

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 1093 (Solache)

As Amended July 6, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Requires, upon appropriation, 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.

Senate Amendments

- 1) Remove the creation of the California-México Higher Education Development and Academic Exchange Program Fund to be housed in the California State Treasury.
- 2) Instead of establishing, until January 1, 2032, the California-México Higher Education Development and Academic Exchange Program for 400 students who attend a campus of the UC, the CSU, or the California Community Colleges (CCC) to attend universities in México and for 400 students who attend a university in México to attend a campus of the UC, CSU, or CCC, each year, delete the establishment of the aforementioned program.
- 3) Require commencing with the 2027–28 academic year, the CSU, and request the UC, to adopt a plan to increase the number of students participating in exchange programs with Mexican public universities.
- 4) Require the plan, pursuant to (3) above, to include the following:
 - a) A description of existing exchange programs and institutional partnerships with Mexican public universities.
 - b) Strategies to increase student participation in exchange opportunities, including expanding student access to or establishing exchange programs.
 - c) Goals for expanding institutional partnerships with Mexican public universities.
 - d) Outreach and student support activities designed to promote participation.
 - e) 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.
- 5) Make technical and clarifying changes.

COMMENTS

Current higher education partnerships between California and México (MX). The UC Institute for México and the United States (UC MEXUS), established in 1980, and serves as an academic research institute dedicated to encouraging, securing, and contributing to bi-national and Latinx research and collaborative academic programs and exchanges. The main focus of UC MEXUS is to contribute substantially to improving bi-national scholarly understanding and providing

positive contributions to society in both MX and the UC, particularly in the graduate and professional areas.

The UC MEXUS has provided faculty and research grants, graduate student and postdoctoral fellowships since 1997 under the UC-CONACYT Agreement of Cooperation in Higher Education and Research. Since 1998, UC MEXUS-CONACYT Collaborative Grants provide \$25,000 in funding support for one year, to a team comprised of one UC researcher and one researcher from a MX partner institution. Each team completes a bi-national project in basic or applied collaborative research, instructional development, or public service and education.

In addition to the overall quality of the proposals, awards are weighted toward collaborative parity, student opportunities in research and training, and the potential for institutional or extramural support beyond the project period. Numerous awardees have used the UC MEXUS collaborative grant to develop projects that are later funded by their own institutions or by other large funding agencies.

Additionally, La Casa de la Universidad de California en México (Casa de California) was established in 1995, and seeks to be an example of academic and intellectual commitment to the promotion and exchange of ideas and knowledge between the diverse campuses of the UC system and México, and with initiatives that can translate the expertise into practical solutions for the benefit of the State of California and MX. Casa is dedicated to promoting understanding and cooperation through its various programs and academic activities. It is a meeting place where scholars, government officials, and practitioners can come together through seminars, conferences and workshops, and courses.

Further, the UC-México Initiative was established by then UC President Janet Napolitano, in 2014, to create a sustained, strategic and equal partnership between the UC and institutions in México, in order to address common issues and educate the next generation of leaders. It was designed to provide an opportunity to think broadly and to develop strategies for a robust and enduring relationship that could encompass student and faculty exchanges, celebration of shared heritage and populations, and research and scholarly activity that solves problems and advances knowledge on issues of mutual importance.

Building upon the long history of strong partnership between the UC and MX, in 2019, Alianza UCMX was formed through the integration of the preexisting UC Systemwide Programs (as discussed above), UC MEXUS, Casa de California, and the UC-MX Initiative. UC Riverside serves as the host campus for Alianza MX, whose mission encompasses the following: (1) Mobilize talent and funding for research teams from the UC and MX that create new knowledge across diverse areas from science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, to the social sciences, the arts, and humanities; (2) Engage with diverse stakeholders in the US and MX in order to promote action research and innovative solutions for resilient and informed public policies on issues relevant for the bi-lateral cooperation agenda; and, (3) Foster a bi-national workforce by supporting the two-way mobility of students and professors, including those of Latinx origin.

Lastly, according to information provided by the author, "the UC campuses already have a campus in Mexico City that is in partnership with the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM). For 2026-2027, they have received seed money of \$50,000 for each UC campus allocated for study abroad to Mexico."

While not in the higher education space, in March 2025, California's Governor and the Governor of the MX State of Sonora hosted a bilateral meeting and signed an memorandum of understanding (MOU) to strengthen climate and economic ties between the states including through advancing the development of clean energy, building resilient supply chains, and collaborating on clean transportation efforts.

This measure appears to align to ongoing efforts of the State in developing and cultivating educational opportunities for students; and also appears to align to various objectives of the Assembly Select Committee on California-México Bi-National Affairs.

According to the Author

The author states that, "the California-México bilateral relationship directly impacts the lives and livelihoods of tens of millions of people. Strengthening, our bi-national relationship in the higher education sector is necessary to achieve multiple co-benefits. This measure would formally institutionalize cross-border education partnerships and build out the infrastructure for consistent, robust academic exchange. These programs are crucial to identifying the emerging needs of shared workforce and economic drivers."

The author further contends that, "a most critical issue is the almost nonexistent higher education exchange of students, faculty, researchers, and policymakers in the California-México megaregion, despite the prime financial relationship that binds them as each other's top economic partner. This bilateral relationship directly affects the lives and livelihoods of tens of millions of people."

The author notes that, "despite the dynamic economic, public health, environmental, and cultural ties along with proximity to México, other countries have more robust study abroad program[s]. Our CA-Mex symbiotic relationship would greatly benefit from enhanced educational and cultural exchange programs across higher education institutions. The current Mexican President Shienbaum [Pardo] spent time as a scientific researcher at UC Berkeley. This further highlights the benefits of building our robust academic exchange programs."

Arguments in Support

The Latino Education and Advocacy Days (LEAD) letter of support stated, "LEAD supports AB 1093, which seeks to enhance cross-border educational collaboration by enabling encouraging students from California public universities to attend universities in Mexico and students from Mexican universities to attend California public universities each year. This initiative acknowledges the importance of international academic exchange in enriching educational experiences, promoting cultural understanding, and preparing students for a globalized workforce. Providing opportunities for cultural exchange and understanding across the United States and Mexico."

Further, according to LEAD, "collaborative initiatives offer students an invaluable opportunity to access new intellectual resources, innovative ideas, and novel perspectives, thereby enriching the students' academic and social experience, to prepare them for success in a globalized economy. The California-Mexico bilateral relationship directly impacts the lives and livelihoods of tens of millions of people. Strengthening, our bi-national relationship in the higher education sector is necessary to achieve multiple co-benefits. This measure would formally institutionalize cross-border education partnerships and build out the infrastructure for consistent, robust academic exchange. These programs are crucial to identifying the emerging needs of shared workforce and economic drivers."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Seante Committee on Appropriations, "the bill's provisions would be contingent upon an appropriation and could lead to the following General Fund cost pressures:"

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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.

VOTES:**ASM HIGHER EDUCATION: 7-1-2**

YES: Fong, Boerner, Jeff Gonzalez, Jackson, Muratsuchi, Patel, Celeste Rodriguez

NO: Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: DeMaio, Sharp-Collins

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 11-3-1

YES: Wicks, Arambula, Calderon, Caloza, Elhawary, Fong, Mark González, Hart, Pacheco, Pellerin, Solache

NO: Dixon, Ta, Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Sanchez

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 62-8-9

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO: DeMaio, Dixon, Ellis, Macedo, Patterson, Sanchez, Ta, Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Bauer-Kahan, Castillo, Chen, Flora, Gallagher, Hadwick, Hoover, Lackey, Sharp-Collins

SENATE FLOOR: 36-0-4

YES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

ABS, ABST OR NV: Choi, Niello, Umberg, Valladares

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