
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1093 (Solache) - Public postsecondary education: academic exchange programs: plan

Version: July 6, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: ED. 5 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Lenin Del Castillo

Bill Summary: This bill requires the California State University (CSU), and requests the University of California (UC), to adopt a plan to increase the number of students participating in exchange programs with Mexican public universities.

Fiscal Impact: The bill's provisions would be contingent upon an appropriation and could lead to the following General Fund cost pressures:

- The CSU estimates one-time General Fund costs in the low hundreds of thousands of dollars to adopt a plan specific to exchange programs with Mexican public universities. These funds would be used for the administrative work required of staff to coordinate with campuses and academic departments, identify partnerships with Mexican universities, and potential travel associated with the development of partnerships. Additionally, the CSU estimates ongoing General Fund costs of \$600,000 to \$1 million each year to administer the work outlined by the adopted. This would involve a dedicated staff to assist with the expansion, visits to partner institutions and new institutions to establish agreements, marketing, and communications, among other issues. Further, the CSU indicates there would be unknown, but significant ongoing costs for the direct financial support for the additional students participating as a result of the adopted plan.
- The UC estimates General Fund costs ranging from \$3.2 million to \$11.3 million each year for student scholarships and travel grants, dedicated staffing for advising, seed funding for faculty partnership and program development, partnership cultivation, risk management, and systemwide coordination infrastructure.

Background: Existing law establishes the CSU, under the administration of the Trustees of the CSU, the UC, under the administration of the Regents of the UC, and the CCC, under the administration of the Board of Governors of the CCC, as the state's three public segments of postsecondary education.

Existing law exempts, until January 1, 2028, no more than 150 full-time equivalent students (FTES) from paying all or part of nonresident tuition fees if they are low-income students who are residents of Mexico who register for lower division courses at specified community colleges near the California-Mexico border and who reside within 45 miles of the California-Mexico border.

Proposed Law: This bill, commencing with the 2027–28 academic year, requires the CSU, and requests the UC, to adopt a plan to increase the number of students participating in exchange programs with Mexican public universities.

This bill requires the plan to include the following:

1. A description of existing exchange programs and institutional partnerships with Mexican public universities.
2. Strategies to increase student participation in exchange opportunities, including expanding student access to or establishing exchange programs.
3. Goals for expanding institutional partnerships with Mexican public universities.
4. Outreach and student support activities designed to promote participation.
5. Strategies to facilitate ongoing communication and collaboration among campuses within their respective systems, including the sharing of resources, grant funding opportunities, best practices, and knowledge on exchange programs.

The bill provides that it shall only become operative upon an appropriation of funds for its purposes.

Staff Comments: The CSU, and UC already maintain exchange programs with Mexican institutions. The CSU operates a Systemwide Student Exchange Program with more than 60 international partner institutions and maintains exchange agreements with several Mexican universities. The UC has maintained academic partnerships with Mexico for decades through programs such as UC MEXUS, Casa de la Universidad de California en México, and the UC-México Initiative. The bill requires the adoption of a plan to increase participation in exchange programs with universities in México. The plan shall include specific elements, including strategies to increase student participation in exchange opportunities, goals for expanding institutional partnerships with Mexican public universities, and outreach and student support activities designed to promote participation.

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