

Dominican Republic Trade Mission

FOCUS: GREAT British Education Mission (including University Fair)
4th March – 6th March 2014

UKTI Santo Domingo is organising a Trade Mission to the Dominican Republic.

The Dominican Republic is part of the Latin American economic growth story. It has 10 million people including a growing middle class. It is the largest economy in the region and has high quality communications and business services.

There is a great opportunity for British Universities in the Dominican Republic. The Dominican government runs a well-funded annual scholarship programme (USD43 Million in 2013, of which USD35 million has been allocated for international scholarships). In 2013 25 Dominicans have received scholarships under this scheme to take Master's programmes in a British University. This university first entered the market with help from UKTI in January 2013; they are now reaping the benefit of that initiative. For universities that wish to follow this example, and welcome Dominican state-funded scholars, UKTI Santo Domingo recommends a visit to the Dominican Republic. Direct contact with the Ministry of Higher Education is key to success. We guarantee access at the highest levels in the Ministry during this mission. The Dominican Republic has talented students. Universities and the Ministry of Higher Education have great respect for UK institutions and are hungry to meet more UK universities.

It is relatively easy to do business in the Dominican Republic. English is widely spoken and there is a modern business culture which fits well with North America and European practices.

What will you get from the Trade Mission

- Business Forum: the chance to present your educational institution to representatives of the main universities.
- The possibility of having one-to-one meetings with representatives of main Dominican universities.
- Networking lunch.
- Access to the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology and/or other senior, influential decision-makers in the Ministry.
- Participation in a "UK Universities Fair"
- Transport to group meetings.

To register, please contact:

UKTI Dominican Republic on (809) 472 7054 or email: Leonora Dipp, Director of Trade leonora.dipp@fco.gov.uk or Claudia Fulgencio, Trade Advisor, claudia.fulgencio@fco.gov.uk

NOTE: Closing date for registration is Monday 13 January 2014. Please note there is a £612 +VAT registration fee for this market visit.

The Dominican Republic offers very good opportunities for UK educational institutions looking to increase the number of international students or signing MoUs with Dominican universities. There could also be interesting opportunities for placements for UK students and research collaborations in particular areas such as agriculture and tourism.

In recent decades, the Dominican Republic has developed fast. Agriculture remains an important sector along with tourism, but the economy has diversified into manufacturing, business services and consumer goods.

Political and economic stability make the Dominican Republic an interesting place for business and investments; part of the wider Latin American growth story. It has a population of almost ten million which includes a growing middle class. Situated in the centre of the Caribbean, the Dominican Republic serves as a strategic connection between Central America, South America, North America and Europe.

In 2012 the Dominican Republic' GDP growth was 3.9%, higher than the average of the Latin American region. Inflation was 3.9%. Average growth since 2006 has been 6%.

The Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology is responsible for promoting, regulating, advising and managing the national system of higher education, science and technology.

Also, the Ministry has dedicated a lot of work to achieve consensus for the modernisation of higher education in the Dominican Republic ensuring quality and curricula in line with modern times.

The Ministry of Higher Education is developing an ambitious scholarship programme to allow Dominicans to study technical subjects at graduate and postgraduate level in domestic universities and in other countries. This institution has confirmed the following as its priorities for its own overseas post-graduate scholarships in 2014/15: Science, Engineering, Mathematics, Agriculture, Mining and Energy.

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