

Mexico needs to step up efforts to promote quality and equity in its higher education system

10/01/2019 – Quality and equity are key to effective higher education systems. This is the main message of an OECD review of the higher education system in Mexico launched today by OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría.

“Higher education is a major driver of economic competitiveness and today quality higher education is more important than ever. It is our imperative to raise the quality and equity of Mexico’s higher education system,” said OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría.

The review *Future of Mexican Higher Education: Promoting Quality and Equity* takes a broad look at the governance and funding of Mexican higher education and the mechanisms in place to ensure the quality of education and social equity. It highlights the complex governance of higher education in Mexico and calls for greater clarity and coherence in the responsibilities of individual institutions, the states and the federal government.

The review emphasises the need for a fairer and more transparent system for allocating public funds to institutions in order to reduce disparities in the level of funding per student between institutions and create the conditions for delivering quality education. The review also calls for mandatory accreditation of private institutions, strengthening the current system of *Reconocimiento de Validez Oficial de Estudios* (RVOE), to ensure all higher education providers meet at least basic standards. More generally, the authors urge the Mexican authorities to use public policies to encourage more higher education institutions and programmes to participate in external quality assurance systems, with the ultimate aim of ensuring all students in Mexico study in programmes that meet commonly recognised quality criteria.

The report also considers the social dimension of higher education. The authors argue that achieving greater social equity will require efforts to increase the proportion of young people successfully completing upper secondary education, with a set of skills that allows them to embark on higher-level study. In parallel, the higher education sector must ensure a supply of educational programmes that are relevant to the needs of different population groups and the federal government should take steps to develop a more comprehensive system of federal student support.

The report is available [here](#).

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