

Alejandro Vargas Sánchez, PhD, CFA

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<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=Y-wnVB0AAAAJ&hl=en>

Alejandro Vargas Sánchez is an academic and business leader with a distinguished career in corporate finance, risk analysis, and financial consulting, backed by over 20 years of experience in research, teaching, and academic management. He currently holds key positions, including Dean at the Universidad Privada Boliviana (UPB), and is recognized as a benchmark in the training of professionals in Bolivia. His experience includes co-founding companies specialized in Big Data and corporate risk management. He holds the CFA Charterholder designation, reflecting his commitment to the highest professional standards in the financial sector. Additionally, he has supplemented his career with advanced studies in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, applied to investment analysis and portfolio optimization, demonstrating his ability to integrate cutting-edge technology with rigorous financial analysis. He has published numerous scientific and technical articles and has led high-impact projects in the financial and business sectors.

Academic Degrees

- Doctorate in Economics and Management with an emphasis on Economics – Universidad Privada Boliviana (UPB) (2019).
- Master of Science in Business Administration with a specialization in Finance – Military Engineering School, with instructors and program from EGADE at Tecnológico de Monterrey (2006).
- Diploma in Quantitative Methods for Economic Analysis – Universidad Privada Boliviana (2008).
- Diploma in Higher Education – Universidad Mayor de San Andrés (2005).
- Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration – Universidad Mayor de San Andrés (2003).

Certifications

- CFA Institute Charterholder (2024).

Specialty Courses

- Generative Artificial Intelligence Applied to Education – UNIR (2024).
- Designing and Building AI Products and Services, MIT xPRO (EMERITUS 2023-2024).
- University Course in Leadership and Team Management – UNIR (2023-2024).
- Investment Management with Python and Machine Learning, EDHEC BUSINESS SCHOOL (Coursera 2022).

- Advanced Portfolio Construction and Analysis with Python, EDHEC BUSINESS SCHOOL (Coursera 2022).
- Python and Machine Learning for Asset Management, EDHEC BUSINESS SCHOOL (Coursera 2022).
- Data Science for Investment Professionals, CFA Institute (Coursera 2022).
- Machine Learning for Investment Professionals, CFA Institute (Coursera 2022).
- Data Analysis and Business Intelligence (Udemy 2022).

Scientific Publications

Revista Investigación y Desarrollo at Universidad Privada Boliviana (13 articles):

- Estimation of Cost of Equity and Cost of Capital through Risk-Adjusted Return Rates (January 2012).
- Active Portfolio Management using the Treynor Black Model (January 2013).
- Economic Valuation of Companies using Discounted Cash Flows, Value Creation Models, and Market Multiples (August 2013).
- Optimal Capital Structure in the Presence of Financial Distress Costs (February 2014).
- Credit Risk Measurement using Methods Based on Internal Ratings (November 2014).
- Market Anomalies and Bid-Ask Prices in Fixed Income Securities (December 2015).
- Valuation of Commercial Real Estate using Direct Capitalization and Discounted Cash Flows (December 2016).
- Volatility Estimation of Open-End Investment Funds in Bolivia (December 2017).
- Determinants of Profitability of Investment Funds in Bolivia (December 2018).
- Comparative Indicators and Performance of Mutual Funds (December 2019).
- Cash Holdings and Performance of Mutual Funds (December 2020).
- Stock Index Analysis and Clustering (December 2022).
- Equity Portfolio Optimization with Machine Learning (December 2023).

Strategic Business Management: Case Studies on Bolivian Companies (5 cases):

- Tarija Aromas y Sabores (TAS): Testing the Concept of Multi-Product Territorial Branding (April 2019).
- SAFI CSM S.A. Case (April 2023).
- Financial Engineering in Agro-Industrial Sucroalcohol Project Aguaí (November 2023).
- The Bankruptcy of Banco Fassil S.A. (November 2023).

- The Closure of Página 7 (November 2023).

Revista de Ciencias Económicas at Universidad de Costa Rica:

- Performance of Investment Funds in Bolivia (February 2018).

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Foundation, Book Chapter:

- Toward Economic Transformation? 18 Perspectives for a Growth Diagnosis in Bolivia, Chapter 13 Financial Intermediation and Economic Growth (December 2019).

Bolivian Stock Exchange, Book:

- The Securities Market in Bolivia, Optimal Financing, Investment, and Result Analysis (August 2021).

Universidad Privada Boliviana, Book Chapter:

- Interest Rate Hikes in 2022: Their Impact on Latin America, Chapter 4 Country Risk and International Financial Margins (April 2022).

Awards, Mentions, and Memberships

- Four recognitions from UPB as *DOCENTE BÚHO* in merit of Academic Quality in Undergraduate education (2010, 2012, 2013, 2023).
- Six recognitions from UPB as *DOCENTE BÚHO* in merit of Academic Quality in Postgraduate education (2013, 2016, 2017, 2020, 2021, 2022).
- Member of the College of Commercial Engineers of La Paz with professional registration R.N.I. 98.516. President of the Board of the College of Commercial Engineers (CICOM) of La Paz (2008-2009).

Teaching Experience

Full Professor at UPB in Postgraduate courses: Corporate Finance, Financial Strategy and Policy, International Finance, Credit Risk Management, Financial Instruments, Financial Econometrics, Credit Risk, Market Risk, Bond Valuation, Financial Calculation, Business Valuation, Portfolios and Investment Planning, Financial Derivatives, Quantitative Finance, Risk Hedging, Banking System and Economy, Equity Portfolio, Financial Mathematics, Applied Statistics (March 2011-present). Full Professor at UPB in Undergraduate courses: Simulation, Securities Market, Finance I, Finance II, Finance III, Securities Market Lab, Financial Mathematics, Financial Engineering, Financial Engineering II, Business Valuation, Portfolio Management, International Finance (March 2011-present).

Board Experience

- Member of the Investment Committee at SAFI Mercantil Santa Cruz, with 11 years of experience (April 2013-present).

Consulting Experience

- Specialist in Asset Valuation and Determination of Reasonable Discount Rates, for KPMG (2017–2023).
- Senior Researcher for a technical book on the Bolivian Securities Market, for the Bolivian Stock Exchange (BBV) (2019-2020).
- Senior Researcher for the Deficient Intermediation chapter in the Friedrich Ebert Foundation's Regional Transformation Project (2019).
- Consultant for Case Study and Methodological Guide for Tarija Aromas y Sabores TAS, for Fundación FAUTAPO (2019).

Professional Experience

- Dean of UPB La Paz Campus (July 2023-present).
- Dean of the School of Business and Law UPB – La Paz Campus (September 2016-present).
- Director of the Finance Innovation and Research Center (CIIFI) at UPB (November 2015-present).

Entrepreneurial Experience

- Co-founder of Big Picture Analytics: A startup focused on Big Data and Artificial Intelligence, specializing in economic and financial analysis. Since its creation in 2023, the company has developed innovative solutions combining massive data for detailed financial system insights.
- Co-founder of Quantílika: A consulting firm specializing in Financial Engineering and Corporate Risk Management. Since 2022, Quantílika has provided business analytics solutions to the financial sector.