The need to have qualified postgraduate human resources is, at present, an essential requirement in the academic and working environment. Compared to developed countries, Chile has a very low percentage of professionals with graduate degrees, particularly Ph.D.s. In the 1980s, the Comisión Nacional de Investigación Científica y Tecnológica designed a scholarship plan as a tool to support the scarce graduate programs then existing in Chile. At the time, such programs were limited to three universities and covered only some areas of the basic sciences. At present, there are 72 accredited programs in place, including doctoral and master’s degree programs with around 100 students graduating each year. Given that this figure is still insufficient, the State decided to increase its support for postgraduate education through different methods thus hoping to raise to 500 –in a period of six years– the number of doctoral students who graduate each year.