The University of California Institute for Mexico and the United States

Funding Opportunities — 2016
What is UC MEXUS?

The University of California Institute for Mexico and the United States (UC MEXUS) was established in 1980 to identify, focus, and augment the resources of the ten campuses of the University as they relate to research, education, creative activity, and public service concerning Mexico and people of Mexican origin.
Areas of Interest

MEXICAN STUDIES as related to Mexican history, society, politics, culture, arts, and economy

U.S.-MEXICO RELATIONS in contemporary and historical context, in terms of the economic, political, demographic, and cultural interactions between Mexico and the United States

LATINO STUDIES related to the history, society, culture, and condition of Mexican-origin populations in the context of American society and institutions, including their interactions with other U.S. immigrant groups

CRITICAL ISSUES in terms of urgent public policy or academic topics affecting Mexico, the United States and Mexico, the U.S.-Mexico relationship, or Mexican-origin populations in the United States

UC-MEXICO COLLABORATION between U.S. and Mexican scientists in all disciplines, including the basic and applied sciences, humanities, and the arts
Grant Programs

Collaborative Grants for Teams of UC and Mexican Researchers

UC MEXUS Dissertation Research Grants for UC Graduate Students

UC MEXUS Small Grants for UC Faculty, Graduate Students, and Postdocs

Fellowship Programs

Doctoral Fellowships for Mexican students pursuing their doctoral degrees at UC campuses

Postdoctoral Research Fellowships for Mexican Ph.D.s at UC campuses and UC Ph.D.s at Mexican academic institutions

Short-Term Research and Non-Degree Training for graduate training at UC or CICESE

UC MEXUS Resident Scholar for short- to long-term stays at UC MEXUS
Funding for Research

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How do UC MEXUS grants work?

Seed Funding

UC-Mexico Collaboration

Latinos in the United States

Student Training
How do UC MEXUS grants work?

Projects in, about, or with Mexico

All Disciplines
PROGRAM DISTRIBUTIONS 2006-2015

RESEARCH AREAS

DISCOVERY PROGRAMS

Funding distributions are a reflection of what we receive.

UC Merced: Biochemistry; Conservation Biology; Engineering; Evolutionary Ecology; Genetics and Genomics; Literature; Marine Biology; Material Science; Nanotechnology; Physiology; Plant Pathology; Political Science; among others
UC MEXUS-CONACYT Collaborative Grants
Distribution in Mexico 2006-2015

1. Aguascalientes
2. Baja California
3. Baja California Sur
4. Campeche
5. Chiapas
6. Chihuahua
7. Coahuila
8. Colima
9. Durango
10. Guanajuato
11. Guerrero
12. Hidalgo
13. Jalisco
14. Estado de México
15. Michoacán de Ocampo
16. Morelos
17. Nayarit
18. Nuevo León
19. Oaxaca
20. Puebla
21. Querétaro
22. Quintana Roo
23. San Luis Potosí
24. Sinaloa
25. Sonora
26. Tabasco
27. Tamaulipas
28. Tlaxcala
29. Veracruz-Llave
30. Yucatán
31. Zacatecas
32. Distrito Federal

Proposals
Funded Projects
Grants for UC Faculty

UC MEXUS-CONACYT Collaborative Research Grants
Proposal Deadline: March 7, 2016

- Annual competition – all disciplines except the arts
- Open to UC-Mexico research pairs or teams
- $25,000 maximum over a 1.5 year project period
- Seed funding
- Selection criteria: program fit, quality of the collaboration, quality of the research, significance

For additional information, please consult the UC MEXUS website at:
www.ucmexus.ucr.edu
Grants for UC Faculty

UC MEXUS Small Grants

- Monthly competitions – first Monday of every month
- One-time, short-term, seed or pre-seed projects in all disciplines
- $1,500 maximum over a 1 year project period
- Selection criteria: program fit, quality, potential to develop beyond the project period, significance

For additional information, please consult the UC MEXUS website at: www.ucmexus.ucr.edu
Grants for UC Graduate Students

UC MEXUS Dissertation Research Grants

Next Proposal Deadline: early September, 2016

- Annual competition
- For UC Ph.D. or MFA candidates
- $12,000 maximum over a two year project period
- Selection criteria: program fit, research quality, intellectual development, advisor(s) support, significance to the field

For additional information, please consult the UC MEXUS website at: www.ucmexus.ucr.edu
Grants for UC Graduate Students

UC MEXUS Small Grants for UC Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Researchers

- Monthly competitions – first Monday of every month
- For UC graduate students or postdoctoral fellows
- One-time, short-term, non-dissertation projects
- $1,500 maximum over a 6 month project period
- Selection criteria: program fit, quality, contribution to applicant’s academic development

For additional information, please consult the UC MEXUS website at: www.ucmexus.ucr.edu
Since the program began in 1998, has supported 409 students at the University of California.

Provides up to 5 years of funding for doctoral studies at any UC campus. Support includes payment of non-resident tuition and fees, a small stipend, and nominal support towards health insurance.

For Mexican students doing doctoral studies at UC campuses. (In some cases, CONACYT provides funding for Master’s level studies.)

Funds doctoral study in all academic disciplines except the Arts.

Students apply to UC campuses/departments and to CONACYT. Application process administered by CONACYT.

Very high award rate for applicants with UC acceptance (provisional).
UC MEXUS-CONACYCYT
Doctoral Fellowship

Distribution of Doctoral Fellows by Academic Discipline, 1998-2015

Distribution of Doctoral Fellows by Campus, 1998-2015
UC MEXUS-CONACYT Doctoral Fellowship

UCM Graduate Departments/Programs that have hosted UC MEXUS-CONACYT Doctoral Fellows include:

- Quantitative and Systems Biology
- Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
- Environmental Systems
- Psychological Sciences
- Social Sciences
Up to 18 fellowships are awarded each year, with a preferred even split between UC and Mexican postdoctoral scholars. (Possible second year continuation.)

Mexican Ph.D.s may apply for full-time residencies at a UC campus and be hosted by UC faculty member or researcher. UC Ph.D.s may apply for full-time residencies at Mexican research institutions and be hosted by a Mexican faculty member or researchers.

Postdoctoral scholars receive a minimum of $44,571 and maximum of $52,137 for up to 12 months, health insurance at the HMO level, and benefits.

Applicants must earn their Ph.D. by April 22, 2016.

Can be submitted jointly with a UC MEXUS-CONACYT Collaborative Grant application.

Deadline to apply: March 7, 2016
Distribution of Fellows by Academic Discipline, 2002-2015

- Biological Sciences: 39%
- Physical Sciences: 26%
- Health and Medical Sciences: 15%
- Social Sciences: 7%
- Engineering: 8%
- Computer Science: 1%
- Law: 0%
- Education: 0%
- Humanities: 4%
- School of Natural Sciences

UCM Hosting Department includes: School of Natural Sciences
Distribution of Postdoctoral Fellows by UC Host Campus, 2002-2015

- UCSD: 45
- UCLA: 32
- UCI: 29
- UCB: 27
- UCR: 25
- UCD: 21
- UCSC: 16
- UCSB: 7
- UCM: 3
- UCSF: 2
Why are some proposals funded and others not?

**Appropriateness to the program**
Quality of research is important **AND academic development:**
Are there clear and likely benefits to the proposed postdoctoral stay?
Does the applicant plan to take advantage of learning opportunities at the host institution?
To what extent is the proposed stay necessary to the applicant’s career at this point in time?

**Qualifications of the applicant and host**
Does the applicant have the potential to succeed at the proposed stay?
Fit, fit, fit between applicant and host/host department and potential gain.
Does the host seem committed to actively overseeing this postdoctoral researcher’s project? (Host letter is critical.)
Not wild about cogs in the machine.

**Quality of the proposal**

**Significance of the work**
UC MEXUS-CICESE
Short-term Graduate Training Program

• Supports graduate student training and research at CICESE or any of the ten UC campuses. CICESE graduate students may apply for short stays at the UC and UC graduate students may apply for short stays at CICESE.

• May be used to conduct research, acquire training or audit courses at the host institution.

• Stays may last from a minimum of two weeks to a maximum total of three months.

• Provides no more than $1,700 per month toward living expenses (for up to three months), up to $550 toward the purchase of one round trip travel to and from the host institution, up to $150 per month toward short-term health insurance and a one-time payment of visa processing if needed.

Deadline: TBA
UC MEXUS
Resident Scholar Program

- For graduate students, recent PhDs, and visiting faculty at “critical junctures” in their academic careers.
- Program provides shared office space at UC MEXUS as well as access to a computer, phone and the UCR Libraries.
- Scholars must be self-supporting (may be eligible for a small research allowance).
- May apply to the program at any time, ideally as early as possible. 8 spaces available.
- See UC MEXUS website for details or contact me directly at wendyd@ucr.edu.
Proposal Submission

Check out our website: ucmexus.ucr.edu
Tips for Proposal Submission

Select your program

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Please consult the Resources page for additional information useful to preparing your proposal, including FAQs, writing suggestions, other funding sources, the UC policy for P.I. eligibility, and UC campus research offices. A posting service for research collaboration is also available.
Proposal Submission

Full text of each RFP on-line and as pdfs
Proposal Preparation

Check out the “Resources” page

UC MEXUS
ESTABLISHED 1980

Resources

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- General Questions
- UC MEXUS Grants
- UC MEXUS Small Grants
- UC MEXUS Dissertation Grants
- UC MEXUS-CONACYT Collaborative Grants
- UC MEXUS-CONACYT Postdoctoral Fellowships
- UC MEXUS-CONACYT Doctoral Fellowships
  - English
  - Spanish

Proposal Writing Suggestions
- Grant-writing specific to UC MEXUS (“Faculty”) Grants Program
- Grant-writing specific to the UC MEXUS Dissertation Research Grants Program
- Grant-writing specific to the UC MEXUS Small Grants Program
- Grant-writing specific to the UC MEXUS-CONACYT Collaborative Grants Program
- Proposal-writing specific to the UC MEXUS-CONACYT Fellowships Program

SCR 43: Latino Studies
UC Policy on Eligibility to Submit Proposals
How to look for other sources of funding
UC Campus Contracts & Grants/Research Offices

UC MEXUS-CONACYT Collaborative Grant Final Reports
- Final Narrative Report (to be submitted by the Co-P.I.s together as one report)
- Final Financial Report (to be submitted separately by each P.I. and their institution)

UC MEXUS Faculty Grant and Small Grant Final Reports
- Final Narrative Report
- Final Financial Report
Proposal Preparation

Be aware of internal campus procedures and deadlines from the UCM Sponsored Projects Office (228-7832) and the UCM Graduate Division (228-4723). Their deadlines may be before ours!

Keep the text and format simple, clean, and short. Make it visually easy for the reviewers to read and understand.

Write the proposal for the specific program. Cutting and pasting from other proposals takes away from overall coherence.

Describe your research questions, goals, and methods clearly for a committee of diverse expertise. That is, let the reviewers know what you are going to do and how you will do it.

Let the reviewers know why your project is significant. Does it pass your own internal “so what?” test and can you convey that in the proposal?
Proposal Preparation

Include a detailed description of any current or potential collaboration with researchers in Mexico and/or the fellowship host involvement.

Outline each major participant’s role in the project. Big names are great, but reviewers want to know if they are truly involved.

The programs are intended for seed funding and academic development, so include some discussion of long-term plans, academic or institutional impact, and potential future funding.

Let reviewers know about any student training or additional academic participation.

Have a colleague from a similar discipline read your proposal before you submit it.
Thank you

“UC MEXUS is a critical program that facilitates building transnational partnerships and increasing the knowledge base about Latinos on both sides of the border.”

“I consider UCMEXUS [to have] all the programs . . . necessary to start and continue in a collaboration with UC scientists of the highest level.”

“Your programs are great!”

For additional information about UC MEXUS programs consult the UC MEXUS website at ucmexus.ucr.edu