



Treaty Series No. 23 (2023)

# Agreement

between the Department for Education on behalf of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Ministries of Universities and of Education and Vocational Training on behalf of the Kingdom of Spain, on Cooperation in matters of Education and Access to University and other Higher Education Institutions

Madrid, 28 June and 3 July 2023

[The Agreement entered into force 2 August 2023]

*Presented to Parliament  
by the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs  
by Command of His Majesty  
August 2023*



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ISBN 978-1-5286-4394-8  
E02957121 08/23

Printed on paper containing 40% recycled fibre content minimum

Printed in the UK by HH Global on behalf of the Controller of His Majesty's Stationery Office

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION ON  
BEHALF OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND  
NORTHERN IRELAND, AND THE MINISTRIES OF UNIVERSITIES AND  
OF EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING ON BEHALF OF THE  
KINGDOM OF SPAIN, ON COOPERATION IN MATTERS OF  
EDUCATION AND ACCESS TO UNIVERSITY AND OTHER HIGHER  
EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS**

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ('the United Kingdom') represented by the Department for Education and The Kingdom of Spain ('Spain') represented by the Ministries of Universities and of Education and Vocational Training (together 'the Parties');

Considering that, in Spain, the Ministries of Universities and of Education and Vocational Training are responsible for universities and higher education;

Considering the cooperation objectives set out in the Cultural Convention of 1960 between Spain and the United Kingdom, in particular those that seek to promote educational cooperation between the two Parties and especially its Article 5, according to which "Each Contracting Government shall consider how far and under what conditions academic titles, degrees, diplomas and certificates conferred in the territory of one Contracting Government, including those connected with the exercise of the professions, shall be held to be equivalent to those conferred in the territory of the other";

Guided by the wish to maintain the strong relations and cooperation in matters of education between the Parties following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union with effect from 1 January 2021;

With the aim of facilitating access to university in both Parties, and to other higher education institutions in the United Kingdom and ensuring the mutual recognition of the titles, diplomas, certificates and qualifications required by each Party;

Acknowledging that under Spanish law, this Agreement is categorised as an "international administrative agreement", binding between the parties under international law;

Have reached the following Agreement:

**ARTICLE 1**

**Purpose and scope of application**

1. The purpose of this Agreement is to promote and facilitate relations in

educational matters at different levels between the educational systems of both Parties, and to facilitate access to university in both Parties and to other higher education institutions in the United Kingdom.

2. This Agreement shall apply to educational cooperation programmes and initiatives, access to university in both Parties, and to other higher education institutions in the United Kingdom, and to the recognition of titles, diplomas, certificates, qualifications and access tests, which are officially valid in each Parties' educational system and that enable access to university *Grado* studies in Spain and *Bachelor degree* and other higher education studies in the United Kingdom in accordance with the legislation, rules and procedures in force in each Party and, in the case of Spain, with any European Union regulations that are also applicable.

## ARTICLE 2

### **Educational programmes and cooperation initiatives**

1. The Parties shall work to consider further cooperation programmes and initiatives that enable the rapprochement between their educational communities, and that may cover, among others, areas related to dual degree systems, teaching of the respective languages, face-to-face, online or hybrid training, and exchanges or mobility of pupils, students, teachers, language assistants and other educational staff.

2. The parties shall also work to facilitate the functioning of the educational programmes promoted by the educational authorities of each Party in the territory of the other Party, in compliance with the legislation, rules and procedures in force and, in the case of Spain, with any European Union regulations that are also applicable.

## ARTICLE 3

### **Access to university and other higher education institutions**

1. Each Party shall recognise, in compliance with their legislation, rules and procedures in force, the titles, diplomas, certificates, qualifications and access tests of students from the other Party's national educational system, that permit access to university studies in that Party, and to other higher education studies in the United Kingdom.

2. This shall be understood without prejudice to the fulfilment of the conditions

required, when applicable, by the respective legislation, rules, and procedures in force, in the case of those higher education studies in which it is necessary to meet certain requirements or pass admission tests.

#### ARTICLE 4

##### **University and higher education admissions**

1. The recognition of the requirements for access to university and other higher education institutions referred to in Article 3 of this Agreement does not guarantee admission to certain courses or universities and other higher education institutions, for example, due to their special characteristics or where situations of competitive admission arise, which shall be resolved in accordance with the requirements, criteria, or undertaking of specific tests and procedures for the allocation of places established in this regard by the legislation, rules or procedures in force of each Party.

2. Candidates for admission may be required to provide accreditation of sufficient knowledge of the language in which the lessons are given, be it by providing supporting documentation or by the procedures established to this end.

#### ARTICLE 5

##### **Verification of mandatory documentation**

Recognition of the titles, diplomas, certificates, qualifications and access tests that are the object of this Agreement requires the presentation of the relevant documentation attesting completion of the corresponding studies. The nature of this supporting documentation shall vary in accordance with the specificities of the educational system and with the legislation, rules and procedures in force in each Party.

#### ARTICLE 6

##### **Monitoring and dispute resolution**

1. In order to facilitate the monitoring and application of this Agreement or to suggest any necessary reforms, where appropriate, as well as to resolve possible disputes that may arise in its application, a Bilateral Technical Committee shall be set up within six months from the entry into force of this Agreement. This Technical Committee shall be comprised of a maximum of six representatives from each Party. The Parties shall jointly determine the general provisions regarding the periodicity, place and modality of the meetings, which may also be convened whenever either Party deems it necessary.

2. The Parties, acting in good faith, shall resolve directly and amicably, through consultation and negotiation, any question relating to the interpretation or application of this Agreement.

#### ARTICLE 7

##### **Modifications and Amendments**

This Agreement may be amended or modified with mutual written consent of the Parties at any time. Agreed amendments or modifications shall enter into force on the day it is signed or as otherwise agreed between the Parties.

#### ARTICLE 8

##### **Duration**

This Agreement is concluded for a term of four years, after which it shall be automatically extended for equal periods. Either Party may terminate this Agreement by means of a Note Verbale. Termination shall take effect with a minimum of a two calendar year notice period, from the date of receipt of the notice by the other Party.

#### ARTICLE 9

##### **Entry into force**

This Agreement shall enter into force 30 days from the date of the last signature.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorised by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

DONE, in duplicate at Madrid, on this twenty-eighth day of June and on this third day of July 2023, in the English and Spanish languages, both texts equally authentic.

**For the United Kingdom of  
Great Britain and Northern  
Ireland:**

**HUGH ELLIOTT**

**For the Kingdom of Spain:**  
For the Ministry of Education and  
Vocational Training:

**PILAR ALEGRÍA CONTINENTE**

For the Ministry of Universities:

**JOAN SUBIRATS HUMET**

E02957121

978-1-5286-4394-8