



## SINEACE and SUNEDU: Organizations That Reminded of The Core Purpose of Peruvian Universities, Toward Quality

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### Abstract

The Congress elected for 2021-2026 enacted Law No. 31520, changing the meaning of Law No. 30220 (University Reform Law). The objective is to compare and analyze the outcome before and after 2015, at least until 2024 or the date when the autonomy of Peruvian universities was reestablished. The research has a qualitative approach, and the methodology corresponds to a case study based on existing records. In the more than 31 years when there was autonomy, universities did not appear in the quality rankings. However, in the seven years that the University Reform was in force, it had positive outcomes, as it allowed Peruvian universities to appear in the three main quality rankings. As of 2024, 30 appeared in the SIR1 Ranking, 25 in the QS Latin America University Rankings, 10 in the QS2 World University, and 10 in the THE3 Ranking. In the seven years, some universities claimed that they did not enjoy autonomy but did enjoy excessive supervision, on the other hand, they managed to rise exponentially. So, why did Peruvian politicians return autonomy to universities with Law No. 30220?

KEYWORDS: AUTONOMY, EDUCATIONAL POLICY, QUALITY ASSURANCE, UNIVERSITY COUNTER-REFORM, UNIVERSITY REFORM.

### Introduction

The National System of Evaluation, Accreditation, and Certification of Educational Quality (SINEACE), in coordination with the Ministry of Education (MINEDU), is responsible for the national accreditation and certification of competencies granted by Law No. 28740. A positive action by SINEACE in 2021 was the Regulation for the Recognition of Accreditations and the Directive for the Recognition of Foreign Accrediting Agencies was repealed on August 8, 2024. In Peru, between 1983 and 2014 (31 years old), eight lists were formed to represent the National Assembly of Rectors (ANR), which functioned until December 31, 2014 (Wikipedia, 2023) and allowed the creation of 143 universities (Mejía y Montero, 2019)/144: 51 public, 41 private nonprofit, and 52 private for-profit (Molina, 2020).

In 2015, the University Reform took place, which created the National Superintendence of University Education (SUNEDU). This regulatory and supervisory body was supported by University Law No. 30220 (MINEDU, 2015), which, as of June 9, 2023, granted licenses to 96 universities and denied 46 for not complying with the Basic Quality Conditions (CBC). That same year, the Government of Professor Pedro Castillo, enacted Law No. 31520, which reformulates the functions of SUNEDU and restores autonomy to Peruvian universities with the publication of resolution N.º 005-2023-SUNEDU/CD.

### Theoretical framework

Multimodels encompass both licensing models and accreditation models, the latter being known as Accreditation Agency models (AA), models adopted by nine top Peruvian universities in Peru and others (see Figure 1). The information was extracted from their respective websites in 2023.

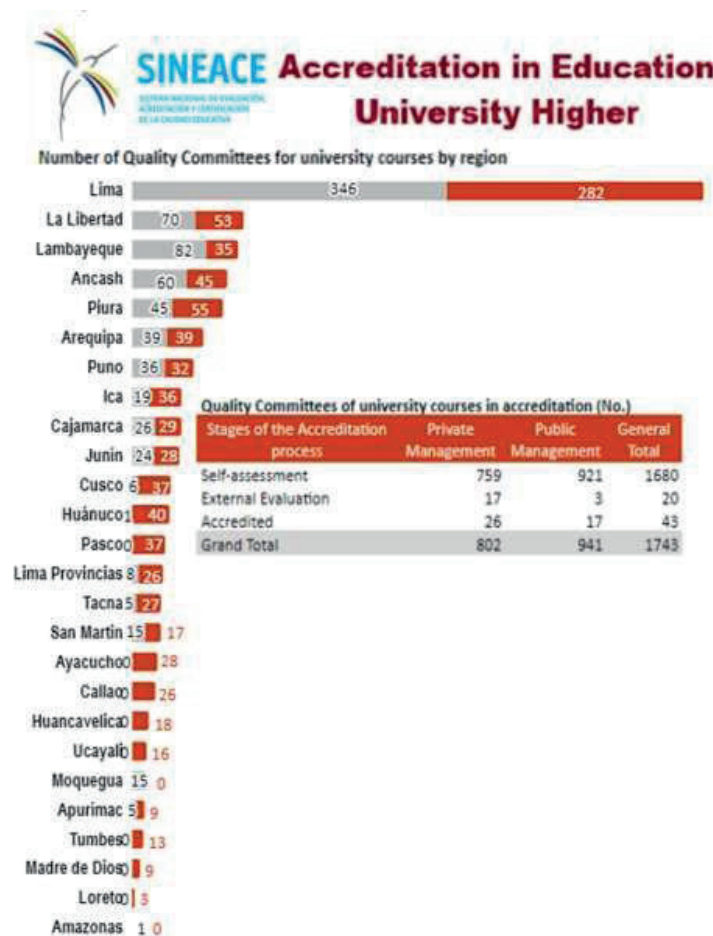
**Figure 1. National and international multi-models in effect as of 2023 by 9 top Peruvian universities**

Accrediting Agencies (AA)	Acronyms (Country)	Range
National System of Evaluation, Accreditation and Certification of the Quality of Education	SINEACE (Peru)	All programs
Institute for Quality and Accreditation of Computer Science, Engineering and Technology Programs	ICACIT (Peru)	Engineering
Mexican Council for the Accreditation of Medical Education	COMAEM (Mexico)	Human medicine
Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, Inc	ABET (United States)	Engineering
Interuniversity Development Center	CINDA (Chile)	All programs
Senior College and University Commission	WASC (United States)	All programs
Accreditation Commission for Programs in Hospitality Administration	ACPHA (United States)	Hotel management
National Council on Education and Professional Practice of the Chemical Sciences	CONAECQ (Mexico)	Chemical sciences
European Foundation for Management Development	EFMD (Belgium-Europe)	Business
Association of MBAs	AMBA (London)	Business
Accreditation Council for Business School and Programs, previously Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs	ACBSP (United States)	Business
European Council for Entrepreneurship Education	ECBE (Brussels)	Economics, business, management, and related fields
Agency for Quality Assurance of the Galician University System	ACSUG (Galicia – Spain)	All programs

Own elaboration, based on the portals of the 2023 AAs.

Concerning SINEACE, Figure 2 and Figure 3, show the progress made between 2006 and 2015, accounting for the number of Quality Committees, the number of Self-assessments, the number of external self-evaluations, and accredited University Higher Education.

Figure 2. Accreditation Progress in Education University Higher 2006-2015



Source: SINEACE as of 30/4/2015.

Figure 3. Accreditation Progress of Accreditation in Peru 2006-2015 by SINEACE



Source: SINEACE as of 30/4/2015.

Figure 4, SINEACE, for its part, shows the number of universities that have reached each of the 3 groups or 3 levels of progress (beginning, medium, and important) of 3 milestones (optimization/adequacy, licensing, and accreditation) to determine if each of the 25 regions of Peru is considered in the first group, second group, and third group. This figure shows the results of SUNEDU and SINEACE for each of the regions of Peru that appear in the SIR Ranking in 2022 and 2023.

**Figure 4. Progress of Peruvian universities in accreditation, licensing, and their ranking in the SIR Ranking by region from 2020 to 2023**

Departments or Regions of Peru	% Teachers with publications 2020	Universities licensed in the 2021		Universities licensed in the 2021		Level of progress accreditation 2022-3	Level of progress in licensing 2022-3	SIR 2022	SIR 2023
		Total	%	Total	%				
Arequipa	17%	4	7.84 %	3	3.33%	3rd Group: Important Progress	3rd Group: Important Progress	1	2
Lima	12.1%	15	37.25%	37	41.11%	3rd Group: Important Progress	3rd Group: Important Progress	12	18
Molquegua	11.9%	3	1.96%	1	1.11%	1st group: Initial Advance	1st group: Initial Advance	—	—
Piura	11.3%	0	0%	3	3.33%	2nd group: Medium Advancement	3rd Group: Important Progress	—	—
Loreto	10.6%	3	5.88%	2	2.22%	1st group: Initial Advance	2nd group: Medium Advancement	—	—
Amazonas	8.7%	1	1.96%	2	2.22%	1st group: Initial Advance	1st group: Initial Advance	—	—
Puno	8.3%	2	3.92%	2	2.22%	1st group: Initial Advance	1st group: Initial Advance	—	1
Apurimac	7%	0	0%	3	3.33%	1st group: Initial Advance	2nd group: Medium Advancement	—	—
Madre de Dios	7%	0	0%	1	1.11%	1st group: Initial Advance	1st group: Initial Advance	—	—
San Martín	7%	0	0%	1	1.11%	1st group: Initial Advance	2nd group: Medium Advancement	—	—
Huancavelica	6.9%	0	0%	2	2.22%	1st group: Initial Advance	1st group: Initial Advance	—	—
Tumbes	6.9%	0	0%	1	1.11%	1st group: Initial Advance	1st group: Initial Advance	—	—
Ayacucho	5.1%	1	1.96%	2	2.22%	1st group: Initial Advance	1st group: Initial Advance	—	—
Ancash	5%	2	3.92%	2	2.22%	2nd group: Medium Advancement	2nd group: Medium Advancement	—	—
Cajamarca	4.8%	1	1.96%	3	3.33%	2nd group: Medium Advancement	1st group: Initial Advance	—	—
Cusco	4.8%	3	5.88%	2	2.22%	2nd group: Medium Advancement	2nd group: Medium Advancement	—	1
Ucayali	4.2%	1	1.96%	2	2.22%	1st group: Initial Advance	2nd group: Medium Advancement	—	—
La Libertad	3.7%	3	5.88%	5	5.56%	2nd group: Medium Advancement	2nd group: Medium Advancement	3	4
Junín	3.6%	2	3.92%	6	6.67%	3rd Group: Important Progress	2nd group: Medium Advancement	1	1
Huánuco	3.4%	0	0%	2	2.22%	1st group: Initial Advance	3rd Group: Important Progress	—	—
Callao	3.4%	1	1.96%	1	1.11%	3rd Group: Important Progress	1st group: Initial Advance	—	—
Lambayeque	3.2%	4	7.84 %	2	2.22%	2nd group: Medium Advancement	2nd group: Medium Advancement	—	—
Passo	2.3%	0	0%	1	1.11%	1st group: Initial Advance	2nd group: Medium Advancement	—	—
Tarma	2%	1	1.96%	3	3.33%	1st group: Initial Advance	3rd Group: Important Progress	—	—
Ica	0%	2	3.92%	1	1.11%	1st group: Initial Advance	1st group: Initial Advance	—	—
Total	100%	51	100%	90	100%			17	27

Own elaboration, adapted from SUNEDU, SINEACE, and SIR in 2023.

## Methods

This research is based on the qualitative approach from an interpretative perspective supported by the consultation of official documents from the websites of SINEACE, SUNEDU, the top universities, and the main world quality rankings that served to prepare the outcomes that are displayed in Tables: 1, 2, 3, 4 y 5. This methodology corresponds to the case studies and the general inductive method.



## Results

**Table 1. Multimodels valid until 2023 extracted from the websites of the 9 top Peruvian universities according to SUNEDU**

accrediting agency (1)	It does not have Human Medicine	Graduate	Adaptation Plan (FDA) completed	Graduate	Adaptation Plan (FDA) concluded	Graduate	Adaptation Plan (FDA) concluded	It does not have Human Medicine	It does not have Human Medicine
# of	1	3	11	2	13	0	2	0	0
(2)	3	1	3	—	13	0	0	0	0
(3)	3	3	3	—	1	0	0	26	0
(4)	Does not have Human Medicine	In self-assessment	In self-assessment	Accredited January 21, 2023	0	0	0	Does not have Human Medicine	Does not have Human Medicine
(5)	No	1 of 2 in Peru	No	1 of 2 in Peru	No	No	No	No	No
(6)	No	Unique in Peru	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
(7)	No	1 of 2 in Peru	No	—	No	No	No	No	—
(8)	Unique in Peru	—	—	No	No	No	No	No	—
(9)	Unique in Peru	No	No	—	No	No	No	—	No
(10)	# of 4 in Peru	No	No	—	No	No	No	—	No
(11)	1 of 9 in Peru	No	1 of 9 in Peru	—	No	1 of 9 in Peru	No	—	No
(12)	No	No	Unique in Peru	—	No	No	No	—	No
(13)	No	No	1 of 2 in Peru	No	No	No	No	No	No
(14)	# of 5 in Peru	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No

(1) Go to Figure 1, for the names of the acronyms of the Accrediting Agencies. (2) Go to Table 4, for the full names of the University acronyms, as well as UNSA (San Agustín National University). Own elaboration, adapted from the websites of the top 9 Peruvian universities and accrediting agencies. It shows that the top 9 Peruvian universities according to SUNEDU had to adopt quality models.

**Table 2. Number of Peruvian universities in the QS Latin America University Ranking (QS Ranking), 2015-2024**

Year	Country	Top 50	Top 51-100	Top 101-200	Top 201-250	Top 251-300	Top 301-350	Top 351-400	Top 401+	Total
2024	Peru	3	2	6	2	4	4	1	3	25
2023	Peru	2	2	4	1	6	5	—	2	22
2022	Peru	1	3	4	2	3	6	1	—	20
2021	Peru	1	3	4	2	2	4	3	—	22
2020	Peru	1	2	6	2	1	6	2	—	20
2015	Peru	1	2	8	4	1	—	—	—	16

Own elaboration based on the QS Quacquarelli Symonds.

The evolution began in 2015, and after the University Reform of 2015, the number of universities present in this range went from 16 to 25.

**Table 3. Number of Peruvian universities in the QS World University Ranking (QS World Ranking), 2015-2024**

Year	Country	Top 301-550	Top 601-700	Top 701-750	Top 801-1000	Top 901-950	Top 951-1000	Top 1001-1200	Top 1201-1400	Total
2024	Peru	1				1	2	3	3	10
2023	Peru	1	1	–	1	–	–	4	2	9
2022	Peru	1	1	–	1	–	–	4	1	8
2021	Peru	1	–	1	1	–	–	4	–	7
2015	Peru	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	2

Own elaboration based on the QS Quacquarelli Symonds.

Similarly, the evolution began in 2015, when Peruvian universities were found at least between positions 301 and 550 worldwide. After the University Reform of 2015, the number of universities in this category grew from 2 to 10. (Ombudsman's Office, 2022).

**Table 4. Peruvian universities in the Times Higher Education. Ranking (THE Ranking), 2018-2024**  
\*FTE: Full-Time Equivalent

Year	Rank	University (Acronyms)	No. of FTE * students	No. of students per staff	International Students	Female: Male Ratio	% Interdisciplinary Scientific research
2024	1501+	Peruvian University of Applied Sciences (UPC)	56,595	23.1	2%	50:50	36%
2024	1201-1500	Pontifical Catholic University of Peru (PUCP)	27,96	7.3	1%	47:53	35%
2024	1001-1200	Cayetano Heredia University (UPCH)	10,503	15.6	1%	66:34	6%
2024	Reporter	San Pablo Catholic University (UCSP)	10,049	33	2%	53:47	31%
2024	Reporter	National Agrarian University (UNALM)	8,139	13.2	2%	48:52	19%
2024	Reporter	Cesar Vallejo University (UCV)	153,939	70.6	2%	55:45	13%
2024	Reporter	Ignatius of Loyola University (USIL)	22,694	35.4	1%	51:49	10%
2024	Reporter	Scientific University of the South (UCSUR)	14,638	10.8	1%	67:33	8%
2024	Reporter	University of San Martín de Porres (USMP)	38,988	18.2	1%	64:36	9%
2024	Reporter	University of the Pacific (UP)	4,712	9.1	2%	55:45	n / A
2023	1501+	National University of San Marcos (UNMSM)	47,716	26.1	0%	71:29	–
2023	1201-1500	Pontifical Catholic University of Peru (PUCP)	25,644	7.8	1%	46:54	–
2023	601-800	Cayetano Heredia University (UPCH)	6,028	6.7	0%	67:33	–
2023	Reporter	University of San Martín de Porres (USMP)	40,294	18.0	0%	61:39	–
2023	Reporter	Ignatius of Loyola University (USIL)	21,556	35.9	1%	51:49	–
2023	Reporter	San Pablo Catholic University (UCSP)	8,793	30.5	0%	53:47	–
2022	1201+	National University of San Marcos (UNMSM)	35,437	22.6	1%	43:57	–
2022	1001-1200	Pontifical Catholic University of Peru (PUCP)	26,809	7.1	2%	46:54	–
2022	601-800	Cayetano Heredia University (UPCH)	7,638	8.7	1%	67:33	–
2022	Reporter	Peruvian University of Applied Sciences (UPC)	50,501	19.7	1%	49:51	–
2022	Reporter	University of San Martín de Porres (USMP)	38,212	21.7	0%	57:43	–
2022	Reporter	Ignatius of Loyola University (USIL)	21,167	28.0	1%	50:50	–
2022	Reporter	Scientific University of the South (UCSUR)	10,204	17.4	1%	64:36	–
2022	Reporter	National Agrarian University (UNALM)	7,759	10.5	1%	48:52	–
2021	1001+	Pontifical Catholic University of Peru (PUCP)	25,807	7.4	2%	47:53	–
2021	501-600	Cayetano Heredia University (UPCH)	6,281	10.4	2%	68:32	–
2020	801-1000	Pontifical Catholic University of Peru (PUCP)	24,984	7.5	3%	47:53	–
2020	501-600	Cayetano Heredia University (UPCH)	6,236	10.6	0%	66:34	–
2019	801-1000	Pontifical Catholic University of Peru (PUCP)	22,322	7.0	3%	47:53	–
2019	501-600	Cayetano Heredia University (UPCH)	5,885	12.1	0%	60:40	–
2018	601-800	Pontifical Catholic University of Peru (PUCP)	27,013	17.0	3%	48:52	–

Own elaboration, based on the Times Higher Education.

The evolution began in 2018 when Peru's universities made their appearance at least within the range of 501 to 1501 of the best higher education institutions worldwide. It is necessary to point out that there is no record of the outcomes of the previous 31 years for Peru in the Times Higher Education Ranking (THE Ranking), which since 2001 should at least appear. After the University Reform of 2015, there were three years of maturity for Peruvian universities to begin to appear where foreign students experience in Peru due to the academic mobilities that promote quality models, which happened in the ANR. Quite the opposite, although the UNSA does not appear in this ranking.

**Table 5. Peruvian Universities in SCImago Institutions Rankings (SIR Ranking), 2009-2024**

Year	UPCH	UNMSM	PUCP	UPC	USMP	UCSUR	UNI	UNALM	UNSA	Total
	Private	Public	Private	Private	Private	Private	Public	Public	Public	
2024	UPCH	UNMSM	PUCP	UPC	USMP	UCSUR	UNI	UNALM	UNSA	30
2023	UPCH	UNMSM	PUCP	UPC	USMP	UCSUR	UNI	UNALM	UNSA	27
2022	UPCH	UNMSM	PUCP	UPC	USMP	UCSUR	UNI	UNALM	UNSA	17
2021	UPCH	UNMSM	PUCP	UPC	USMP	UCSUR	UNI	UNALM	UNSA	13
2020	UPCH	UNMSM	PUCP	UPC	USMP	UCSUR	UNI	UNALM	UNSA	09
2019	UPCH	UNMSM	PUCP	UPC	USMP	UCSUR	-	-	-	05
2018	UPCH	UNMSM	PUCP	UPC	USMP	UCSUR	-	-	-	06
2017	UPCH	UNMSM	PUCP	UPC	-	-	-	-	-	04
2016	UPCH	UNMSM	PUCP	-	-	-	-	-	-	03
2015	UPCH	UNMSM	PUCP	-	-	-	-	-	-	03
2014	UPCH	UNMSM	PUCP	-	-	-	-	-	-	03
2013	UPCH	UNMSM	PUCP	-	-	-	-	-	-	03
2012	UPCH	UNMSM	PUCP	-	-	-	-	-	-	03
2011	UPCH	UNMSM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	02
2010	UPCH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	02
2009	UPCH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	01
Position and SUNEDU Ranking 1990 - 2020	1st 100	3rd 54.72	2nd 78.25	7th 15.65	12th 10.21	10 <sup>th</sup> 12.03	4th 25.30	5th 24.90	9th 12.04	Of 58 universities
Ranking and score SUNEDU Excellence Ranking 2021	1st 100	3rd 54.62	2nd 81.04	9th 17.42	10 <sup>th</sup> 14.97	4th 29.19	12th 2.35 p.m	6th 25.38	7th 19.94	Of 19 universities
Number of RENACYT Researchers 2017	88	246	4	4	43	-	49	57	1	-
Number of RENACYT Researchers 2023	108	424	107	367	42	88	63	146	95	-

Own elaboration, based on SCImago Institutions Rankings, SUNEDU, and CONCYTEC (National Council of Science, Technology and Technological Innovation of Peru)

The number of researchers RENACYT (National Scientific, Technological and Technological Innovation Registry of Peru) is the most significant resource of Peruvian universities if they know how to manage it well. On the other hand, in Table 4, the full names of the acronyms of these Peruvian universities are considered, as well as UNSA (San Agustín National University).

In 2006, after the Law regulated SINEACE, a Peruvian university began to appear in the SIR Ranking in 2009, which had not happened with university autonomy in the 31 years of duration of the National

Assembly of Rectors (ANR). After the University Reform of 2015, in this case, there was exponential growth, since from 3 universities, it increased to 30.

## Conclusions

In conclusion, if the State through Congress and other institutions intends to violate the quality of higher education, then universities must have the autonomy to opt for quality models of international or national accrediting agencies such as ICACIT, thus SINEACE under Law No. 31520 have annulled the Presidential Resolution N.º 000005-2022SINEACE/P and consider the indicators of the world quality rankings to ensure their positioning.

These outcomes are reflected in the 4 Tables with the implementation of quality multi-models, continuous supervision, and the University Reform. These were the minimum criteria that allowed Peruvian universities to be positioned in at least three of the main rankings:

1. QS Ranking, Tables 2 and 3
2. THE Ranking, Table 4
3. SIR Ranking, Table 5

It is possible that for other researchers these world rankings (Torres-Samuel et al., 2019) may not be the best references; others will continue to be either against or in favor of the University Reform (Gallegos, 2023).

A limitation of the preparation of this work was that of not finding historical data on their national and international accreditations on the websites of the top 9 universities. For future research, these should focus on “university autonomy according to constitutional jurisprudence” according to (Amaya et al., 2007), conceived as a limitless means for ensuring the quality of their universities and not as the lack of freedom or excessive supervision by a regulatory or supervisory entity; since this approach will hinder the progress of the Peruvian educational system (Rodríguez et al., 2023) and will hurt the nation. Another point to investigate, (Berrios, 2023) would be to identify the universities that have questions about ethics (they have representation in Congress directly or indirectly, who lead negatively in the rankings of corruption or others), those that have problems with sustainability (problems with salaries, contributions to the pension fund or others), questions about their quality (problems with the National Superintendence of Labor Inspection (Sunafil), with the National Institute for the Defense of Competition and Protection (INDECOPI) among others).

## Notes

These 3 terms figure in the abstract:

- The term SIR is the acronym of SCImago Institutions Rankings, which since 2009 has published its international ranking of research institutions worldwide based on its criteria.
- The term QS is the acronym of the company Quacquarelli Symonds, which means sectoral and at the same time global classification, which since 2004 has published the rankings of the world's universities based on a hierarchy criterion and since 2011, University Rankings Latin America.
- The term THE is the acronym for the academic ranking of universities. THE is a global ranking of the world's leading universities published by the Times Higher Education (THE). Since 2001, THE has been dedicated to publishing international rankings in education. It dissociated itself from its original rankings in education. It dissociated itself from its original partner Quacquarelli Symonds, creating a methodology for classifications.

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## Ethics

Not applicable

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