Care of Persons with Disabilities, 199

The Government of Cuba uses a series of financial and non-monetary instruments to promote equity.

Financial Policy Instruments

- The State guarantees everyone's right to free access to education services with internationally recognized quality standards. University registration, books, exams, and even lodging and food for students from regions where university is not available, are free.

Non-Monetary Policy Instruments

- *Preparation of Admission Tests:* The government designs and implements courses for admissions exams in almost all municipalities and in all high schools. Those are offered by universities, in spaces dedicated to

- developing study programs aligned with the subjects that will be examined.
- *Accessibility to take the entrance exams:* The government and the universities do the admission exams in the student's own schools or in places close to them, so they do not have to travel to the universities.
 - *Remedial Courses:* Three basic subjects courses are offered to all students to ensure their entrance level for different programs.
 - *Admissions changes:* provide multiple opportunities to the students to access different programs.
 - *The decentralization process* offers higher education programs in remote areas and promotes a great universalization of higher education level.
 - *Bridge programs* attract grade eleven students to complete grade twelve at university in order to start their higher education programs early (mainly for Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry, as well as the Agricultural Sciences).
 - *Career Guidance:* departments and faculties promote, inform and motivate towards certain professions. During the 2009-2010 academic year, a program was implemented to encourage and strengthen the student's preparation to pursue careers of socioeconomic importance that had not attracted enough students.

Financial Resources

What financial resources does the country devote to equity promotion measures?

- Not available

The financing of HEIs is the responsibility of the Government and, as a result, all aspects are entirely supported by the budget (free tuition, free academic services, free learning materials, free social and cultural services, and student stipends).

Quality Assurance

- The National Accreditation Board of the Republic of Cuba carries out the external evaluation and accreditation in Cuban Higher Education through the development and application of the University System of Accreditation Programs (SUPRA). Taking into account that 100% of education is financed by the Government, the Quality Standards evaluate the correct use of resources in order to guarantee quality, social relevance of the

program, adequate training of teachers and tutors, the didactic and administrative process, the curriculum, the student's admissions process, tutoring and socio-emotional support.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Who is responsible for monitoring the impact of equity promotion measures?

- The National Bureau of Statistics and Information of Cuba (ONEI) generates data and reports to the Ministry of Higher Education, which monitors the relevant chapters in the National Economic and Social Development Plan.

What instruments, methods and data are in place to carry out the monitoring and evaluation activities?

- Monthly reports (records) of the MES (Ministry of Higher Education) and Semiannual reports to the National Assembly of Popular Power, Provincial and Municipal Assembly.

Dedicated Equity Promotion Agency

There is no specialized equity promotion agency.

Key Equity Indicators

Gross Enrollment Rate by Gender

Year	Gross Enrollment Rate	% Students by Gender	
		Female	Male
		119.24	
2010	95.25%	%	72.45%
		101.34	
2011	80.94%	%	61.61%
2012	63.49%	77.42%	61.54%
2013	48.8%	61.54%	36.89%
2014	40.54%	56,4%	43,6%
2015	35.85%	56,8%	43,2%
2016	34.06%	40.13	28.41

Source: UNESCO, 2017

Sources

<http://www.mes.gob.cu/es>

PND2030, Eje Desarrollo humano, equidad y justicia social

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<http://www.mes.gob.cu/es/y-si-no-alcanzo-la-carrera-que-deseo>

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