

# **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM ON THE AGREEMENT ON THE MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF DEGREES BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA**

## **TITLE OF AGREEMENT**

Agreement on the Mutual Recognition of Degrees between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Colombia.

**Command Paper Number:** 9509

## **SUBJECT MATTER**

The Agreement represents an undertaking to establish a process for the mutual recognition of degrees awarded by the officially authorised education systems of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Colombia.

## **MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

The Secretary of State for the Department for Education (DfE) has responsibility for policy relating to higher education in England. Ministers for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have responsibility for Higher Education in the devolved administrations. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has overall responsibility for UK policy relating to relations with the Republic of Colombia.

## **INTEREST OF THE DEVOLVED ADMINISTRATIONS**

The Scottish Government, the Welsh Government and the Department for Employment and Learning, a Department of the Northern Ireland Executive have seen the Agreement and are content.

## **POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

The Agreement establishes an underpinning framework to increase educational cooperation and mobility between the UK and Colombia through the mutual recognition of our respective education and academic degree systems, by aligning credit structures and quality assurance schemes.

The Agreement will lead to:

- new collaboration and joint awards between UK and Colombian Universities;
- opportunities to study UK degrees based in Colombia;
- increased research outcomes that benefit both countries;
- increased academic mobility between the two countries; and
- opportunities for UK agencies to provide training and development in the management of cross-country collaboration and quality assurance.

The Agreement was signed by the Government of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Republic of Colombia during the November 2016 State Visit to the United Kingdom of the President of the Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos. It was signed by Ambassador Néstor Osorio Londoño on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs Maria Angela Holguin Cuellar, on behalf of the Republic of Colombia, and Universities and Science Minister Jo Johnson, on behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland.

#### **FINANCIAL**

Administering the Agreement will not result in significant costs.

#### **RESERVATIONS AND DECLARATIONS**

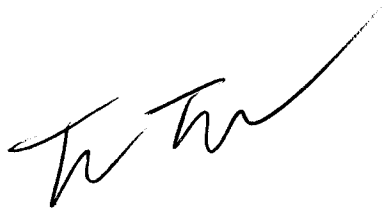
None

#### **CONSULTATIONS**

The Agreement was negotiated on behalf of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland by UK National Recognition Information Centre (UK NARIC) and the British Council and on behalf of the Republic of Colombia by the Ministry of National Education.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION**

The Parties shall notify each other through diplomatic notes on the completion of the internal legal requirements necessary for the coming into force of this Agreement, which shall come into force 90 (ninety) days after the receipt of the last of the notices served by the Parties to that effect. No legislation is required to enable the UK to implement the Agreement.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jo Johnson', written in a cursive style.

Jo Johnson

Minister of State for Universities and Science