Ideas for the Future:  
CAF University Essay Contest

CONTEST GUIDELINES

CAF is a development bank established in 1970 and made up of 19 countries -17 from Latin America and the Caribbean, plus Spain and Portugal- and 13 private banks in the region. It promotes a model of sustainable development aimed at improving the quality of life of all Latin Americans, through credit operations, non-reimbursable resources and support in the technical and financial aspects of projects in public and private sectors in Latin America.

Likewise, it offers advice and financial support to the public and private sectors of its shareholder countries, and generates knowledge to strengthen public policies in the region, improving the quality and impact of the projects it sponsors.

Based in Caracas, Venezuela, it has offices in Buenos Aires, La Paz, Brasilia, Bogota, Quito, Madrid, Mexico City, Panama City, Asunción, Lima, Montevideo and Port of Spain.

CAF is celebrating its 50th anniversary, and would consequently like to promote the exchange and discussion of ideas that contribute to sustainable development and regional integration. Aware of the great talent existing among the region’s youth, as part of the celebrations of this important anniversary, CAF would like to call upon the best university talent in Latin America to participate in a contest of ideas that can help to build a better future for the region.

THE CHALLENGE

The "Ideas for the future" contest aims to capture the vision of the future (2030) that young university students in Latin America have for their countries, including the challenges and obstacles, and proposals on how to meet them.

The best essay at a national and regional level will be recognized in each of the three categories contemplated in the contest: i) integration, ii) public policies and iii) innovation and productivity. The regional winners will present their essay at the CAF Conference that will be held in Quito this November and will receive USD 2,000 each.
PERIOD

Launch: 1st May, 2019
Deadline: 31st July, 2019 11:59 pm (EDT)

The essays must be submitted using the form generated by enrolling in the contest on website [https://www.caf.com/50/university-essay-contest/](https://www.caf.com/50/university-essay-contest/), resulting in an automatic formal registration response.

The [ideasparaelfuturo@caf.com](mailto:ideasparaelfuturo@caf.com) mailbox will be set up to answer any questions and doubts.

The decision of the jury will be announced on CAF’s website on October 1, 2019 as regards national winners and November 7 for regional winners.

CATEGORIES

The essay submitted must focus on one of the three categories established in the contest:

- **Integration for the future.**
  Although there are numerous integration initiatives in Latin America between countries, today these are still insufficient to meet the huge demand for the integration of intermodal transport infrastructures, energy, telecommunications, digital services, border crossings, integrated customs; as well as value chains, clusters, among others.

  What value added initiative would your country have to invest in to ensure more efficient integration with its neighbors? What aspects and areas do you think should be prioritized? And what role do you think your country should have on the regional integration map? In a vision for 2030: What investments and policies should be promoted to achieve greater regional integration for your country and the region? What economic and social impacts do you think would be forthcoming?

- **Public policies for the future.**
  Governments have a fundamental role in the growth and development of our countries. Therefore, strengthening their capacities as regards the design, implementation and evaluation of public policies is more vital than ever to generate sustainable economic growth that would contribute to the social well-being of all citizens.

  What factors limit the efficiency and effectiveness of public policies in our region? How would you formulate and execute better public policies for the short, medium and long term? What role should public policies assigned to regions/provinces or local governments play?

- **A pact for innovation and productivity.**
  The region needs to innovate more and improve its productivity levels to guarantee sustained economic growth.

  How can the increase in productivity and innovation impact on the region? What technologies, industries or sectors would you favor so that at a national or regional level we can better integrate with global value chains? What skills do we have to foster for the future?
How to address the existing gaps in the overall productivity of factors and labor productivity? What role should small and medium enterprises play in building a more productive and competitive region by 2030?

FORMAL REQUIREMENTS

The essay:

- Must never has been published, not even on internet.
- Must never have received an award in any other contest. Should, before the final judgement of this contest, the essay submitted receive an award in another contest, its author should immediately communicate this development.
- It may be submitted in Spanish, Portuguese or English.
- It may contain a maximum of 6,000 words, of which 200 form part of an executive summary.
- It must have a title and the following structure:
  - Content (Not included in 6,000 words)
  - Executive summary
  - Background/Diagnosis
  - Analysis
  - Conclusions and recommendations
- It will be sent in PDF format and will be written with size 12 Arial text font, Normal margins (2.5 cm upper and lower and 3 cm left and right), as generated in Word by default. Line spacing must be at least 1.5.
- To ensure the integrity of an anonymous evaluation, the essayist must omit any indication of authorship (names and surnames, email addresses, university) from the document. This information shall be provided solely via the registration form.

PARTICIPATION CRITERIA

- Age between 18 and 29 years old (born between December 31, 1989 and January 1, 2001).
- Young undergraduate and graduate students of any discipline, enrolled at a university in any of the 19 CAF countries, with a study certification (regular student certification or its equivalent).
- The following may not participate in this contest: Officers, interns, consultants, former officers and former consultants from either CAF or the Central Banks, as may not relatives of up to a second degree by consanguinity of CAF and Central Bank officials.
- Essayist must identify themselves with their name and surnames and may submit a maximum of one essay per category.
• Participants must submit their essays through https://www.caf.com/50/university-essay-contest/, ensuring completion of all expressly mandatory fields.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

• Overall grading of the essays shall be conducted as follows:

  - Concept Framework: 25%
  - Evidence and support: 25%
  - Originality: 20%
  - Coherence: 15%
  - Writing style: 15%

• At the time of final evaluation at a national and regional level, the jury will receive the documents to be evaluated anonymously, so as to guarantee transparency during this phase.

• No essay submitted after the deadline and, moreover, any essay that does not fulfill the conditions expressed in these guidelines shall not be accepted.

WINNERS

• National level

  ▪ The evaluation of the essays at a national level in each of the CAF member countries shall be made by a jury constituted by representatives from CAF and the Central Bank of the respective country.
  ▪ A winner shall be selected for each category by country, for a total of three winners per country.
  ▪ The winners shall receive a diploma of recognition, which shall be conferred during one of the Award bestowal ceremonies organized jointly by CAF and the Central Bank.
  ▪ The prize may be declared void if the jury, whose decision is not appealable, considers that none of the essays submitted meet the required standard.
  ▪ National winners shall compete in their category in a general evaluation, including each of CAF’s 19 member countries.

• Regional Level

  ▪ The evaluation of the essays at regional level shall be the responsibility of an independent international expert, the Vice President of CAF related to the corresponding category, and a representative of one of the Central Banks of the region.
  ▪ The winners will present their essays at the 2019 CAF Annual Conference, to be held in Quito on November 7. CAF will cover travel, accommodation and per diem expenses, as well as granting a USD 2,000 prize to each of the three winners.
The prize may be declared void if the jury, whose decision is not appealable, considers that none of the essays submitted meet the required standard.

**ACCEPTANCE OF GUIDELINES**

- The participant fully agrees to comply with each and every one of the GUIDELINES of this contest.
- Non-compliance with any of the GUIDELINES shall result in the exclusion of the participant from this contest.
- Should there be any doubts or discrepancies with regard to any of these guidelines, CAF shall clarify them in accordance with the spirit and purpose for which this contest was conceived.
- For reasons of importance, CAF may modify these guidelines after the contest has commenced.
- The guidelines of this contest shall be available on the CAF website during the period the contest is in process.

**DATA PROTECTION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RIGHTS**

- The authors authorize CAF to collect in the databases of the organization, personal data such as name, telephone number, email address, address, national identity document, and all the data provided in the contest.
- Participants shall transfer free of charge to CAF the publishing rights of reproduction, distribution, transformation and public dissemination, together with quoting rights.
- The winners of any of the three categories authorize CAF to process their personal data for travel and accommodation purposes, as well as for the carrying out of any related activity.