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**BUILDING CAPACITY  
FOR GLOBAL LEARNING**

**NAFSA**

Association of  
International Educators

# **#Cubadaptable**

## **What Educators Seeking to Engage Cuba's P-20 Systems Need to Know Now**

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Population	11.2 Million
Universities and research centers	48
Higher education enrollment	400,000+



## Quick Facts About Cuban Education

- The whole educational system in Cuba is run by the State and it is 100% subsidized by the government
- The World Bank has recognized Cuba as having the best educational system in Latin America and the Caribbean and as the only country in the region whose teaching force can be considered “high quality” by global comparators
- Cuban education allocation of national budget is 13%, the highest in the world





## The Road to Literacy

- “in the next year, our people plan to wage a great battle against illiteracy with the ambitious goal of teaching every last illiterate person to read and write. To this end organizations of teachers, students, workers, that is, the people as a whole, are preparing themselves for an intense campaign, and Cuba will be the first country in America which, at the end of a few months, will be able to say that it does not have a single illiterate person.”

Fidel Castro – UN 1960



# Brigadistas





## Higher Education Programs



Licenciatura (Bachelor's degree equivalent) or professional degree (Titulo) 4-5 years of study

Diplomado, Maestria and Especialista. (equivalent to the Master's degree) students must complete a minimum of 200 hours in theory, practicum and internship

Doctoral Degree. Students must study for 3 to 4 years before they are considered for candidacy in a Doctoral program. Once they are approved for candidacy, students are admitted into the Doctoral Program where they will conduct their scientific research and defend the findings of their work in front of a national jury to be awarded their Doctoral Degree



# Teacher Preparation

- Círculos infantiles
- Preparation of “emergent teachers”
  - Primary teachers as the base of the whole educational system
- Generalist teachers for basic secondary
- Certification of teachers





# My Cuba Experience

## TIES 2015 – Evento Paulo Freire 2016









# Our role in the normalization of U.S - Cuba relations





# How do educators and students who are U.S citizens get there?

- Professional Research and Professional Meetings
- Educational Activities
- People to People Travel





What constitutes generally authorized travel-related transactions for “professional research” and “professional meetings” in Cuba?

Professional research of meeting in Cuba relating to

- a traveler’s profession
- professional background
- area of expertise

The traveler’s schedule of activities must not include free time or recreation in excess of that consistent with a full-time schedule.



## What constitutes “educational activities” for generally authorized travel and other transactions?

It authorizes, subject to conditions

- faculty, staff, and students at U.S. academic institutions and secondary schools to engage in certain educational activities in Cuba
- Cuban scholars to engage in certain educational activities in the United States
- certain activities to facilitate licensed educational programs.
- U.S. and Cuban universities may engage in academic exchanges and joint non-commercial academic research under the general license.

## What constitutes “people-to-people travel” for generally authorized travel?

It authorizes persons subject to U.S. jurisdiction to

- engage in certain educational exchanges in Cuba either individually or under the auspices of an organization that is a person subject to U.S. jurisdiction and sponsors such exchanges to promote people-to- people contact.
- Travelers utilizing this general license must ensure they maintain a full-time schedule of educational exchange activities intended to enhance contact with the Cuban people, support civil society in Cuba, or promote the Cuban people’s independence from Cuban authorities, and that will result in meaningful interaction between the traveler and individuals in Cuba.



## What constitutes “people-to-people travel” for generally authorized travel? (cont’d).

- The predominant portion of the activities must not be with a prohibited official of the Government of Cuba.
- For travel conducted under the auspices of an organization, an employee, paid consultant, or agent of the sponsoring organization must accompany each group traveling to Cuba to ensure that each traveler has a full-time schedule of educational exchange activities. In addition, persons relying upon this authorization must retain records related to the authorized travel transactions, including records demonstrating a full-time schedule of authorized activities.

# Additional Resources

- [U.S Treasury FAQs on Travel to Cuba](#)
- [Cost of living in Cuba 2016](#) – locals
- [Cost of traveling in Cuba 2016](#) – foreigners
- [The Education System in Cuba](#)
- [15 Facts About Cuban Education](#)
- [Great Teachers How to Raise Student Learning](#) – World Bank Report 2014
- [Perspectives on the Cuban National Literacy Campaign](#)



# Discussion

