

## Universidad de Guadalajara

The University of Guadalajara is a public, autonomous institution with a tradition stretching back two centuries. It is structured as a Network of University Centers, a medium-upper education system and a central administration that has establishments throughout the State of Jalisco.

Its origins date back to 1591 when the Jesuits founded the Academy of St. Thomas Aquinas (Colegio de Santo Tomás de Aquino). This eventually closed in 1767 due to the expulsion of Jesuits from Mexico. In that same year, Fray Antonio Alcalde requested and obtained support from King Charles IV of Spain to found the new University in 1791; then named the Royal and Literary University of Guadalajara.

In the XIX Century, the university went through a series of changes. Its name was changed to the National University and the symbols of Spain were substituted by the national seal of Mexico. Due to intellectual conflicts between the liberals and conservative leaders the university closed and reopened repeatedly.

After the Mexican Revolution (1910), the educational system was reformed to be secular and accessible to all. With this new philosophy, the university was founded again as the University of Guadalajara.

Nowadays, the University of Guadalajara has grown to become a network made up of one medium- upper education system, 14 university centers and one virtual university; all with the mission of bringing education throughout the state. The University of Guadalajara also provides many other different services, and aims to ensure the preservation and dissemination of the values of the Mexican culture and its expressions.

According to its vision, the objectives of the University are to become a leading public university in scientific, humanistic, and technological research in Mexico. It aims to distinguish itself through its high level of its scientific production in compliance with international standards, in order to contribute to academic and social development, as well as to internationalize the academic curricula and to promote the exchange of students and academics. To achieve these objectives, the University has defined strategies to encourage education and research, to promote internationalization, and to redefine its mission to ensure the diffusion of culture throughout society.

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