

**BINATIONAL CONSORTIUM FOR REGIONAL SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA - NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

2018 Call for proposals for research projects and postdoctoral fellowships

The University of Arizona and the Mexican Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT) ratified their commitment of 2013, when they signed an International Memorandum of Understanding for the Establishment of the Binational Consortium for the Regional Scientific Development and the Innovation, as well as the signature of the Addendum in 2017 to join their efforts and resources.

1. Objective

To contribute to the consolidation of the scientific, technological and innovative capacities of the region, relative to the environment, climate change and society, in the arid and semi-arid zones of Mexico and the United States.

2. Presentation of proposals and research projects

Researchers from Universities and Research Centers of Mexico working together with University of Arizona researchers who wishes to develop joint research projects in the following interest areas:

- Environmental sustainability in arid regions
 - Ecology and biodiversity
 - Climate change
 - Atmospheric sciences
 - Hydrology
 - Soil evolution
- Environment and social justice
 - Climate adaptation
 - Gender and environment
 - Public health
 - Indigenous peoples
 - Institutions and policy

Proposals that do not include the above elements will not be considered.

Funding of \$54,000 USD each will be granted to up to five proposals for a one-year period only.

3. Submission of postdoctoral fellowship proposals

Researchers from Universities and Research Centers of Mexico and the University of Arizona who have earned their doctoral degree within a five-year period of the closing date of the call for proposals.

The postdoctoral fellowships will be carried out within the different academic programs of the University of Arizona and Mexican institutions registered on the National Registry of Scientific and Technological Institutions and Enterprises (RENIECYT) and must be related to the subjects mentioned in the above paragraph. Postdoctoral fellowships are intended for graduates of the University of Arizona to expand their studies in Mexico and for Mexican graduates to come to the University of Arizona to extend their research.

Preference will be given to postdoctoral fellowships connected to the research projects presented within the confines of this call for proposals.

Each postdoctoral fellowship proposal will be awarded a grant of \$40,000 USD for up to a nine-month period only. This amount includes benefits and taxes. We encourage proponents to seek additional support to extend the project period to a full year or longer. Additional project costs such as travel, publication, or other would need to be taken from the \$40,000 award.

4. Proposal content

4.1. All research project proposals must be written in English and include the following information in order to be considered:

- (1) UA PI(s) and Mexican PI(s)
 - o Participants of the University of Arizona and Mexican institutions members of RENIECYT must be included in the project
- (2) List of specific areas of interest (from the list above)
- (3) Proposal summary (5-page maximum)
 - o Description of the proposed activity and scope of work (including the review of literature that identifies research already conducted, and that is related to the proposed project)
 - o Project objectives
 - o Relevance to the interest areas
 - o Public outreach strategies including community engagement if appropriate
 - o Description of how the project will promote collaboration between the two parties
- (4) Deliverables
- (5) Curricula of the principal investigators (two pages each max)
- (6) A budget that has the following fields with a roughly 50/50 split between the Mexican partner institution and the University of Arizona:

Line Item	UA Costs	Mexico Partner Cost	TOTAL (\$USD)	Match (If applicable)
Personnel directly involved in the development of the project [maximum of 15% of total budget per partner institution] *				
Details				
Travel				
Details				
Supplies				
Details				
Other				
Details				
TOTAL				

* Personnel expenses directly related to the projects that have been expressly described in the proposal and that meet the following conditions:

- a. That the specialized personnel is directly related to the project;
- b. That the personnel does not receive funding through public resources or other funds or programs;
- c. That the personnel is not covered with self-generated resources of the institution;
- d. The services of individuals may be hired for specific activities of the project and not for the development of the entire project.

4.2. The postdoctoral fellowship proposal must be written in English and must consider the following:

- (1) List of specific areas of interest (from the list above)
- (2) Brief Bio of the researcher (2-page maximum)
- (3) Proposal Summary (5-page maximum)
 - Description of the proposed activity and scope of work (including the review of literature that identifies research already conducted, and how this fellowship will expand the work already done and expand collaboration between partnering organizations)
- (4) Cover letter to the host institution from applicant
- (5) Proof of degree
- (6) If necessary, letter from the assigning institution giving the applicant's work status and authorizing the postdoctoral stay
- (7) Two letters of academic reference
- (8) If the fellow has received previous support from CONACYT, send the Letter of Recognition (Carta de Reconocimiento/Carta de No Adeudo) from CONACYT.
- (9) Letter of intention to University of Arizona and CONACYT stating the commitment to develop future links between the University of Arizona and the Mexican academic community.

5. Review and Evaluation Process

All proposals will undergo a formal review process in accordance with the following. The proposals that meet the requirements of this call for proposals will be reviewed and considered for possible financing by the Evaluating Committee, which is made up of technical experts of both the University of Arizona and the CONACYT Register of Accredited Evaluators (RCEA), to assist the Consortium in the selection of projects. The projects recommended by the Committee will be considered for financing.

a) Research Projects

1. Initial review
2. Appraisal of the Evaluating Committee
 - The remaining proposals will be judged by the Evaluating Committee on the basis of their scientific merit and the relevance of the project, in accordance with the objectives of the consortium, perceived impact and the long-term potential of the collaboration.

b) Postdoctoral stays

1. Must comply with legal requirements.
2. Will undergo review by the Evaluating Committee.

6. Proposal due date

Proposals will be due by August 24, 2018. Proposals received after this date will not be considered.

7. Proposal presentation

All proposals must be delivered electronically in a portable document format (PDF) as described below and contain the relevant sections as described above.

Attached file and name

Proposals must be attached as a single portable document format (PDF) and titled as follows:

Researcher's last name_Abbreviated Name of the Institution_MonthYearofDelivery_proposal

Example:

Dr. Pedro Sanchez of the University of Arizona presents a proposal in June 2018, the file name should be:

Sanchez_UA_0618_proposal.pdf

Multiple Files

Proposals containing multiple files will not be accepted.

Electronic delivery

All proposals must be delivered electronically.

For information on delivering proposals or for questions:

Information about the Call at the University of Arizona:

Christopher Scott

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Vanessa Jiménez

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Information about the CAZMEX program including past awardees:

<http://biosphere2.org/research/projects/drylands-research>

Information about the Call at CONACYT:

Mtro. Alejandro Uribe Castillo

auuribeca@conacyt.mx

(52) 5322 7700 / Ext. 4060

Diana Ninoshka Castillo Morales

dcastillo@conacyt.mx

(52) 5322-7700 ext. 4080

Submit proposals to: dcastillo@conacyt.mx AND vanessajg@email.arizona.edu

Make certain to submit your proposals to both of these emails

Deliverables of approved projects

The approved research proposals must present the following deliverables:

- Progress reports as required by the Evaluation Committee
- Final Report
- The above reports will be presented as a 1-page summary and a minimum of five pictures or graphics of project activity
- Development and presentation of research summaries for the Consortium’s use
- Content preparation for educational seminars of the Consortium
- Presentations for publication in peer-reviewed journals or joint proposals for financial support (recognition of the Consortium’s support must be given in resulting publications)

The approved postdoctoral stays must present the following deliverables:

- Progress report after the first year.
- Final Report at the end of the stay.

Calendar

Activity	Date	Responsible
RFP announcement	May 11, 2018	University of Arizona CONACYT
Deadline for proposal submission	August 24, 2018	CONACYT
Evaluation and Selection	September 14, 2018	University of Arizona CONACYT
Publication of evaluation results	October, 2018	University of Arizona CONACYT
Contracting of projects	October, 2018	University of Arizona
Delivery of funds	November, 2018	University of Arizona

HONESTY, TRANSPARENCY, EFFECTIVENESS, ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY

An obligation of the Mexican Federal Government and its public officers is to manage the available financial resources with transparency, efficiency, effectiveness, economy and honesty, to meet the objectives for which they are intended.

Also, beneficiaries must observe these principles, managing funds that are granted to them for the proper performance of the purposes. To do so, they must submit reports on the terms set out in the Agreement. CONACYT may check at any time.

Any breach of these principles can be cause for cancellation of the support.

EQUITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

The recipients of the grants of CONACYT are selected through competitive, efficient, equitable, transparent and public procedures based on merit and quality; props that are awarded are subject to processes of evaluation, selection, formalization and follow-up, in terms of the regulatory framework that corresponds to each program, therefore, CONACYT, in the allocation of resources to beneficiaries, is obligated not to discriminate the proponents for no reason.

SOCIAL APPROPRIATION OF KNOWLEDGE

The knowledge generated by scientific, technological research and innovation must be used by Mexican society in its permanent process of transformation, social and economic development; particularly that knowledge must become an engine of development and in dynamic factor of social change. The knowledge must be socialized to have a real impact.

The social appropriation of knowledge should serve to consolidate the institutions devoted to research and research groups.

In accordance with article 12, fraction XV of the Law on Science and Technology, the beneficiaries of the support granted by the federal government in science, technology and innovation, will diffuse to society their activities and the results of their research and development, without prejudice to the corresponding intellectual property rights, and the information that, by reason of its nature, must be reserved.

The subjects of support or beneficiaries, as part of the project deliverables must submit an executive summary of the project objectives and outcomes; such information will be public and may be requested to the subjects of support or beneficiaries to present at events or public workshops, which in case, CONACYT or any department or agency of the sector concerned, organize.

The information presented by the subject of support or beneficiaries must be included in the integrated system of information on scientific research, technological development and innovation referred to in articles 14 and 15 of the Law on Science and Technology.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

The received information as a result of this call is subject to the Federal Law of Transparency and Access to Public Government Information, and will be considered public. In cases where confidential information, reserved information or commercially reserved information is delivered, you must manifest that character by writing identify the documents or sections containing sensitive information, including the reasons they are considered with that character. The above can be done, regardless of the classification of personal data, in terms of Articles 3 and 18 of the so called Law, as confidential.

The incorporation of sensitive or confidential information, and the consequences of their possible exposure to third parties will be exclusive responsibility of the applicant, in case the proponent does not specifies sensitive or confidential information, it will be considered public. People who have on custody or transaction confidential information will be required to maintain that quality. Those who violate this provision will be sanctioned in accordance with penal laws and/or administrative provisions.

Under the above, CONACYT will safeguard classified information and will establish the necessary mechanisms to ensure the confidentiality of the contained information in the presented proposals, both during assessment and monitoring.

INTERPRETATION AND UNFORESEEN ISSUES

The interpretation of this call and issues not covered herein shall be resolved jointly by CONACYT and the University of Arizona, and its resolutions will be final.

The terms of this Call obey to legal provisions derived from the Law of Science and Technology and other provisions on the subject. The results may only be questioned in the framework that is designated on the present Basis.