

The Current Right-Wing Government's Approach to Free Access in Argentine Public Universities



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Introduction & Context

Examining Recent Government Policies

- This presentation analyzes the key measures implemented by **President Javier Milei**'s government concerning public state universities in Argentina.
- President Milei began his term in **December 2023**.



Public Universities in Argentina

Free and Accessible Higher Education

- Since the mid-20th century, state universities in Argentina have provided **free and unrestricted access**.
- Argentina has **115 universities** in total.
 - **63 are public institutions**, educating **80% of the country's 2.5 million students** (Official data from the University Information Department, Ministry of Education, Argentina, 2024).



Current Administration's Policies



Core Tenets of the Milei Government's Approach

- **Systematic underfunding** of the public education system.
- **Sustained criticism** of the public education system.

Underfunding: Impact on Salaries

Deterioration of Teaching Staff's Purchasing Power

Over **70 percentage points** of purchasing power lost by teaching salaries during 2024, a trend that continues.

The accumulated salary loss between December 2023 and January 2025 is equivalent to **4.6 salaries**.

This effectively means nearly **five months of unpaid work** during this period.



Underfunding: University Budget Reductions

Budget Freezing and Arbitrary Updates

Decreased university budget since the current government took office.

The **2023 budget was extended to 2024 and 2025.**

Updates are based on arbitrary criteria, disregarding the Education Financing Law.

The **veto of Law N° 27.757**, which was supported by the university community and approved by the National Congress.



Impact on Science and Technology (S&T)

Science and Technology (S&T) production in Argentina is primarily conducted within state universities.

Significant cuts to research scholarships in 2024:

Doctoral scholarships: from 1,300 projected to **950 awarded**.

Postdoctoral scholarships: from 800 projected to **500 awarded**.

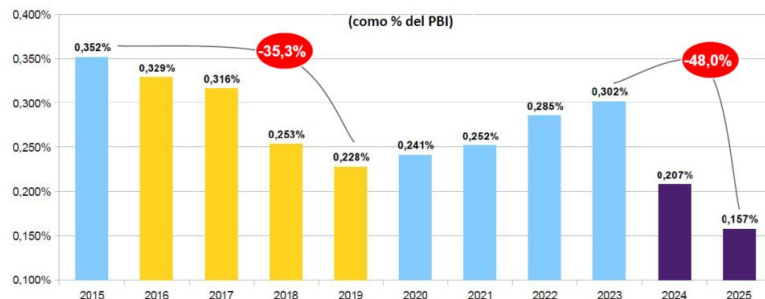
Stalled university construction projects:

Resulting in less laboratory equipment.

Reduced infrastructure for faculty and students.

Decreased and frozen "Becas Progresar" grants, designated for low-income students.

Gráfico 4. Función CyT (2015-2025)



Summary and Conclusion

Systematic underfunding of public state universities.

(In contrast to significant transfers to internal intelligence and state repression mechanisms).

Dismantling of the Science and Technology system:

Overall underfunding.

Suspension of scientific projects.

Closure of scientific production entities (e.g., INTA, crucial for the agricultural

University research scientists earned less than in 2002.





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los salarios dignos también.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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