



2025 Regional Council Election Candidate

Region 5

Name: Beatriz Plagaro Cenoz

Professional Title: International admissions and engagement and partnership coordinator

Institution/Organization: University of Navarra

Country of Residence: Spain

Member Group: Post-Secondary (College & University)

Applicant Questions

Explain your motivation for pursuing a leadership role with International ACAC, as well as why this position in particular. Highlight how your leadership experience and involvement with the organization make you a strong fit for the role..

First of all, sorry if my English is not the best since it's not my mother tongue. I have to say that I landed in the education world by chance and it has been one of the best things ever happen to me.

This community has been so helpful and welcoming.... I joined the mentor progra as a mentee a couple of years ago and it turned out I knew more than I thought, but next to other colleagues working in the field for 30 years,I has kind of the impostor syndrome I guess. Since day 1 I been helping students from non Spanish spekaing countries (which is a huge part of the world let me say...) and thanks to that I got a grasp of the different education systems, backgrounds, recognitions, needs... To the point that I'm the "person" to ask within my uni when there are questions.

I coordinate a team of 9 people divided in diferente continent's and the first thing I learnt was to help them one by one. Each of them has it's own circumstances, so I believe a relationship based in communication and trust is key for our common development. I work at the Admissions Service. And service is the main word there. We are here to serve, to help, to give back.

I've trained the new incorporations, I keep weekly meetings with each of them and biweekly with all from the same region. I go to visit them at least once a year. Feeling the support and attention even from the distance it's really important.

Empathy, listening, taking their expertise on their region into account, making decisions together, building trust and creating strategies together...

After all, we are a team!

Drawing from your previous experience in volunteering and leadership, how have these roles equipped you with the skills and insights necessary for the Founding Regional Representative position? Please highlight your leadership philosophy and strategies for effectively managing and leading a volunteer committee, with a focus on communication, collaboration, and recognition. Additionally, share specific accomplishments that demonstrate your ability to build professional communities, mentor emerging leaders, and promote inclusive and culturally responsive practices—key responsibilities of this role.

My leadership philosophy is to listening first, understanding different perspectives and creating space for all voices to be heard. I believe a leaders role is to guide and empower, not to control.

I will focus on keeping channels open and transparent, adapting the style to different cultural contexts, encouraging shared ownership of projects, celebrating diverse skills... Valuing Every contribution, giving public thanks and creating opportunities for members to showcase their work.

Be organized events for counsellors, in person and virtual, by region and internationally; developed resource guides used accross multiple countries, I've offered training sessions and mentor colleagues.

As a Founding Regional Representative for International ACAC, how would you outline your understanding of the role, including the priority areas you would focus on, your overall vision for the region, and the challenges you anticipate addressing? Additionally, what innovative solutions would you propose to strengthen all regional networks, enhance member engagement, and improve communication between members, the Council, and the Board, while acknowledging current practices or programs you find effective?

I understand the role as a bridge between members in the region and the leadership of the organisation, making sure voices are heard and needs are addressed. It is about representing our region with accuracy , promoting collaboration and creating opportunities for growth and connection.

Priority areas would be supporting members working with underrepresented student populations and ensuring resources are culturally relevant, offering training, mentorship, and best practices adapted to our regional context.

Raise awareness of IACAC 's mission and strengthening our presence in European education discussions.

My vision is to make Europe more appealing and accessible for all students willing to take her out of their comfort zone, by being a vibrant connected community where every member feels supported and engaged.

There are plenty of challenges... Different language of instruction, education systems, time zones, level of member engagement...

We could create regional working groups by topics, so members can share their expertise and develop projects together. We could create a shared digital resource hub with training materials, even recordings, regional data...

I value the conference networking and session, innoersonsl and virtual, webinars... It would be great to expand these to a more regional area

As a Founding Regional Representative, advocacy for international students is central to International ACAC's mission. Identify a critical issue in college admissions or international education that you would prioritize addressing in your region. Explain its significance, the potential impact on students and institutions, and how you would collaborate with regional and global stakeholders to drive meaningful change.

One critical issue within the region is the growing inequity in access, due to rising costs, visa procedures, recognition of qualifications...

This doesn't help student mobility and cultura exchange.

Addressing this issue will help both students and institutions,since their student body will be more diverse, which is really entichening for students, it fosters innovation and strengthens international networks.

Seeking the support of national ministries and accreditation bodies, partnering with NGOs, governments and sponsors for scholarships, low interest loans, ...

Coordinating efforts across institutions, national and international, we can try to ensure the higher education in Europe remains world class and accessible.

Explain how you would use this position to advance International ACAC's strategic plan by aligning your top three priorities with the organization's three pillars: enhancing member experience globally, clarifying the international brand, and optimizing internal operations.

Increase the support to member from underrepresented students populations through regional workshops, resource sharing platforms tailored for the region, ensuring they have all the tools needed to navigate the process.

Promoting the IACAC by engaging with region 5 fairs,ministries, making us present on

discussions about mobility, access and practical information.

I believe communication is key between regional members and mapping the different needs accross subregions can make an impact.