



UC MEXUS Small Grants Support for UC Student and Postdoctoral Activities

\$1,500 Maximum for Short-Term Projects • Monthly Competitions

The University of California Institute for Mexico and the United States (UC MEXUS) offers a monthly competition for support of University of California graduate student and postdoctoral researcher activities in all disciplines as related to academic exchange, research training, and scholarly development in areas of interest to UC MEXUS. These areas include Mexico-related studies in all academic fields from the sciences to the arts, Latino Studies, and critical issues of common concern to the United States and Mexico. Proposals may be for **small, short-term, non-dissertation** projects of one week to six months that will advance the applicants' research training or academic understanding of their fields. Students seeking support for dissertation research after advancing to candidacy should consider the UC MEXUS Dissertation Research competition. The funding is intended for student and postdoctoral support only; requests to supplement faculty or other researchers' activities will not be considered, along with requests for additional support of previously funded projects.

Eligibility and Program Requirements

University of California graduate students enrolled in a masters or doctoral level program and in good academic standing are eligible to apply. Graduate students who have advanced to candidacy should include an explanation of how the proposed project is independent from their dissertation work (note the program restrictions above). University of California postdoctoral researchers may apply, provided they hold a UC postdoctoral position during the entire time period of the proposed activities. Undergraduate students are not eligible. Graduate students and postdoctoral researchers in Mexico may consider applying to the UC MEXUS-CONACYT programs for which they are eligible (these programs are listed on the UC MEXUS website under "Funding Opportunities."). Mexican nationals currently enrolled in UC graduate programs, including UC MEXUS-CONACYT Doctoral Fellows, may apply to the small grants competition. **However, please note that the selection process is based solely on the proposed project's fit to UC MEXUS goals and, specifically, a thematic connection to Mexico, completely independent of the applicant's nationality.**

Only one proposal will be accepted from an applicant for each competition. If awarded a small grant, students and postdoctoral researchers must complete the terms and conditions of the award before they may submit another proposal. Applicants may also apply to other UC MEXUS and UC MEXUS-CONACYT programs for which they are eligible in conjunction with this program.

The grant requires a UC faculty sponsor who accepts responsibility for the student's or postdoctoral researcher's proposed activities and the administration of the award in compliance with department and UC policies. The UC faculty sponsor will serve as the Principal Investigator for the award and must meet UC requirements for Principal Investigator status. A confidential letter of

recommendation from the UC faculty sponsor is required with the application. The letter should indicate the applicant's abilities to undertake the proposed activities and the value to his/her academic career. It needs to be sent separately to UC MEXUS by the proposal deadline or included in the proposal packet in a sealed envelope.

Applicants undertaking any research in Mexico must provide an additional copy of a letter of invitation from a Mexican researcher or faculty member at a Mexican institution of higher education and/or research. The letter should be *written in Spanish*, addressed to the applicant, and indicate how the applicant will be included in the host's academic or research activities during the student's stay in Mexico. Please provide copies only, as the originals are for applicants to use while traveling or obtaining visas.

Conditions of Award

Each award is expected to advance applicant's research abilities or academic progress. All activities associated with the award must be overseen by a UC faculty sponsor, who also accepts responsibility for the administration of the support funds as the Principal Investigator.

The proposed activities are expected to be short-term and completed within a six month project period. Final narrative and financial reports are required at the end of the project period. Prior to funding of new proposals, applicants must complete previous awards in this program, and final financial and narrative reports must be filed and accepted by UC MEXUS as the Office of Record. UC MEXUS support of the project shall be acknowledged in proposals to extramural agencies and publications or conference materials that result, fully or partially, from the award. A copy of each publication must be provided to the program.

Applicants are expected to exercise sound environmental protection standards when conducting research in Mexico and be particularly attentive to the risk of introducing or spreading pathogens or invasive exotics in native ecosystems or agricultural systems. In addition, applicants are expected to follow research protocols that demonstrate sensitivity to cultural factors affecting human subjects and non-academic participants. Any selected project that uses human subjects, including pilot surveys or interviews, will be required to provide a copy of a UC campus IRB Human Subjects approval or exemption before the grant can be awarded. Applicants are expected to acquire all required permits for sampling or fieldwork in Mexico or the United States, as well as export and import permits as appropriate. Copies of human subject review approvals or necessary research permits that have been obtained already should be included in the proposal as an attachment.

Budgets

Awards of up to \$1,500 will be provided for a 6 month period. Allowable expenses include:

- Domestic and international travel for research, training, short courses, workshops, collaborations, and meetings. Keep in mind that these funds are intended for student or postdoctoral research and training, so proposals to attend professional conferences will be given low priority.

- Research supplies and services.
- Fees for short courses and workshops at cooperating institutions other than the applicant's home institution.

Items which will **not** be funded include:

- Salaries or stipends. However, applicants also may apply to other UC MEXUS-CONACYT fellowship programs for which they are eligible and which do provide a monthly stipend.
- Home institution tuition or associated academic/educational fees.
- Equipment purchases for items over \$1,000.
- Indirect costs or institutional overhead assessments.
- Publication costs.
- Faculty research or activities, including conference and meeting organization.
- Reimbursement for activities that occur before the project period begins.

All budgets are subject to strict administrative review. No project will be funded until all the appropriate items have been approved.

Submission of Proposals

An application form is included at the end of this document. Fill out the information requested on the form and follow the checklist for the required attachments. These attachments include a project plan, a detailed budget, curriculum vitae, and, for projects that will take place in Mexico, a copy of the letter of invitation from a Mexican faculty member or researcher. Request to attend meetings or workshops should include a letter from the organizer(s) indicating acceptance of the student's participation. If applicable, documentation of additional matching funds should also be included. Graduate students who have advanced to candidacy should include an explanation of how the proposed project is independent from their dissertation work (note the program restrictions on page 1).

A signature of the student's UC faculty sponsor is required and academic standing in a graduate program or postdoctoral position must be certified by the chair of the applicant's department. Procedures established by the UC faculty sponsor's department and campus for the submission of grant proposals must be followed.

Submit 2 complete application sets (original plus one copy) directly to:

**UC MEXUS (Attn: Martha Ponce)
3324 Olmsted Hall
University of California
Riverside, CA 92521**

A signature from the campus Research or Contracts and Grants Office serving the applicant and faculty sponsor is required. A list of the offices serving each campus is available on the UC MEXUS website under “Resources.” Please note that campus offices may require that proposals be submitted for internal review well before the UC MEXUS deadline. In addition, provide a copy to the applicant’s and faculty sponsor’s department administrator.

Deadlines for Receipt of Proposals

The program is open to receipt of proposals at the beginning of each month. To be considered, proposals must be received not later than 5:00 p.m. **on the first Monday of every month** (with the exception of the delayed January 9 deadline) for project periods beginning the following month. For instance, proposals must be submitted by February 6, 2017, for grant project periods beginning March 1, 2017. Projects may not incur costs that will occur during the month review period prior to the start of the project period. It is recommended that applicants submit their proposals at least two months prior to the project activities to allow some leeway for administrative considerations.

2017 Deadlines: January 9, February 6, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, July 3, August 7, September 4, October 2, November 6, and December 4.

Submission is by hard copy only. Late or incomplete proposals or electronic submissions will not be accepted. Proposals postmarked by the deadline but received later will not be accepted.

Review Process and Criteria

Proposals will be reviewed by an internal committee and award decisions made by the director of UC MEXUS. Outside review may be requested for some proposals. In addition to such standard review criteria as clarity, quality, and feasibility of the proposal, UC MEXUS will assign importance to the significance of the proposed activities for the student’s academic advancement and training and quality of supervision from UC or Mexican faculty and researchers. Reviews are based on the proposed project or activity only and the thematic fit to UC MEXUS goals, independent of the nationality of the applicant.

UC MEXUS does not provide pre-review of proposals nor will reviewer comments be provided following the competition.

For additional information contact

Andrea Kaus, Ph.D.
Director of Grants Programs, UC MEXUS
University of California, Riverside, CA 92521
(951) 827-3586, andrea.kaus@ucr.edu
website: ucmexus.ucr.edu



UC MEXUS
2017 Student and Postdoctoral Researcher
Small Grant Application

PROJECT/ACTIVITY TITLE: _____

Applicant's Name: _____

Degree Objective : _____ Advanced to Candidacy (yes/no) _____
(for graduate students only) *(for graduate students only)*

Home Address: _____

Department/Campus Address: _____

e-mail: _____ phone: _____

UC Principal Investigator *(UC faculty sponsor responsible for the applicant's activities and the administration of the award):*

Name: _____

Payroll title (professor, etc.): _____

Department/Campus Address: _____

e-mail: _____ phone: _____

ABSTRACT OF PROPOSAL (please use only the space provided and at least 11-12 point font)

PROPOSED BUDGET
(not to exceed \$1,500)

1. Supplies and Expenses	_____
2. Travel	_____
3. Other	_____
TOTAL	\$ _____

Place a check by the items below to make sure they are included:

- Attach a detailed budget for the project period that specifically relates each item to proposed activities. Refer to the instructions on pp. 2-3 regarding eligible expenses.

PROJECT PLAN

- Provide within a narrative statement (no more than 3 pages), the academic bases for the proposed activities, specific research plans or activities, a time-line, potential results, and value of the project for the applicant's academic advancement.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attach the applicant's *curriculum vitae*** (no more than 3 pages) to each copy of the proposal. Please read the eligibility section on page 1 carefully to determine whether you and your proposed project meet the eligibility requirements and restrictions.
- Attach the UC faculty sponsor's abbreviated *curriculum vitae*** (no more than 5 pages) to each copy of the proposal. This faculty member will be the Principal Investigator for the grant and responsible for the administration of the funds and ensuring that UC policies are followed during the applicant's use of those funds.
- For applicants undertaking research in Mexico**, attach a letter of invitation and *curriculum vitae* (no more than 5 pages) of a Mexican academic host to each copy of the proposal. (This letter is not required for applicants undertaking activities within the United States.)
- A confidential letter of recommendation:** The applicant's faculty sponsor also must provide a separate letter of support for the project plan, detailing the applicant's preparation and ability to accomplish the proposed work and the value to his/her academic training and career. It should be sent separately to UC MEXUS by the proposal deadline at the address listed on the next page or attached to this application packet in a sealed envelope.
- For activities that include participation a meeting, course, or workshop**, include a letter of invitation or acceptance from the organizer(s).
- Include documentation of matching funds**, if applicable.

Applicant's Name: _____

APPLICANT'S STATEMENT

I understand and agree that if UC MEXUS funds are awarded to this project, they are intended for support of the project activities as described in this proposal and that any publication resulting from this grant will acknowledge UC MEXUS support of the project.

Date _____
Signature of Applicant

UC FACULTY SPONSOR'S STATEMENT

I am a University of California employee with Principal Investigator status under UC and my campus requirements. I concur with the applicant's proposal and I agree to administer UC MEXUS funds awarded on behalf of this project as the Principal Investigator and according to my campus and departmental policies and procedures. Final reports and accountings of expenditures will be submitted as required by UC MEXUS, and unused funds will be refunded to UC MEXUS program.

Date _____
Signature of UC Faculty Sponsor

Print name and title

UC DEPARTMENT APPROVAL

The applicant is: ___enrolled in our department's graduate program ___ holds a postdoctoral position in our department and is in good standing as of this date.

Date _____
Signature of UC Department Chair

Print name and title

CONTRACTS AND GRANTS/SPONSORED PROJECTS/RESEARCH OFFICE APPROVAL

Date _____ *Signature of Campus Official*

Name _____ *Title*

Provide a copy to your department administrator.

Retain a copy for yourself.

Send 2 complete application sets (original plus one copy) by the deadline below to:

UC MEXUS (Attn. Martha Ponce)
3324 Olmsted Hall
University of California, Riverside, CA 92521

—DEADLINES—

5:00 p.m.

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August 7, September 4, October 2, November 6, and December 4, 2017**

**Project periods begin on the first of the following month, but applicants are encouraged to
apply at least two months before the proposed project activities.**

HARD COPIES ONLY

LATE OR INCOMPLETE PROPOSALS OR ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Proposals postmarked by the deadline but received later will not be accepted.

