A profoundly Colombian educational project
Central University was founded in 1966 by a group of renowned Colombian educators seeking to extend higher education access to all sectors of society. It is currently known for its comprehensive offer of ethics, humanistic and scientific education as well as knowledge of the country’s social reality.

It stands for pluralism and respect for difference as a basis for peaceful coexistence, personal development, culture of peace, respect for human rights, as well as autonomy, analysis, criticism and questioning as tools to educate suitable professionals to be upstanding citizens and leaders capable of guiding the socio-cultural transformations which are required by the country.

Central University’s educational project starts with the belief that it is possible to propose knowledgeable alternatives to the world from the Latin American and Colombian standpoint, hence its identification with Bogotá and the country. In addition to teaching, research and outreach services, it distinguishes itself by integrating the preservation of the cultural heritage and the environment with its core functions, not just as a way to safeguard the wealthy national biodiversity but also as an attitude towards life and the future.

To make a contribution to the formation of social and cultural capital by developing university undergraduate, graduate and continued education programs in science, technology, arts and humanities, that articulate the teaching, research and social projection functions around the comprehensive education of critical, creative, and sensitive individuals endowed with a high sense of citizenship, commitment to a city and country project that is ecologically viable, productive, democratic, plural, united, and firmly established in their Latin American identity.

Mission
The Board of Trustees

Fernando Sánchez Torres

Jaime Posada Díaz

Jaime Arias Ramírez

Rector
Rafael Santos Calderón

Journalist; he graduated from Kansas University fellow of the John S. Knight program for journalists from Stanford University. He wrote his first newspaper articles for The Miami Herald, a journal for which he worked as reporter and editor for two years. Later, in 1976, he joined the El Tiempo team as editor of both the national and international sections, Chief Editor and Deputy Director, just before taking up the newspaper’s leadership. He became the first Dean of Central University’s Faculty of Journalism.

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Luis Fernando Chaparro Osorio

This Vice Chancellor office develops plans designed to strengthen the teaching, research and outreach services of the university’s undergraduate and graduate programs in coordination with the faculties.

The current Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs is Dr. Luis Fernando Chaparro Osorio, a sociologist from Louvain University with a master’s degree in rural sociology and Ph.D., in industrial and organizational sociology from Princeton University. He has a long track-record and experience in senior executive positions, among which his leadership of Colciencias (The National Science Institute) stands out as well as counseling and the coordination of the National Accreditation Council (CAN - by its acronym in Spanish).

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Financial and Administrative Affairs
Nelson Gnecco Iglesias

This office is responsible, among other functions for advising and assisting The Board of Trustees and Chancellor regarding the institution’s administrative and financial affairs. Currently, the Administrative and Financial Vice Chancellor is Dr. Nelson Gnecco Iglesias. Dr. Gnecco is an economist from Jorge Tadeo Lozano University, with a Master’s degree in Social Security Administration and management awarded by the Alcalá de Henares University (Spain). Dr. Gnecco has developed his professional career in the public and private sectors. As the Chief Financial Officer of Avianca airlines, he laid down the foundation for its operation after the merging with ACES airlines. He has also held senior executive positions at companies such as Merck, Sharp & Dohme, Carbovent, The American Pharmaceutical Organization and Arthur Andersen & Company. In the public sector, he served as Deputy Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Planning Director at the Social Security institute. In the teaching field, Dr. Gnecco has been a professor at Jorge Tadeo Lozano University and international instructor in administrative and system courses.
The University’s graphic image has been built based on the leaf of the banana passionfruit (Passiflora tripartita mollissima), a vine from the Passifloraceae family, native to tropical and temperate regions of South America. Because it is an indigenous plant strongly linked to the culture, traditional medicine and food supply of aboriginal communities of pre-Hispanic America, the banana passionfruit is the ideal reference to convey those traits that make us unique.

The banana passionfruit’s four leaves symbolize our university’s four main functions which must always be present in the institution’s work complementing each other: teaching, research, outreach services, and preservation of the natural and cultural heritage. In turn, the leaves’ orientation (each of which points towards one of the main directions of the compass rose) express the universality, diversity and pluralistic ideas, which are foundational principles of an institution that professes academic freedom.

In the heart of our symbol there is a burgundy circle. Upon conveying the notion of “center” and “Central”, this circle represents the University’s already long institutional history as well as the respect and recognition by executives, teachers, staff and new generation students for those who founded and helped build this unique educational project in the past, just as for all graduates who once were in their classrooms. Around it, the leaves intertwine to suggest the meaning of tolerance and respect for others’ ideas, which must reign in the academy.

The four-leaf graphic composition can also be seen as a modular unit that from the front, seems to open up to the viewer as if it were the calyx enveloping the flower bud when coming to life. This visual interpretation suggests a philosophical attitude of openness to the world, an indispensable condition to acquire knowledge, an ethical foundation and sensitivity which the University seeks to instill in students.
Virtual campus

The CU virtual portal’s main objective is to provide high quality programs to a larger segment of the population, both at the undergraduate and graduate level, nationally and internationally. It is a proposal in which new communication forms between teachers and students are posed, with a dynamic striking and aesthetic invitation to constant interaction. It also takes full advantage of all virtual resources to generate learning experiences which motivate actors of this modality to stay involved in all university activities, so that they also receive a comprehensive education. This space constitutes a digital reality that recreates Central University’s physical environment, supported by a high-availability platform that enables the development of production processes, training and socialization within the scope of virtual education without worrying about the technical aspects.

Campus

The locations of the two university campuses in strategic positions within the city, downtown and in the north, means the university is near the business sector as well as urban, cultural and educational renewal projects that are of great importance to the city and country.
Technological Development Laboratory

Natural Science Laboratory
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Biological Sciences
- Instrumental Analysis
- Biological Mechanisms

Environmental Processes Laboratory
- Water Laboratory
- Soil Laboratory

Equipment and Tools Laboratory
- Machining
- Welding
- Thermal plants

Design, Energy and Manufacturing Laboratory
- Energy
- Plastic Manufacturing
- Materials
- Fluids and Hydraulic Machines

Electrical & Electronics Industrial Laboratory
- Electrical Output and High Voltage
- Integrated Manufacturing System
- Hydraulic and Pneumatic Systems
- Electrical Machines
- Electronic Devices Design
- Industrial Automation
- Instrumentation, Sensors and Nanotechnology
- Telematics
- Analog and Digital Electronics
- Movement Analysis and Ergonomics
- Signal and Image Analysis (bioengineering)

Research Laboratory for production and operations
- Production Training Area and Operations Research
- Simulation Area
- Automated Manufacturing
Why study at the Central University?

- It is a world-class university in terms of quality and track-record.
- It has over 45 years of experience comprehensively educating professionals.
- 28,794 undergraduate and 6,429 graduate alumni have completed their studies here.
- 10,470 undergraduate students and 324 graduate students are currently enrolled.
- It employs 326 full time teachers, 46 part-time and 518 lecturers.
- It offers inter-semester leveling or curriculum advancement courses.
- Qualification approval from other professional levels.
Institutional Chess Project

Learning how to play and playing chess are regarded as pedagogical and academic elements by this project that fully reflects the University’s mission and also aids the students’ personal, professional and intellectual development process. It has been developed through a series of activities and events that promote participation and recognition of chess at regional, national and international levels, and has a direct relationship with sport, science, art and education.

Through this project, the University has developed strategies to position itself as a leader in the field of college chess. It has encouraged its students and staff to play this sport in their free time and has become a tool for analysis and constant reflection. For this purpose and with the intention to expand this practice, many activities and events focused on learning and the improvement of chess skills have been carried out.

Since its launch in 2006, the Institutional Chess Project has organized the International Chess Festival, supported by the Colombian Chess Federation (“Fecodaz” - by its acronym in Spanish) and the World Chess Federation (“FIDE” - by its acronym in French). This festival consist of a series of tournaments played during the second half of each year and covers the field of national education as it attracts elementary and high school students in separate tournaments, students and staff from higher education institutions and even the most qualified athletes and players in the Elite Tournament. The Festival also develops a series of activities related to science, art and culture, by linking them to the chess game.

These actions are directed by the host Sergio Gonzalez, from the International Federation, and current coordinator of the Institutional Chess Project, and also, by sponsored students that are part of the first class team.

Film Club

The Film Club was founded in 1975 within the Humanities and Literature Department. Since 1998 it has featured an excellent venue for film screenings like the Founders Auditorium (Auditorio Fundadores), wherein today’s major film events such as the European Film Festival “Európski”, the Bogotá Film Festival, the Russian Film Festival, the Documentary Week (simultaneously organized with the Latin Film Festival in New York), the Beeld voor Beeld International Documentary sample among others, are held.

The film club has managed to record an audience of up to 54,000 viewers in a year and has increased its presence in the city’s film activities by organizing contextualized or author thematic cycles, collaborating with the creation of new film clubs and discussion spaces around different aspects concerning the audiovisual field, permanently preoccupied by the formation of film audiences by scheduling events, lectures, conferences and publications; actions that are framed within the University’s educational and social function.

Audiovisual Media Unit (AMU)

The Audiovisual media unit was created in April 2004 with the aim to support and complement the university’s academic activities by providing production and audiovisual services. Since then it has brought together the equipment, operators and infrastructure needed to produce television, video, photography, radio and multimedia.

Given the digital migration process, the unit currently features cutting-edge-technology & equipment for recording and editing, available to students of Social Communication and Journalism, Advertising, and available for use for production and implementation of the institutional television image and sound, the recording of lectures, seminars and meetings organized by other departments as well as audiovisual production for external institutions.
The University’s research activities are mainly organized around centers and research institutes belonging to each of the faculties.

- Economic and Social Research Center (Faculty of Administrative, Economic and Financial Sciences)
- Institute for Contemporary Social Studies (Faculty of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts)
- Research Center for Innovation (Faculty of Engineering)

Currently, the institution’s research activities are part of the following strategic areas:

- Innovation and creation
- Models
- Sustainable development
- Culture and Identities
Institutional Welfare Department

The Institutional Welfare Department at Central University develops comprehensive coverage programs that meet the Central University community’s needs and interests, tending to the academic, cultural, sporting and emotional development of members through these areas:

- Health Promotion and Quality of Life
- Academic and Cultural Integration
- Leisure, Sports and Environment
- Socioeconomic promotion

Outreach service

Aside from offering academic programs that are regularly updated according to the potential students’ needs, Central University offers the following programs to the public on a regular basis:

Language Department Programs and Courses

- General English Program
- General German Program
- General French Program
- Spanish Program for Foreigners
- Kids English Program
- Conversational English Course
- Business English Course
- IELTS and TOEFL Exam Preparation Courses

Inter-Institutional Relations Office

This office leads and manages processes and strategies designed for the university’s international projection and its academic community members as well as strategies leading to closer links with other higher education institutions, government agencies and private sector companies. Among the functions of the Inter-institutional relations office; that of generating and tracking agreements which promote the exchange of Central University’s students and teachers with national and international institutions and academic networks stands out.

Cultural and City Outreach Office

Through this office, the University manages the recovery and re-appropriation city project, which includes cultural, leisure and recreational activities that provide students and the community with different alternatives to extend their knowledge regarding the urban setting and proper use of leisure time. Cultural activities like bicycle tours, Chess Tournaments at the Eduardo Umaña Square, the integration and construction of the downtown Cultural Corridor, and the Shout Festival – Urban Culture, are examples of how the University tends to improve quality of life in the Bogotá downtown area.
Undergraduate Programs

Faculty of Administrative, Economic and Financial Sciences

Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Faculty of Engineering

Academic programs
Central University’s business administration students are trained to act as creators of new businesses, business consultants or managers of the organizational change, with the ability to make proposals for improvement with relevance and responsibility, thanks to a solid education that enables them to understand public and private organizations.

Central University’s public accounting students are characterized by their ability to face the challenges in this discipline with a deep sense of ethics, always open to the universal socioeconomic trends framed within sustainable development, demonstrating a broad sense of participation in business and government decision-making.

Central University’s economics students have the capacity to understand the national and international economic dynamics and how they are affected by governments and private sectors as generators of income and value. All of this is supported by a comprehensive, critical and interdisciplinary perspective committed to ethics, the environment and democracy.

Central University’s marketing professionals are able to carry out tasks as sales managers, marketing managers or brand/product managers. They also have the ability to conduct activities as market researchers, consultants of physical distribution organizations and promotion or marketing storage centers.
Audit & Control Specialization  
SNIES Code: 9425  
Central University’s audit and control specialists are characterized by having a set of skills for decision making, solving complex problems and offering alternatives to national issues; with the capacity to design monitoring-auditing systems based on information technologies, assess and measure organizational risk as well as measure standards in relation to the organization’s requirements and support the organizational control reference frameworks.

Master of Science in Taxation  
SNIES Code: 1176  
Central University’s Master of Science in Taxation Program offers the necessary skills to effectively manage taxes within the legal, economic, political and social contexts, in such a way that organizations and the State identify their ethical commitment and social responsibility oriented in respect to common interest.

Strategic Cost Management Specialization  
SNIES Code: 53963  
Central University’s Strategic Cost Management Specialists have the ability to strategically direct, plan, design and manage budgets, in order to achieve high levels of efficiency and organizational effectiveness. Similarly they have the capacity to design cost management tools, manage control mechanisms and instruments, propose evaluation criteria to assess each of the resources and develop information systems useful for decision-making.

Tax Audit Specialization  
SNIES Code: 4821  
Central University’s Tax Audit Specialists are characterized by a set of skills for decision-making, solving complex problems and offering alternatives to national problems. They have the capacity to design and create innovative control mechanisms and use tools to identify, measure, and assess risks in organizations as well as management instruments applied to them and create planning instruments to monitor institutions and organizations.

Master of Arts in Organization Management  
SNIES Code: 91499  
Central University’s Master of Arts in Organization Management offers the necessary skills to understand and intervene in different organizational systems. At the same time, it gives students the ability to design appropriate strategies to redirect them when needed, through their own management systems suitable to the organizational context in which they intervene.
Faculty of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts

Undergraduate programs

Dramatic Arts
SNIES Code: 52477
Central University’s Dramatic Arts professional is characterized by a balanced interaction between personality and the theater work objective, a knowledge of poetry with the ability to articulate art with inspiration, besides knowing the theater history and master its technical methods.

Film
SNIES Code: 91348
Central University’s Film professionals have the necessary knowledge to produce both documentary and fiction films, to manage all elements involved in the construction of audiovisual stories, in addition to knowing about the production and marketing processes of work in the film industry.

Social Communication and Journalism
SNIES Code: 1170
Central University’s social communicators have the capacity to serve as editors and copywriters, content managers to stimulate information and communication systems, as well as journalistic and organizational strategy advisors. Similarly, they have the ability to manage, implement and assess projects consistent with the social and communication needs that arise.

Creative Literary Writing
SNIES Code: 90559
The professional in Creative Literary Writing of Central University has the necessary knowledge about the composition of any literary texts. This allows him/her to perform academic and publishing tasks and all trades that emerge from such activities, cultural management networks, literary contests and new information technology areas, as well as the abilities to conduct tasks as content editor for Internet portals, websites, blogs and other electronic formats.
Central University's law students are trained to meet the 21st century's legal requirements and globalization challenges thanks to their training in the study of social, economic and political relations with legal implications that are woven between subjects and institutions, enabling them to contribute to the peaceful resolution of disputes and respect for human rights within the framework of ethnic, cultural and environmental diversity.

Central University's music professionals have the ability to successfully take part in various working settings, create and re-create cultural products (as performers, composers, or directors) and conduct teaching activities thanks to the experience provided by the pedagogical practice and critical thought in this area; as well as carrying out tasks as cultural promoters, music critics or researchers in private or public organizations.

Central University’s publicists have a comprehensive education to serve as corporate and business communicators in the creative global market campaigns related to goods or services, supported by new information and communication technologies. They also have the ability to develop effective and creative strategic plans and provide advice to carry out corporate and commercial communications.

The narrative writing specialist will reach higher levels of depth in knowledge, competence and skills necessary to create narrative texts and perform tasks in the academic world, including the publishing, cultural management, and new information technology fields, which is expressed today through hypertext or hypermedia stories.

The graduate student from the MA in Creative Literary Writing will have the knowledge, skills and qualifications to perform activities as literary creator, contributor to magazines and cultural supplements, business books writer, cultural manager, teacher, biographies and sketches writer, specialized books writer, editor, editing consultant, literary production manager, compilations and anthologies author and writer of hypertext stories and online texts.
Central University’s Master of Arts in Human Systems Intervention provides students the ability to work with groups of people in conflict and emotional difficulties, with the need to create inclusive communication forms requiring a process change from the systemic and social constructionist perspective.

Central University’s Master of Arts in Contemporary Social Problems Research features the training to carry out supporting activities, advisory and consultancy services to public and private entities; as well as be employed by national and international research networks and take part in production processes, the circulation and critical appropriation of knowledge in contemporary social issues especially relevant to Colombia and Latin America.

Academic agreements with:
- Schola Cantorum Basilien-sis (SCB), Basel, Switzerland
- San Fernando Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Madrid, Spain
- EAFIT University, Medellin, Colombia.
Central University’s environmental engineering students are trained to establish links between nature, society and culture, in a way that will bring feasible balance to the economic systems, with the ability to solve environmental problems and propose innovative projects for sustainable development, as well as preventing, controlling, reducing and offsetting changes derived from environmental problems.

Central University’s systems engineering students have the knowledge required to produce analysis, research, design and innovation processes in the different areas related to information technology, communications and computer science, as well as to address and solve any information management problem or application design brought to them throughout their profession.

Central University’s electronic engineering students have the training to understand the storage and energy transformation processes through electronic systems, for acquiring, transforming, transmitting and receiving information in order to carry out applications in different fields and perform tasks in professional fields involving research, design, management and intervention related to electronics and other application areas.

Central University’s industrial engineering students are trained to deal with production systems of specific goods and services, thanks to their understanding of the material and human resources transformation processes that occur in organizations. Similarly, they can serve as knowledge/technology managers and identify social and business needs to create alternative solutions.

Central University’s biology students have the ability to contribute to reaching a better understanding of the natural world and address the concerns about our welfare and that of other species against ecosystem degradation and the growing demand for environmental resources, as well as to perform activities such as research, biotechnology, environmental management and preservation, forensic science and education.
Graduate programs

Telecommunications Technology Management Specialization
SNIES Code: 101668
Telecommunications technology management specialists from Central University have a set of skills that enables them to understand the global trends of communication, technological developments and the technical, normative and management effects on organizations that use, offer and require them.

Mechatronics Specialization
SNIES Code: 102747
This study program offers knowledge in the fields of conceptual, quantitative, and computer-based methodologies required to create mathematical models with high scientific accuracy, that can be applied to real systems, represent a solution to concrete problems, and that can be also used in practical fields regarding biology, ecology, statistics, computer science, social sciences, and nanotechnology.

Mathematics
SNIES Code: 91432
The students from Mathematics program in the Central University have the training that allows them to have a solid knowledge of the mathematical structures and their relationships to abstract formal systems with their respective reasoning and inference rules. This enables them to intervene in the advisory process to industrial and services companies regarding problem solving and result interpretation.

Mechanic Engineering
SNIES Code: 2993
Graduate students from this program are able to creatively apply scientific and technological knowledge for product development, machinery and mechanical systems, in addition to incorporating managerial, business and social aspects. This allows them to offer solutions to problems of a social and business nature in areas such as mechanical design, plant engineering and maintenance, bioengineering, mechatronics, automation and manufacturing processes.

Master’s Program in Modeling and Simulation (in agreement with Jorge Tadeo Lozano University)
SNIES Code: 101726
Graduates from the Mechatronics Specialization program will be able to serve in the design, technological management and intervention areas in the field of mechatronics, by proposing and developing technological projects with innovative solutions.
Virtual study mode

Industrial Mechatronics Specialization

SNIES Code: 102195

Industrial Mechatronics specialists have the tools, techniques, procedures, theories and concepts to create technological solutions for industrial processes based on integrated designs of electronic, mechanical and computer systems.

- Curricular program flexibility.
- A unique online specialization program offered in Latin America.
- Consistent follow-up with engineering programs and Automation and Robotics Research Group.

Click in the box to play the video.

Academic programs