Fostering academic abroad exchanges through videoconference: another alternative

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Virtual Academic Exchange Program

- Exchange: what occurs is not a physical mobility, but an interchange of contents between two similar subjects, that are considered equals among themselves.
- Académico: the main actor of this proposal is the teacher.
- Virtual: all that has virtue to produce an effect, even though it doesn't produce it in the present.

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Program description

- Higher Educational Institution can give some subjects in its study plan to the students of other universities.
- These subjects, must not have practical hours or they can be achieved through theoretical sessions without affecting the context.
- The number of hours that it is given during the week are the same in both Institutions.

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- When it be international, the administrative staff and the teaching staff must have the disposition and adequate flexibility to be able to achieve an agreement on schedules in both countries.

- Project designed to benefit the student, it seeks not affect the student's schedule, increasing saturation or hours.

- For the benefit of teachers, it seeks not to work overtime and your wages would be specified in the agreement.

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- Decision of each institution, do the agreements with foreign universities, due to that the native tongue can be considered a competence or idiomatic a barrier, that end in low academic achievement or desertion.

- The teacher evaluation. Detect errors that may occur in the sessions, to improve future courses.

- Students. Do constant evaluations, to discard a low academic achievement, it has been considered: investigations, essays, pertinent activities, debates and discussion.

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Example UV - UCV

- The University of Veracruz has a valid international mobility agreement with the Catholic University of Valencia ”Saint Vincent Martyr” which is exclusive among the PE faculties and the degree in Sciences of physical activity and sports.

- It was thought in these two faculties for the pilot program. The plans of studies of the subjects have been revised in both faculties and raises the following as candidates:

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University of Veracruz Physical education ,Sports and Recreation		Catholic University of Valencia Science of the Physical activity and sports	
Subject	Hours per week	Subject	Hours per week
General Physiology	4	Human Physiology	4
History and Theory of the Physical Culture	4	History of the Physical Activity	4
Sports Sociology	4	Sociology of the Sports	4
Psychology applied to Sports	4	Sports Psychology	4
Basic Statistics	4	Statistics	4
Exercise Physiology	4	Exercise Physiology	4
Biomechanics Applied	4	Biomechanics of the Physical Activity	4
Applied Nutrition	4	Physical and Sport Activity Nutrition	4

Candidate subject to the academic virtual interchange program UV-UCV.

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- General Physiology and Human Physiology, can be given theoretical and virtually without affecting the contents.

- 4 hours per week. If the General Physiology and Human Physiology are virtually imparted in the period August to December 2013, the teacher in the UV, instead of giving classes to students of his faculty, he would be responsible for providing his sessions to the UCV students, while the UCV academic, instead of giving a class to students in his university, he would teach students from the UV, all through a videoconferencing service.

- Each one in the hours agreed by the receiver university, by the difference in the schedules.

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- The cost of this Program practically is zero, because the videoconferencing system signal is free and it works through the internet.

- Would impact the academic life of a greater number of students, compared to the few who benefit from the international mobility.

- **Benefits:**
- Having rapprochement with abroad.
- Open the mentality about multiculturalism, personal growth and opportunities for students.
- Increasing foreign language practice and motivate other students through verbal propaganda of youth who have had this experience.

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Conclusions

- This do not suggest that is better than international mobility, but definitely it has been thought it was a useful and positive alternative.
- This innovative project can strengthen the educational program of any faculty.
- The Universities that adopt it would function as a promoting organisms of new spaces for the development of their students.
- These Institutions would insert people in the labor market with a different vision, that would remunerate knowledge in its field of expertise.

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