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# **Cooperation between Leeds and UNSAM Transport Institutes: a promisory link**

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## **The initial link resulted from the support provided by the local UK Embassy to UNSAM Transport Institute**

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- ▶ In 2011 Argentina's Railways Infrastructure Agency asked the UNSAM Railways Technological Institute (now Transport Institute, TI) the elaboration of a document on freight railways policy
- ▶ TI asked the UK Embassy for financial help to carry on the research
- ▶ After a process, UNSAM's IT got the funding support, focusing on freight railways rehabilitation as a mean to enhance transport eco-efficiency and reduce GHG emissions
- ▶ The agreement included a trip to the UK, to get in touch with government agencies, NGOs and academic institutions with expertise in transport-related issues, as transport policy, climate change and project evaluation

# The link between Leeds-UNSAM transport institutes started in a trip, generating the first collaborative activities

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- ▶ During the working trip UNSAM professionals got in touch with Leeds Institute of Transport
- ▶ Their input was of great help in preparing the railways policy report
- ▶ Additionally, a link was established and an agreement (MOU) was signed in 2012 among both institutions
- ▶ As a result, during 2012 and 2013:
  - Leeds faculty members participated in transport policy courses organized by UNSAM 's TI, particularly on planning models at the graduate level
  - UNSAM helped in gathering candidates to pursue graduate studies at Leeds
  - Few visits followed, to promote the exchange and mutual knowledge

# We foresee a great potential for the coming years

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## ▶ Lecturing

- UNSAM will continue requesting support in this activity, in regular courses and special events

## ▶ Students exchange

- We hope to send at least two students per year from Argentina (and from neighbor countries) to pursue Master's studies

## ▶ Joint research:

- The main challenge! We hope to start joint activities soon. The potential is large
  - Leads benefits: interesting subjects for graduate studies thesis
  - UNSAM benefits: sound methodological approach for research projects on transport related issues