



UC MEXUS – CONACYT
Postdoctoral Research Fellowships
for Mexican Doctoral Degree-Holders at University of California
Campuses and for UC Doctoral Degree-Holders
at Mexican Institutions

2020-2021

Deadline for Receipt of Proposals: February 24, 2020

*A program established under the UC-CONACYT Agreement
of Cooperation in Higher Education and Research¹*

The University of California Institute for Mexico and the United States (UC MEXUS) and Mexico's National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT) are pleased to announce a joint program to support postdoctoral researchers at the University of California or at Mexican institutions of higher education or research. This postdoctoral research fellowship is for Mexican doctoral degree holders at University of California Campuses and for UC doctoral degree holders at Mexican Institutions.

The primary objective of this program is to advance academic scholarship by emerging Mexican researchers and UC scientists and scholars in the early stages of their careers, after obtaining their doctorate. In addition, the program seeks to support existing or developing binational academic networks by enhancing collaborative research projects between UC and Mexican faculty and institutions through the innovative involvement and training of new researchers.

In keeping with these goals, postdoctoral applicants will be considered who will be actively participating in a research project or training program at the host UC campus or Mexican institution, with an emphasis on using the stay to advance their own academic and professional development as well as to solidify future binational research ties and networks. Applicants are encouraged to connect their proposed stays with projects submitted to the UC MEXUS-CONACYT Collaborative Grants Program competition.² The program also seeks to support projects that include matching funds, either from the host campus or institution or from other funding sources.

Dependent on the pool of applicants, reviewer recommendations, and available funding, up to 18 fellowships are offered with a preferred even division between Mexican and UC postdoctoral researchers. Fellowships for Mexican postdoctoral researchers support training and research with a UC host faculty member in the natural, physical or social sciences, humanities, engineering, or computer science. Fellowships provide a minimum of \$50,760 and maximum of \$61,308, depending

¹ Joint funding for this program is provided in accordance with the most recent UC-CONACYT Agreement signed in 2015. <http://www.ucmexus.ucr.edu/archives/uc-conacyt-2015-agreement.html>

² Consult the description for this program in the 2020 UC MEXUS-CONACYT Call for Proposals at the UC MEXUS website, ucmexus.ucr.edu, under funding opportunities.

on the scholar's qualifications and experience, for a 12-month period at any UC campus, research center, institute or laboratory.

Fellowships for UC postdoctoral scholars support training and research at a Mexican institution of higher education and/or research in the natural, physical or social sciences, humanities, engineering, or computer science. UC postdoctoral scholars conducting their postdoctoral stays in Mexico will receive a minimum of \$50,760 and maximum of \$61,308, depending on the scholar's qualifications and experience, for a 12-month period.

Fellowship salary is provided in accordance with the "University of California, Postdoctoral Contract, effective 10/17/2016 – 9/30/2020, Article 4. Compensation." UC MEXUS will provide funds toward the postdoctoral scholar's health care insurance at the HMO level and benefits. Any additional financial support required beyond that specified here must be provided by the home UC campus, research center, institute or laboratory. No funding is provided for indirect costs in any form.

Postdoctoral scholars may begin their residencies no earlier than September 1, 2020 and end no later than April 1, 2022. They must begin their postdoctoral stay within 90 days of their originally proposed starting date and complete their stay no later than within 12 months or less from that date. This program does not allow fellowships to be deferred to a subsequent academic year if the residency cannot be completed within this timeline.

Successful applicants may apply for a second year of funding through this program. However, continuation proposals are very competitive and will compete against new 2020 proposals for the same limited pool of awards and are not guaranteed funding. (See page E-5 for guidelines for submitting continuation applications.)

The postdoctoral fellowship is a full-time, in-person commitment at the host institution. Activities for all candidates should include scientific and academic development at the postdoctoral level, with the purpose of providing unique expertise for the applicant, increasing knowledge and access to new techniques and methodologies for the applicant's future home institution, and/or to initiate a long-term program of research and collaboration between Mexican institutions and the University of California. Teaching and student assistance may be included, if appropriate for increasing academic ties, but the focus of the postdoctoral stay should be based on participation in a research project or program. Preference will be given to applicants whose proposals clearly indicate a strong rationale for conducting a full-time stay at a particular host institution.

Eligibility

The applicant must earn their doctoral degree by May 1, 2020 in order to be eligible to apply for the postdoctoral fellowship. Mexican citizens who have earned their doctorate from an institution other than the University of California may apply only for residencies at a UC campus and must be hosted by eligible UC faculty or researchers.³ Applicants who have previously received postdoctoral funding from CONACYT should contact CONACYT directly to determine eligibility for this

³ UC faculty or researchers may find the criteria for eligibility under the UC Policy on Eligibility to Submit Proposals at <http://www.ucop.edu/research-policy-analysis-coordination/>

program. They should also confirm with CONACYT that they have fulfilled all previous funding requirements including having obtained the *Carta de Reconocimiento o Carta de No Adeudo*.

UC doctoral graduates⁴ may apply only for residencies at Mexican research institutions and must be hosted by a Mexican faculty member or researcher who holds a full-time academic/research appointment in a Mexican institution of higher education and/or research. Applications are particularly sought for residencies at Mexico's state universities, research institutes or centers located outside of Mexico City that are registered in the National Register of Institutions and Scientific and Technological Institutes (RENIICYT).

Applicants may connect their fellowships to projects submitted to the UC MEXUS-CONACYT Collaborative Grants competition. However, the fellowship proposal must be unique to this program and applicant, i.e., it may not be a copy of any proposal submitted to the collaborative grants program or by other fellowship applicants connected to the same research group.

UC and Mexican hosts should provide evidence of their responsibility in ensuring that they will integrate the postdoctoral scholars into the academic community by facilitating their participation in research, instruction, and contact with other researchers, faculty and students. They should indicate that their departments will provide the postdoctoral scholars access to appropriate research facilities, office space, equipment and communications. Applications that include several sources of support apart from UC MEXUS-CONACYT are particularly encouraged.

Applicants who have 5 years or more previous postdoctoral research experience are not eligible to apply to this program, nor are applicants who were previously funded under the UC MEXUS-CONACYT Faculty, Sabbatical, or Visiting Scholar Fellowship programs. Applicants who are at the level of associate professor or above, as well as applicants who are SNI II and above, are not eligible to apply.

Conditions of Award of Fellowship

UC MEXUS-CONACYT postdoctoral researchers are expected to participate in a faculty-directed research project or to advance their own professional training under faculty supervision. The fellow must be affiliated with the host institution during the entire tenure of the fellowship. It is expected that during their tenure, postdoctoral scholars may be asked to participate in seminars, conferences and educational activities organized by UC MEXUS-CONACYT as part of this program.

Each fellowship is expected to result in the completion of the proposed work within the project period. A final narrative report of activities must be submitted jointly by the fellow and host faculty member. Failure to do so will prevent the recipient from receiving additional awards from UC MEXUS-CONACYT programs. The support of UC MEXUS and CONACYT, through FONCICYT, shall be acknowledged in proposals, publications, conference materials, exhibitions, videotapes, or other products of the fellows. A copy of each such product must be provided to UC MEXUS as the Office of Record for the UC MEXUS-CONACYT postdoctoral fellowship program.

Submission of Applications

⁴ Mexican students previously supported by UC MEXUS-CONACYT under the cost-sharing doctoral fellowship program are not eligible for this program.

Eligible Mexican or UC postdoctoral candidates applying newly for the UC MEXUS-CONACYT postdoctoral research fellowship for the first time must submit their applications using the electronic submission site at *ucmexus.ucr.edu*. (Proposals for continuations of currently-held fellowships should refer to separate instructions in the section below, “Submission of Continuation Applications.”) The items required in a complete application set are listed below. Each of the items must be completed in order to submit the entire application online. Each applicant is responsible for securing all appropriate approvals and signatures *prior to the submission of their application*.

The following items are required as part of the online submission:

- Online application cover sheet** with an abstract in English *and* Spanish. The application cover sheet is available at the online submission site. Applicants must create an online account in order to access the cover sheet.
- Postdoctoral experience calculation sheet** available online.
- Curriculum vitae of applicant** (not to exceed five pages), including educational achievements, academic positions and/or awards, a list of publications and current works in progress.
- Abbreviated curriculum vitae of faculty host** (and co-host if applicable) including publications and research interests in the last five years and indication of ability to direct postdoctoral research (not to exceed five pages).
- Letter of intent from the faculty host** (and co-host if applicable) indicating research responsibility and support. The letter of intent should provide evidence of the host’s familiarity with the applicant’s project plan, indicate host support for the proposed activities, and discuss the potential benefit of the stay to the scholar and host institution (not to exceed 2 pages). The letter of intent from the faculty host must indicate that the host has reviewed the Call for Proposals and understands the conditions under which it will be awarded if the scholar is selected for funding. (As an example, the host may simply indicate “I have reviewed the Call for Proposals for the 2020-2021 UC MEXUS-CONACYT Postdoctoral Research Fellowships and understand the conditions under which this fellowship will be awarded.”) The letter must be signed by the host and on official letterhead.
- Project plan** for work to be undertaken (not to exceed five pages).* Provide a summary in English or Spanish, describing the proposed research and the specific goals and objectives of the work to be undertaken. Applicants should address the significance of the proposed research within the discipline. They should also discuss the specifics and locale of the work to be performed, plans for continuation of the research, as well as the potential impact of the proposed research on the professional and academic development of the applicant. The project plan should include a discussion of the methodology and relevant literature as well as any disciplinary, interdisciplinary and international collaborative approaches. Please note that UC MEXUS and CONACYT look favorably upon host involvement and commitment to the postdoctoral applicant’s proposed activities. However, postdoctoral proposals must be original projects formulated by the applicant.

*Reviewers will be instructed not to read beyond 5 pages of the project plan. The font for the project plan must be no smaller than 11-point. Project plans should be written with at least 1.5 spacing and 1-inch margins.

- ❑ **Timeline** (not to exceed one page) detailing research and work to be undertaken during the course of the postdoctoral stay. The timeline should clearly specify where and when academic and research-related activities will take place.
- ❑ **Official letter of invitation** to a UC department, laboratory, research center, or institute or into a Mexican institution of higher education and/or research registered in the National Register of Institutions and Scientific and Technological Institutes (RENIECYT). This letter serves as an official authorization from the department or research institute where the postdoctoral candidate will be conducting his or her stay. It must be written by the department chair or by the director of the research institute hosting the candidate's residency. Must be on official letterhead.
- ❑ **If applicable, official evidence that the postdoctoral candidate belongs to the Sistema Nacional de Investigadores (SNI) of Mexico with the applicant's registration number.**
- ❑ **If applicable, an official letter from the applicant's home institution indicating that they hold a full-time appointment and will be released for the time requested. Must be on official letterhead.**
- ❑ **If applicable, an official copy of the Carta de Reconocimiento or Carta de No Adeudo from Dirección Adjunta de Posgrado y Becas CONACYT.**
- ❑ **Certification of completion of the doctoral degree.** If the candidate has not yet completed the doctoral degree, they must submit a letter from their dissertation advisor indicating that the doctoral degree will be completed by May 1, 2020. Also, the applicant must submit evidence of the successful completion of the doctoral degree to UC MEXUS by May 1, 2020, no later than 5:00p.m.

Supporting letters that *must be uploaded* and sent separately include:

- ❑ **Two letters of reference** in English or Spanish addressing the applicant's research accomplishments and ability to undertake a postdoctoral research program. One letter preferably should be from the applicant's dissertation adviser. Information regarding uploading letters separately will be provided on the electronic application site. Applicants must provide this information to those individuals who will be providing letter. Letters should be addressed to the UC MEXUS-CONACYT Review Committee and on official letterhead.

Deadline for receipt of applications

To be considered, complete proposals must be submitted to the electronic site not later than **5:00 p.m. Monday, February 24, 2020**. Late or incomplete proposals will not be considered, and proposals will not be accepted by e-mail. There is no subsequent hard copy deadline.

Submission of Continuation Applications

2018-19 and 2019-20 UC MEXUS-CONACYT postdoctoral fellows who wish to extend their fellowship may apply for a second year continuation of the research fellowship. However, continuation proposals will compete against new 2020 proposals for the same limited pool of awards, are very competitive and are not guaranteed funding. Applicants seeking a second year of funding must submit **all of the following materials during two periods**:

To be submitted to the electronic site not later than **5:00 p.m., Monday, February 24, 2020**:

- ❑ All continuation applicants must submit an **Intent to Apply** form electronically by February 24, 2020. This form indicates the applicant's intent to formally apply to UC MEXUS-CONACYT for second-year funding. Applicants who do not submit an **Intent to Apply** form by February 24, 2020 will not be considered for funding.

To be submitted to the electronic site not later than **5:00 p.m., Friday, March 27, 2020 (for continuation applications only)**:

- ❑ All continuation applicants must submit an updated **Letter of Intent** (not to exceed 2 pages) from the faculty host addressing research and activities undertaken during the current fellowship period, need for second-year funding, and potential for future productivity by the postdoctoral scholar. The letter of intent from the faculty host must indicate that the host has reviewed the Call for Proposals and understands the conditions under which it will be awarded if the scholar is selected for funding. (As an example, the host may simply indicate "I have reviewed the Call for Proposals for the 2020-2021 UC MEXUS-CONACYT Postdoctoral Research Fellowships and understand the conditions under which this fellowship will be awarded.") This letter must be written on official letterhead and signed by the host.
- ❑ All continuation applicants must submit an updated **Official Letter of Invitation** (not to exceed 2 pages) indicating official departmental authorization for the proposed extended research stay. The letter must be written by the department chair or by the director of the research institute hosting the candidate's residency. The letter must be written on official letterhead and signed by the chair or director.
- ❑ All continuation applicants must submit an **Updated Project Plan** (not to exceed 5 pages) based on the originally submitted Project Plan and include substantial detail about accomplishments during the current postdoctoral fellowship period, reasons for seeking the extension, and specifics and locale of work to be completed during a second year with a timeline. Please note that strong consideration will be given to research completed thus far as well as the potential for continued productivity and need for a second year stay.

*Reviewers will be instructed not to read beyond 5 pages of the project plan. The font for the project plan must be no smaller than 11-point. Project plans should be written with at least 1.5 spacing and 1-inch margins.

- ❑ All continuation applicants must submit a **Timeline** (not to exceed one page) detailing research and work to be undertaken during the course of the postdoctoral stay. The timeline should clearly specify where and when research-related activities will take place.
- ❑ Updated **Curriculum vitae of applicant** (not to exceed five pages) including educational achievements, academic positions and/or awards, a list of publications and current works in progress.
- ❑ Updated **Abbreviated curriculum vitae of faculty host** (and co-host if applicable) including publications and research interests in the last five years and indication of ability to direct postdoctoral research (not to exceed five pages).

- ❑ ***If applicable, an official letter from the applicant’s home institution indicating that they hold a full-time appointment and will be released for the time requested. Must be on official letterhead.***

Review

UC MEXUS and CONACYT are committed to the principles of peer review and parity in the review and selection processes. Each proposal will be reviewed, evaluated, and rated by a committee of faculty members and/or researchers from Mexican and UC institutions representing expertise in relevant topics. Proposals should be written for a committee of broadly based expertise and interests. Appropriate bibliographies and supporting documents should be provided.

It is strongly recommended that applicants review the proposal writing suggestions and frequently asked questions on our website: www.ucmexus.ucr.edu (under resources).

UC MEXUS and CONACYT provide no pre-review of proposals, and reviewer comments on individual proposals are not provided following the competition and final decisions.

For additional information contact:

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