



AB 2633 (Alvarez): Brilliance Without Borders

Bill Summary

AB 2633 would allow the California State University (CSU) to award joint undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral degrees with international universities.

Background

A joint degree program is a collaborative academic program offered by two or more universities or institutions. This unique education allows students to benefit from the resources, expertise, and perspectives of each institution while earning a credential that reflects their interdisciplinary or international academic experience.

International joint degree programs play a significant role in today's higher education landscape and are becoming more widespread. Universities worldwide are consistently exploring or responding to requests for such collaborative programs. A key aspect of joint degree programs is the combined strengths of participating institutions, offering students opportunities across multiple countries. Collaborative degree programs hold promise for fostering deeper binational partnerships and facilitating opportunity for academic mobility.

An exemplar of successful binational collaboration is the Center for US-Mexico Studies at the University of California, San Diego.¹ Through cross-border initiatives such as the USMEX Scholars Program Fellowship, scholarly visits, and collaborations with Mexican institutions like

UNAM and ITAM, the center promotes academic and scholarly mobility.

This research institution has highlighted the benefits and importance of having an organized institution for academic mobility. AB 2633 builds upon existing binational academic initiatives and provides the CSU the option to award joint undergraduate and graduate degrees, recognizes the benefit of enduring international partnerships, and empowers students to pursue opportunities for academic and scholarly exchange.

Conclusion

AB 2633 provides scholars a pivotal opportunity to pursue a graduate joint-degree with international institutions. This allowance promotes a beneficial binational approach that enables the California State University system to attract talented international students, enhance their global recognition and prestige, and promote innovative expertise.

Support

For More Information

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¹ Vassar, David, Ph.D., and Beverly Barrett, Ph.D. "US–Mexico Academic Mobility: Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities." Report. James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy, Rice University, December 3, 2014.