



08 de enero de 2013  
SEP-0034-2013

Señor  
Dr. Luis Bernardo Villalobos  
Decano  
Facultad de Medicina

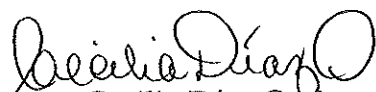
UCR FM 15:37 15/01/13

Estimado señor decano:

Por este medio me permito saludarle y a la vez solicitarle el préstamo de la Sala de Decanos para el día jueves 28 de febrero de 9:30am a 6pm , así como también el Auditorio del NIDES para el día viernes 1° de marzo de 10am a 5:30pm.

La finalidad de esta solicitud es para realizar la actividad con carácter internacional: "Tracer Studies in Central America: Findings and their Relevance for University Strategies and Curriculum Development" co-organizada por el DAAD y nuestro sistema de Estudios de Posgrado. Le adjunto el programa tentativo de la actividad, y desde ya lo invito cordialmente a asistir a ella.

Agradeciendo de antemano la colaboración que nos pudiera brindar en esta oportunidad, se despide cordialmente,

  
Dra. Cecilia Díaz Oreiro  
Decana



Hey/CDO

Cc  
Archivo

**DAAD**

Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst  
German Academic Exchange Service

**DIES**

Deutsches Institut für Fernstudien

# Tracer Studies in Central America: Findings and their Relevance for University Strategies and Curriculum Development

February 28<sup>th</sup> – March 1<sup>st</sup> 2013,  
University of Costa Rica

# Programme Outline

A new demand is emerging: higher education institutions should provide empirical evidence regarding the professional relevance of their study programs. In some countries higher education institutions are formally required to conduct graduate tracer studies in order to get the accreditation of their study programs. Besides the aspect of accountability, higher education institutions are becoming more and more interested to get a systematic feedback from their graduates. Mainly the improvement of the study programs, and more specific the revision of the curricular, are the core objectives of graduate tracer studies.

The regional workshop and conference in Central America is the starting point of dissemination of tracer study approaches, methodology, and results of surveys undertaken in the framework of the University Graduate Tracer Study Training (UNITRACE) to the stakeholders in the region as well as of networking among researchers and institutions of higher education.

In the framework of the training program conducted by the International Centre for Higher Education Research at the University of Kassel in Germany, one of the leading institutions in higher education research worldwide, professional tracer studies were carried out by the UNITRACE participants from the Universidad de Costa Rica, Universidad Autonoma de Nicaragua and Universidad del Valle de Guatemala. The aim was to provide systematic information on the relationships between study and graduate employment and work, graduates' satisfaction with postgraduate programs, quality of teaching, transition to the labour market, and related themes.

Furthermore, the regional conference in Central America aims to address the relevance of tracer studies, demonstrate the examples of good practice and show that tracer studies are possible, important and interesting. The dissemination will be carried out to raise awareness for the potential of graduate surveys and contribute to development of higher education in the region.

This workshop and conference are part of the DIES program – "Dialog on Innovative Higher Education Strategies" which has been jointly coordinated by DAAD and HRK since 2001.

## Preliminary Programme

<b>February 27</b>	<b>Arrival of participants</b> Joined Dinner	
<b>February 28</b>	<b>Workshop: Presentation and Discussion of Results From Tracer Studies</b> <i>Workshop language: English</i>	
10:00 – 11:00	Welcome and Introduction	Rector or Dean of the Postgraduate Studies System, Universidad de Costa Rica  Prof. Dr. Ulrich Teichler, International Centre for Higher Education Research
10:00 – 12:00	Presentation of survey results with special focus on dissemination strategies	Diana Arce Flores and Lorena Kikut Valverde, Universidad de Costa Rica  Dr. Raul Ruiz and Manuel Rivera, Universidad Autonomía de Nicaragua  Eduardo Alvarez and Harry Debroy, Universidad del Valle de Guatemala
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 18:00	Presentations of results of other surveys	Researchers from the region
<b>March 1</b>	<b>Regional conference</b> <i>Conference language: English</i> <i>Simultaneous translation to Spanish provided</i>	
10:00 – 11:00	Welcome and Introduction to the conference	Prof. Dr. Ulrich Teichler, International Centre for Higher Education Research
11:00 – 13:00	<u>Key note addresses:</u> Concept and relevance of tracer studies  Implementation of tracer studies: It is not easy, but, yes, we can!	Prof. Dr. Ulrich Teichler, International Centre for Higher Education Research  Dr. Ahmad Syafiq, University of Indonesia  Other researchers
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 16:00	<u>Examples of good practice</u> Objectives, design and results of institution-wide tracer studies - Universidad de Costa Rica - Universidad Autonomía de Nicaragua - Universidad del Valle de Guatemala	Diana Arce Flores and Lorena Kikut Dr. Raul Ruiz and Manuel Rivera Eduardo Alvarez and Harry Debroy
16:00 – 17:30	<u>Panel discussion:</u> Future co-operation and future steps in the region	Francisco Alarcon Alba, General Secretary CSUCA (tbc)  Dr. Alicia Eugenia Vargas Porras, Education Research Institute, Universidad de Costa Rica (tbc)  Prof. Dr. Ulrich Teichler, International Centre for Higher Education Research  Dr. Ahmad Syafiq, University of Indonesia  Alumni UNITRACE Programme, NN Graduate Study Researcher, NN Rector of a university in Central America, NN
<b>March 2</b>	<b>Departure</b>	