

**Association of the Universities
of Latin America and
the Caribbean**



ABOUT UDUAL

Who we are

UDUAL is the Association of the Universities of Latin America and the Caribbean, the largest, oldest and most consolidated network of higher education institutions in the Latin America and the Caribbean region. We are part of UNESCO as an advice consultancy, constituted by more than 200 public and private higher education institutes.

Our objective is to ensure the Latin America integration through the internationalization of higher education, the educational quality improvement, the diffusion of knowledge and the defense of university autonomy.

HISTORY

Association of the Universities of Latin America and the Caribbean (UDUAL) was officially constituted the 22nd September 1949, during the First Latin American University Congress in the Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala.

In 1959, UDUAL established as its functions:

- To promote, affirm and encourage the relationship between the Latin American universities, and with other cultural institutes and organizations
- To coordinate, guide and unify the academic and administrative structures of the affiliated universities
- To promote the academic exchange of professors and students, researchers and graduates
- To create and divulge publications purposely for easing the communication, understanding and coexistence of the university members

Between 1940 and 1980, many Latin American countries underwent coups d'état that imposed authoritarian governments, and went through constant economic and political crisis, which affected the university field. As a response to the State intercession in university life, UDUAL declared itself in favor of the defense of the autonomy and academic freedom, and against the transgression of the democratic rights. Since then, our organization consistently defends the university autonomy.

As a result of the political and economic transformations in America, English and French speaking universities of the Caribbean join UDUAL as titular members in 2004. At present, our organization groups higher education institutions and universities of six regions: Andean, Central America, Southern Cone, Mexico and Brazil. The General Secretariat is in Mexico City, in the Centro Cultural Universitario Tlatelolco, part of the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

Mission

UDUAL's mission is to drive academic and public politics that encourage the higher education institutes' essential activities, considering their key connection with different regional realities, in order to be a strategic factor in the sustainable, democratic and inclusive development.

Based on the core idea that the education is a public good, UDUAL makes certain that the organization members consolidate their internationalization of higher education, which makes it more accessible and pertinent.

Taking into consideration the universities' peculiarities, UDUAL urges to have a beneficial contact that reassures our higher education values and creates knowledge to solve the Latin American and Caribbean people problems.

Vision

UDUAL, as the largest network of higher education institutions (HEI) in Latin America and the Caribbean, since its foundation defends, strengthens and promotes the exercise of the university autonomy, taking into account each region's diversity and plurality.

UDUAL works as an interlocutor between the affiliated HEI, the governments, the society and its organizations, to ease the cooperative work, encourage public politics, and reach a respectful, constructive and effective dialogue.

Our association takes action on its tradition itinerary: a perpetually opened to review past; a present with its current perspectives –interculturality, gender equality, online education, digital society–; and, of course, a future, founded day by day, in a peaceful, supportive and intelligent environment.

UDUAL operates from the international cooperation perspectives and the HEI transversal perspectives. Its purpose is inherently related to each university work to create links of improvement with the Latin America and global networks, and the Latin American and Caribbean societies.

SUBSTANTIAL FUNCTIONS

University autonomy defense

UDUAL defends the university autonomy, the academic, research and institutional management freedom, the social pertinence, the transparency and the accountability. Autonomy is part of the social agenda that guarantees the education human right, the freedom of thought and teaching, the genre equality, the respect to the environment, the assertion of plurality and diversity, the interculturality and decolonization of knowledge.

Latin America and the Caribbean universities integration

It focuses on the promotion, assertion and improvement of relationships between Latin American and the Caribbean universities, through the participation in the cooperation and study organizations, and collaboration agreements and publications. UDUAL encourages universities to be an instrument that contributes to the social, economic and cultural development in their local environment and in their context of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Internationalization and academic cooperation

Practicing interculturality, the internationalization of higher education benefits the cooperation between the affiliated universities and the related international organizations, with the aim of make them into instruments of economic, social, cultural and technological development of their countries and regions.

Organizational structure

UDUAL bodies

Based on the Article 10 of the organization statutes, UDUAL's bodies are as follows:

- a) General Assembly
- b) Executive Council
- c) Presidency
- d) Regional Vice-Presidencies
- e) Vice-Presidency of Organizations and Networks
- f) General Secretariat
- g) Organizations for Cooperation and Study

The General Assembly is the UDUAL's largest decision-making body. It is made up by the rectors, or equivalent, in the higher education institutions titular members, as well as by the heads and representatives in the UDUAL's affiliated university organizations and networks. As a collegiate body, the General Assembly dictates the orientations and guidelines that will be put into operation by the Executive Council and the General Secretariat. It has the power to elect the UDUAL'S president, the General Secretary and the Executive Council members, and to ratify the elections for the Regional Vice-Presidents and the Vice-President of Organizations and Networks.

The Executive Council is delegated by the General Assembly, for the organization's ordinary government. It is constituted by the UDUAL's president, the six Regional Vice-Presidents, the Vice-President of Organizations and Networks, the members and the General Secretary. Within the statutory framework, the Executive Council convenes general or extraordinary assemblies, and ensures that the agreements are accomplished. Furthermore, the council presents

initiatives and projects on the UDUAL's organization, reviews the financial status, approves membership fees, among other strategic functions.

Presidency shall represent UDUAL, call and lead the Executive Council's meetings, and monitor the General Secretariat's work. It shall also convene the Organizations and Networks, and Regional assemblies to elect their vice presidents.

The Regional Vice-Presidencies, being areas of representation of the universities, are elected in regional assemblies, convened by the Presidency and legitimized by the General Assembly. Their functions are pointed towards the promotion of universities cooperation and the hunt for solutions in the higher education field, that contribute to the social, cultural, economic, and technological development.

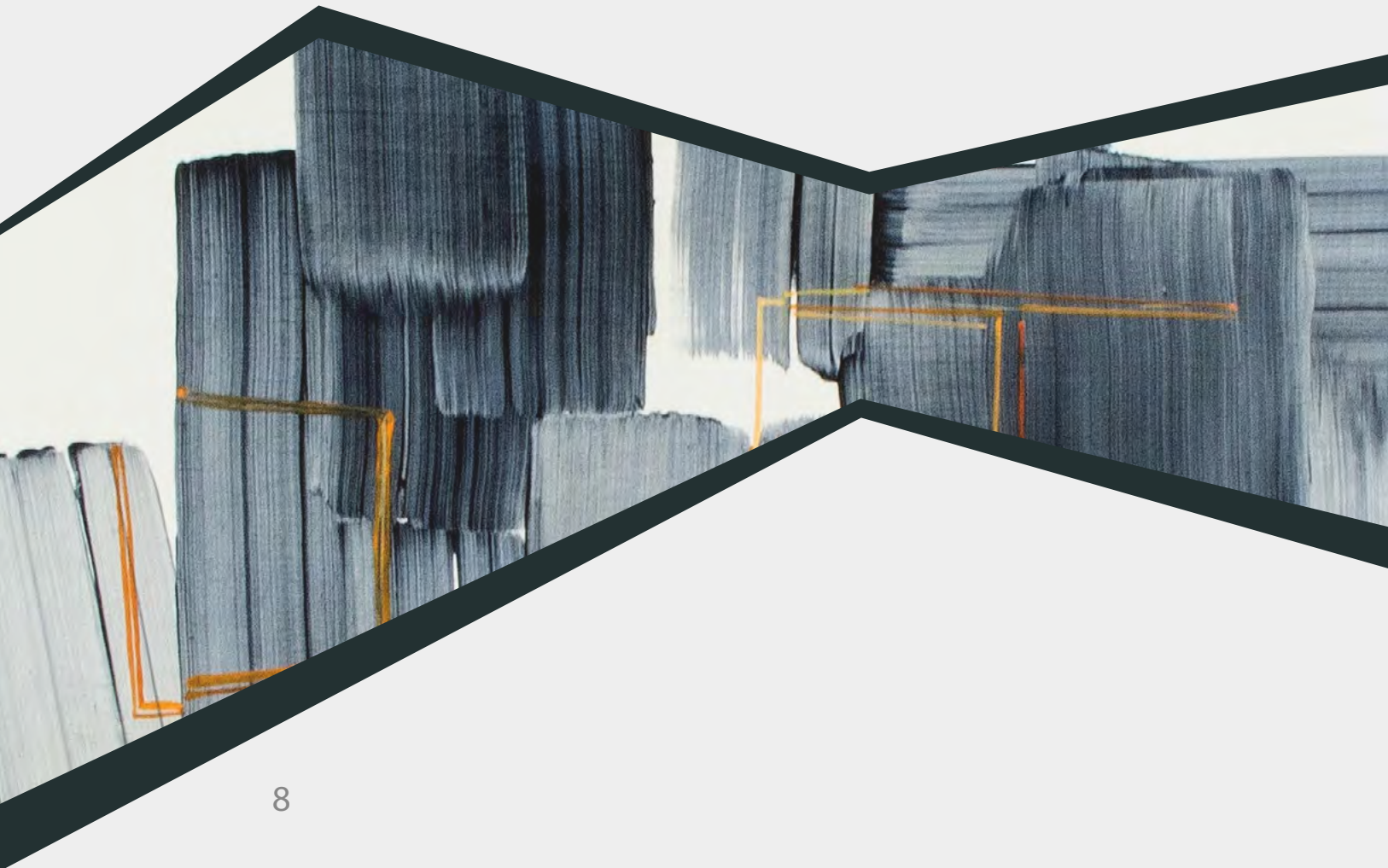
The General Secretariat is a permanent body in charge of executing the resolutions of the assemblies, the Executive Council, the President, and the UDUAL's central administration.

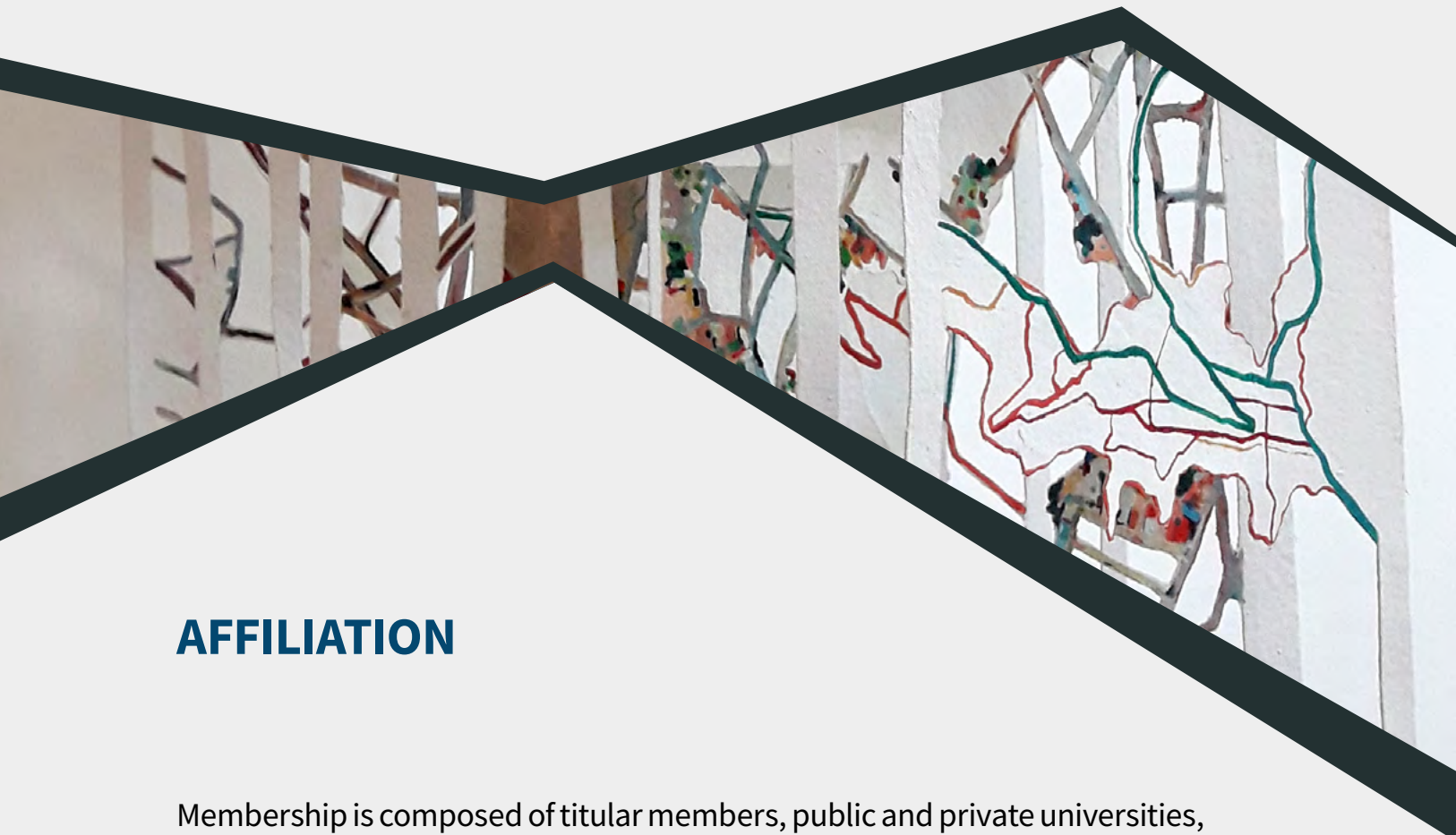
The Organizations for Cooperation and Study develop a permanent work concerning teaching and university organization problems, as well as the promotion and assurance of higher education quality in different disciplines. This organizations are constituted by deans and directors of departments, schools, faculties and research institutes, specialized in health, social sciences, law and architecture.

Additionally, they bring together professionals who share a transversal agenda in forums where, among other topics, the current status of university curricula and the relevance of university careers are discussed.

Thematic networks

The academic groups initiatives, university organizations, and private, public and social actors give life to thematic networks of specific interest in substantial areas of higher education: applied research, link with the productive sector, local economic development, gender and sexual diversity, cultural extension and regional strategic interest.





AFFILIATION

Membership is composed of titular members, public and private universities, committed to the non-profit project about an enrolled-in-their-societies education; national and regional university networks; a number of affiliated groups and cooperation and study organizations, focused on the disciplinary training; and thematic networks that bring together academic, institutional, social and non-governmental actors across the board.

Among its affiliates, UDUAL counts on a diversity of organizations and groups, oriented to connect higher education with social life and public policies related to education, economic development and equality, and environmental heritage protection and preservation.

With the aim of having articles 5 and 34(d) of the Latin American and Caribbean Universities Union Statutes come into effect, we establish the following requirements to consider the affiliation, association and permanence of universities or higher education institutions, national or regional university organizations and Latin American and Caribbean networks:

- Submit an application letter, signed by the rector or the head of the organization or network, addressed to the UDUAL's General Secretary.
- In case of being a higher education institute or university, please attach the following documentation to the letter:
 - ▷ General data of the institute: organizational structure, main authorities and number of headquarters.
 - ▷ A copy of the legal instrument that gives credit to its constitution, legal personality and capacity to grant degrees, certificates or diplomas.
 - ▷ Legislation or legal order that regulates the institute; it should include the regulations with regard to the ideology and institutional organization.
 - ▷ Institutional organigram (suggested requirement).
 - ▷ Development institutional plan.
 - ▷ Results of recent internal and/or external evaluations.
 - ▷ Updated data on full-time and part-time academic staff according to their last academic grade.
 - ▷ Data about the academic personnel who are involved in research activities, with a record of annual publications, preferably in indexed scientific journals.
 - ▷ Total number of the school population.
 - ▷ Evidence of collaboration agreements with other educational institutions, research centers, social and productive sectors.
 - ▷ Scholarship programs in which the institute participates.
 - ▷ Institutional contact information: headquarters addresses, telephone, fax, email and institutional web page address.

- If it is a university organization, professional or thematic network of academics, attach the following documentation to the letter:
 - ▷ University organization, or network, general data: nature, organizational principles, authorities and/or coordinators.
 - ▷ A copy of the letter or legal instrument that confirms the organization or network's constitution and legal personality.
 - ▷ Legislation, legal order or constitutive agreement that regulates the organization or network.
 - ▷ List of universities or higher education institutions, and university organizations or affiliated networks.

- Associate members shall be those organizations and networks that meet the following criteria for teaching, researching, extension, and dissemination of their members' culture and cooperation among their institution members:
 - ▷ Accreditation of their legal and academic capacity for the exercise of their functions.
 - ▷ Having general operating regulations.
 - ▷ Implementation of defined criteria and procedures to assess the income of their members.
 - ▷ Execution of activities that promote the improvement of the academic quality of their members.

Documentation will be reviewed by the UDUAL's General Secretariat and sent to the corresponding Regional Vice President or the Vice President of Organizations and Networks, who will have a seven working days period to make the report. It will then be submitted to three members of the Executive Council for analysis and, if necessary, approval within a total period of no more than 20 working days.



STRATEGIC PROJECTS

Council for International Assessment and Accreditation (CEAI) ceai@udual.org

The Council for International Assessment and Accreditation (CEAI in Spanish) is a collegiate body, promoted by UDUAL, specialized and independent, made up of representatives of higher education institutions from the six regions of Latin America and the Caribbean in which our organization operates.

CEAI works to improve higher education in Latin America and the Caribbean, in a systematic and permanent way, through an evaluation model that considers the diversity of Latin American and Caribbean universities, whose concept of quality is linked to the social pertinence and responsibility.

CEAI is a non-profit entity that conducts itself with unrestricted respect to the national processes of evaluation and accreditation. Likewise, as part of its functions, it promotes the Master's Degree in Quality Management in Higher Education, with the objective of training professional evaluators.

Programa Académico de Movilidad Estudiantil (PAME) pame@udual.org

The Academic Program of Student Mobility (PAME in Spanish) promotes mobility among the UDUAL's affiliated higher education institutions. This principle refers to subscribing to the same amount and type of coverage of places offered as the home institution. The program is aimed at students at the technical, undergraduate, master's and specialization levels.

Common Space for Online Higher Education (ECESELI) eceseli@udual.org

The Common Space for Online Higher Education (ECESELI, in Spanish) was created by UDUAL, the Organization of American States (OAS), COIMBRA Group and Virtual Educa in 2013, at the University of Panama, with the aim of developing a common space for virtual educational offers that encourage distance and open education, supported by the use and development of educational technology platforms.

Since its creation, its main objectives and areas of work, which address the development of educational offerings to face new educational trends, have focused on:

- Access and appropriate use of digital technologies
- Equality of rights agenda
- Biodiversity
- Climate change
- Professional development of government activity
- Demographic dynamics
- Education
- Technological environment and information society
- Security and sustainability

Master's Degrees

- Food Security
- Virtual Educational Institutions Management
- Latino American Integrated Risk Management
- Climate Change and Biodiversity

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC)

The Association of the Universities of Latin America and the Caribbean (UDUAL), the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua (UNAN), and the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Chiriquí (UNACHI), from Panamá, developed the Integrated Disaster Risk Management MOOC for all the university community.

For more information, please visit this website: <https://es.coursera.org/learn/gestion-riesgo>

Webinars UDUAL-ECESLI

The Association of the Universities of Latin America and the Caribbean (UDUAL) and the Redes Universitarias y el Espacio Común de Educación Superior en Línea (ECESLI) have organized a webinar series about the economy, health and education in the COVID-19 pandemic context.

For more information, please visit this website: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPwXTXn3zfkKGqYyYg1FRdQ>



Certification Courses

Academic Management of Online Higher Education Institutions

The UDUAL and the Universidad de Guadalajara (UDG) coordinate this course, which is focused on the analysis of the appropriate strategies and procedures for the academic management in the online higher education institutions.

For more information, please visit this website: <http://educacioncontinua.udgvirtual.udg.mx/curso/gestion-academica-en-instituciones-de-educacion-superior-en-linea/>

University Planning and Management in the Context of the Sustainable Development

The UDUAL and the UNAM coordinate this course. The objective is to strengthen the institutional planning and evaluation to accomplish the universities' goals and their relation with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



PUBLICATIONS

publicaciones@udual.org

Universidades Magazine

Universidades magazine has been the UDUAL's editorial body, which has accompanied the organization since its inception. It is a space where the academic world has expressed its concerns, ideas and discussions. As an intellectual vehicle that has always been opened to frank dialogue, today it is one of the UDUAL's distinctive features and one of the most widely read journals in the region. Since 2019, it has been an exclusive electronic publication that look for achieving more and better readership in the university continent.

Universidades' quarterly publication is constituted by sections. In "Dossier", specialists in various disciplines and subjects outline their questions about higher education. In "Documentos", we present part of the UDUAL's archive, which belongs to the defense of university autonomy memoirs. In the cultural section "Reflejos", we present reviews, reflections, calls and experiences regarding the academic reasons, focused on the university interests.



Universidades also includes "A distancia", a section that allows us to look at the evolution, the contribution and the future of non-conventional educational models from afar. "Voces", an interview section, makes regional education protagonists voices heard. "De coyuntura" is attentive to current issues related to the academic world. In each edition, "Plástica" is our emblem, a unique sample of Latin American artists who cordially share their already historical work for our pages.

Cuadernos de Universidades

The *Cuadernos de Universidades* collection gathers texts that question and open the door to diagnoses and long-term proposals from specialists in higher education of our region. It articulates and plans several concerns that, around a common agenda, look for being a comprehensive vision of Latin American and Caribbean universities.

Co-publications

Since the centennial celebration of university autonomy in Latin America, in 2019, UDUAL made the first move towards the impetus of co-editing significant books, next to publishing houses as prestigious as Siglo XXI Editores, the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM in Spanish), or the University of Guadalajara.

Autonomías bajo acecho is a fundamental book, written by the most prestigious academic voices in the continent, that unravels the autonomy problems in Latin American universities, since it highlights the need for the persistence in the logic of the current and future education.

El poder de la universidad, by Adrián Acosta, is a historical-sociological essay that, bordering on the study of the formation of the first universities in America, within the academic precepts, drives the force with which another stratum is born in a complex society of colonization.



SOCIAL COMMUNICATION

medios@udual.org

Social networks

(Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)

UDUAL has several diffusion media, including social networks, with their different languages and audiences. Facebook's scope, Twitter's dynamism and Instagram's originality complement each other; they are vital to achieve a great interaction, with which we can get a better positioning of our institutional discourse. Through transmedia communication strategies, in which these social networks acquire special relevance, UDUAL disseminates the General Secretariat and affiliated universities' activities, with the aim of making them regionally visible and showing their achievements to new audiences.

UDUAL TV

We have joined the reinvention of television, now online, in which we improve the content quality, enhancing it with social responsibility. UDUAL TV is an audiovisual platform that broadcasts the General Secretariat and affiliated higher education institutions' activities on YouTube. The channel disseminates the defense of university autonomy and the Latin America internationalization and integration, with a language that is suitable for the cultural diversity of Latin America and the Caribbean. Calls, interviews, reports, documentary forums of artistic and university interest, among other products, constitute the content.

Boletines regionales universitarios

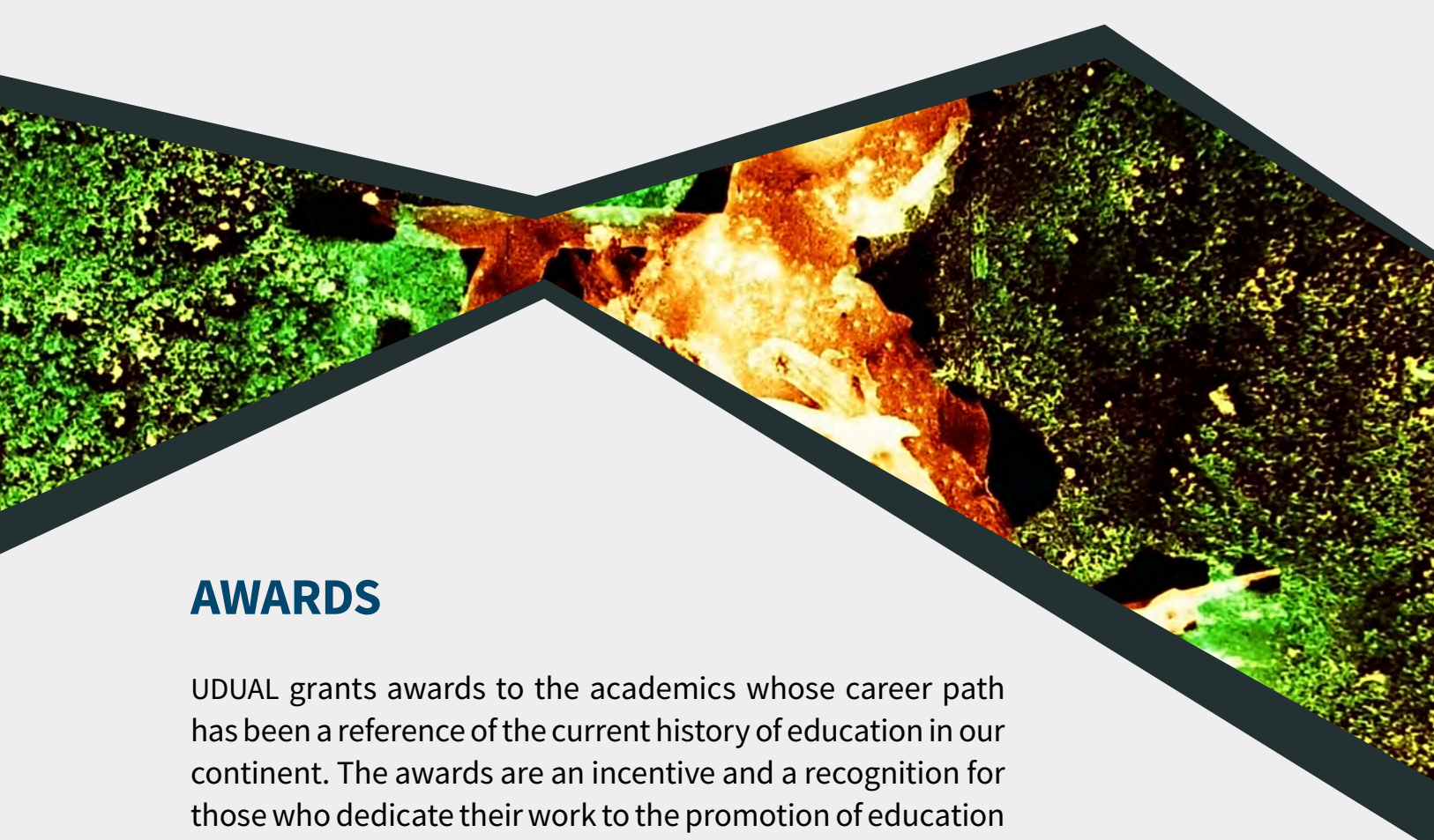
The *Boletines regionales universitarios* are writing spaces for the dissemination of the Latin America and the Caribbean's university work. Each bulletin is regional and contains a collection of scientific, cultural and government news, as well as a guide to its most relevant activities.



AGREEMENTS

Throughout its history, UDUAL has signed collaboration agreements and memoranda of understanding with multilateral and international cooperation associations, non-profit organizations and media networks. In this sense, the agreements with the following organizations are noteworthy:

- Corporación Andina de Fomento (CAF)
- Secretaría General de la Comunidad Andina (SGCAN)
- Grupo Coimbra de Universidades Brasileñas (GCUB)
- Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS/OMS)
- Organismo Andino de Salud-Convenio Hipólito Unanue
- Corporación de Televisión de las Universidades del Estado Chileno (UESTV)
- Instituto Latinoamericano de la Comunicación Educativa (ILCE)
- Asociación de las Televisiones Educativas y Culturales de Iberoamérica (ATEI)
- Radio Iberoamericana Universitaria (RIU)
- Asociación Colombiana de Educación Superior a Distancia (ACESAD)



AWARDS

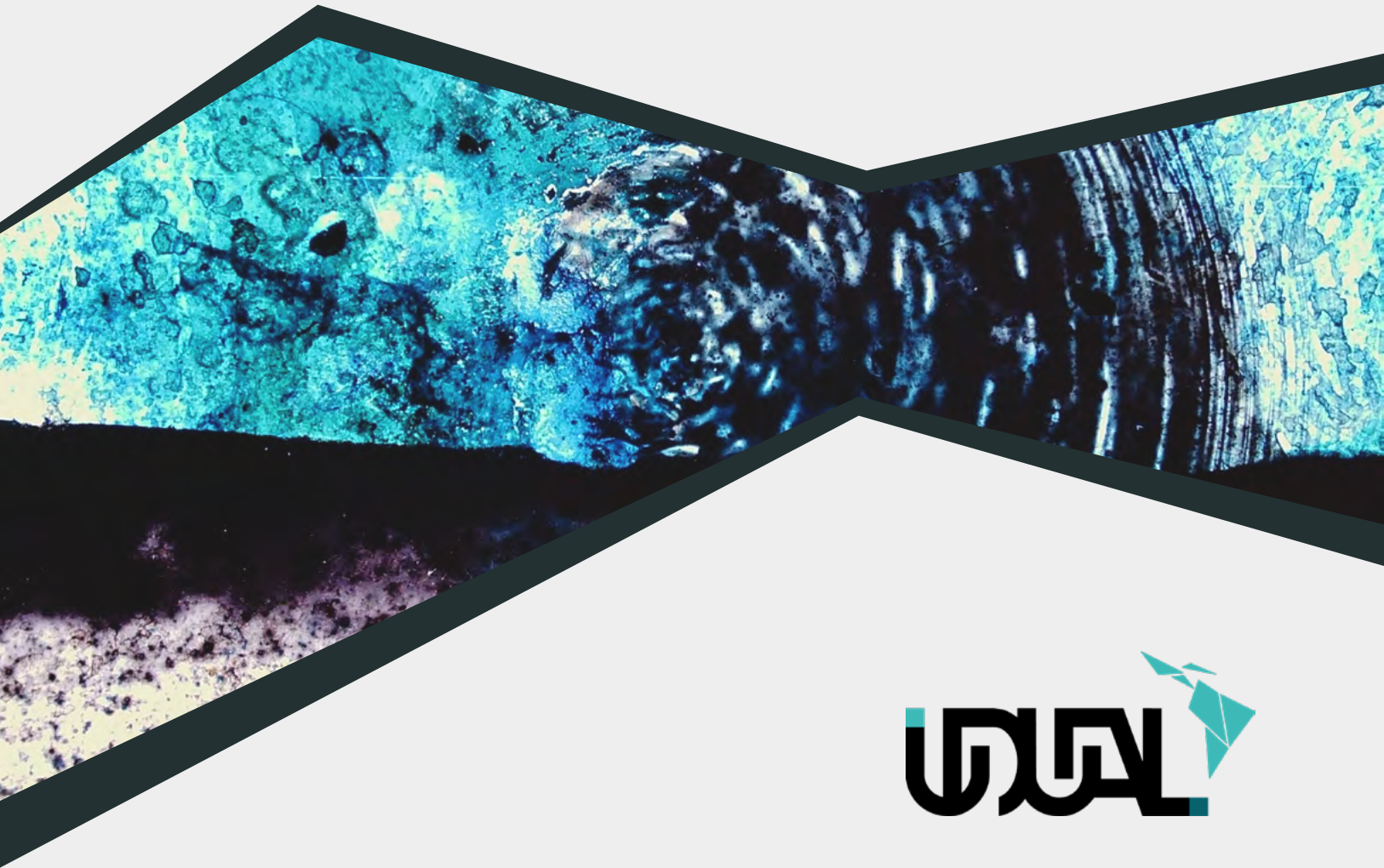
UDUAL grants awards to the academics whose career path has been a reference of the current history of education in our continent. The awards are an incentive and a recognition for those who dedicate their work to the promotion of education in the Latin America and the Caribbean.

Andrés Bello Award

Andrés Bello Award's goal is to encourage research and contribute to the link between science and humanities in the countries of the region, by honouring the best higher education research in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Carlos Martínez Durán Award

UDUAL gives the Carlos Martínez Durán Award to the affiliated-university student whose lifetime career has contributed, in a relevant way, to promote Latin American integration and the improvement of university work.



ICONOGRAPHY

Cover and back cover. *Rodete*, Ernesto Baca. The following works by **Baca** appear, in detail, on the annotated pages: *Antes de la sombra*, pp. 14-15; *Krishna*, p. 19; *Dante*, pp. 16-17.

The works of **Manuela G. Romo** appear, in detail, on the annotated pages: Sin título, pp. 1, 2, 7 y 8; Sin título, pp. 5-6; sin título, p. 3; sin título, p. 4 y sin título, p. 18.

The works of **Génesis Alayón** appear, in detail, on the pages: *Banderines 1*, pp. 9-11; sin título, p. 10.

Details of **Alejandro Santiago's** work corresponding to *2501 migrantes* appear on pages 12 and 13, photographed by **Federico Chao**.

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