MGREP UCI - IPN GRANTS for COLLABORATIVE INNOVATION PROJECTS

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Mexico Graduate Research and Education Program, housed at the University of California and The Secretariat for Innovation and Social Integration of Mexico’s the National Polytechnic Institute are pleased to announce a call for proposals to provide seed funding to teams of UCI and IPN researchers with beginning projects in basic and applied collaborative research for innovation projects. The primary objective of the program is to enable the establishment of new collaborative initiatives with the potential for creating permanent ties between UCI and IPN collaborative research that will grow and continue with the support of other institutional and extramural funds.

The Secretariat for Innovation and Social Integration of the National Polytechnic Institute, through the Directorate of International Relations, based on the provisions of articles 4 section XVII of the Organic Law, 65 sections IV, VI, XII and XIII of the Organic Regulations, 3, 14 and 36 of the Internal Regulations, as well as 3, 61 and 62 of the General Regulations for Studies, all of the National Polytechnic Institute (IPN) and the Mexico Graduate Research and Education Program (MGREP) of the University of California, Irvine campus (UCI):

CALL

To professors, researchers from the University of California Irvine (UCI) and the National Polytechnic Institute (IPN) to compete for financial support for mobility within the framework of joint innovation projects in the engineering sciences area.

OBJECTIVE

Strengthen the academic and research capacities of the UCI and the IPN in their Dependencies, as well as the development of innovative projects that address priority issues in Mexico and the United States.

This call seeks to promote projects that improve institutional collaboration in terms of student training and exchange of researchers, and to lead to development of major, long-term collaborations, significant advancement of scholarship in STEM research work.

Grant recipients are expected to use the funds to conduct preliminary or applied research. In this way, the establishment of new collaborative initiatives with the potential to develop short, medium, and long-term links between the UCI and the IPN that strengthen the scientific and technological developments, innovations and capacities of the United States and Mexico is encouraged.

The initial funds will be able to grow with the support of other institutional and external funds. Therefore, proposals for the expansion or continuation of ongoing projects, as well as the dissemination of research results from previous works through binational conferences and publications, will be activities for other sources of funding.

This initial grant should lead to the development of important long-term collaborations on relevant issues corresponding to the areas of:

1. Remediation
2. Renewable Energies
3. Materials Science
4. Bioengineering
5. Computer Science
BASES

I. ELIGIBILITY / REQUIREMENTS

Each proposal must be co-directed by a Principal Investigator of the UCI and a Principal Investigator of the IPN.

The IPN - UCI Evaluation Committee will be installed, made up of experts from both Educational Institutions, who will be evaluating the applications and monitoring each of the selected projects.

Participating researchers from the UCI and IPN must submit project proposals together, may or may not include additional academic participants from the US and Mexico.

Once the awarded projects have been completed, the principal investigators must present a final financial and descriptive report to the IPN - UCI Evaluation Committee.

Principal investigators can submit only one proposal to this call.

**UCI Principal Investigators** must meet the eligibility criteria specified in the University of California Policy on Eligibility to Submit Proposals, Office of the President, Contract and Grant Manual, 1-530, issued January 1, 1996. The criteria authorize the submission of proposals for research or training contracts and scholarships by designated academics in the following groups of degrees:

1. Members of the Academic Senate.
2. Researchers specialized in the areas indicated in this call.
3. Persons appointed 50 percent or more full time as Adjunct Professor.
4. Persons appointed 50 percent or more full time as Clinical Professors.
5. Persons designated 50 percent or more full-time as Professional Research / Project Scientist.

**IPN Researchers** must meet the eligibility criteria established by the Evaluation Committee, which specifies that they must have an academic (teaching) or research appointment at the National Polytechnic Institute.

II. SUPPORT CONDITIONS

a) At the end of the project, a final descriptive report must be submitted indicating the full agreement of the principal investigators and the financial reports of each institution.

b) The support exercised within the framework of this call will be recognized in proposals, publications, conference materials, exhibitions, video tapes or other products of the grant.

c) A copy of each of these products must be provided to the IPN and the UCI respectively.

d) The processing of the permits required for the development of the project will be the responsibility of each researcher, as well as the export and import permits, as appropriate.

e) Copies of human subject review approvals or necessary research permits that have already been obtained must be included in the proposal as an annex.

f) Students participation must be included as part of the project development
III. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

a) Publications, as well as co-productions and the dissemination of the object of this agreement, will be carried out by mutual agreement, stipulating that they will enjoy each of the rights granted by both the laws on copyright and industrial property in the Mexican Republic, and in matters of intellectual property in the United States of America.

b) Likewise, the works that derive from the execution of this Call that are susceptible to intellectual protection, the ownership of the moral and patrimonial rights will correspond to the two Institutions in equal parts, granting due recognition to those who have intervened in their developing.

IV. GRANT DETAILS

a) Financial support of up to US $ 25,000 will be granted, per selected project, to be carried out in a maximum period of 18 months.

b) The budget must specify the planned distribution of costs.

c) All budgets are subject to a strict administrative review in accordance with the provisions of this call.

d) No project will be financed until all the corresponding elements have been approved.

e) 10% of the resource will be managed by MGREP by concept of project management and support.

f) Allowable expenses include:
   - National and international travel, including transportation, accommodation, and food expenses, for the purpose of meetings for the planning of the project; collaborative research and training; field, laboratory, and archival research; and data collection.
   - Consider that the program is intended to support the research phase of the project's seed fund.
   - As a result, support for attending conferences will be limited to one meeting, the amount of which does not exceed US $ 1,500 in support of the co-principal investigator and whose presentations are directly related to the development of the project or the presentation of results reports.
   - Research assistance for UCI or IPN students.
   - Students mobility.

g) Items that will not be funded include:
   - Payments of salaries to Co-Principal Investigators or any other academic salary as postdoctoral researchers.
   - Equipment purchases (including computers, tablets, and other electronic devices).

V. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

a) Proposals must be submitted jointly by the elected Mexican and UC collaborators before January 14, 2022, by email to lkregel@uci.edu.

b) Each item must be completed and uploaded online before you are allowed to submit the full application.
   - Application submission sheet, providing summary information in English and
Spanish about the project and project staff. Please note that the abstract should be understandable to a review committee with diverse academic backgrounds.

- **Institutional approval sheet**, completed and signed by the corresponding personnel and with the institutional approvals. Digital or electronic signatures are allowed.

- **Budget request**, in English or Spanish, specifying the cost of the support activities in each of the participating institutions, together with a detailed explanation of all the elements requested. Indicate all amounts in US Currency. Consult the budget section above for items and allowable expenses.

- **Two-page NSF-style biographical sketches**, in English or Spanish, for each co-principal investigator and academic participant (except students) in the project. Detailed information on the content is available in Chapter II.C.2.f of the NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG). Do not exceed two pages for everyone; list only current and / or most relevant posts.

- **Letters of intent from all academic participants**, written in English or Spanish. No letters of intent are required from Co-Principal Investigators or students. Letters must be on institutional letterhead and include a signature. Digital or electronic signatures are allowed.

- **Project plan, in English and Spanish**. Do not exceed 8 pages. The meaningful participation of both Co-Principal Investigators should be evident in the project plan. Provide background information on the project; summarize relevant academic or scientific issues, bibliography, and establish specific project objectives. Describe the work to be done, including information on who will perform each task and the schedule that governs the work; discuss plans for the continuation of the project beyond the grant period of this call, including plans to seek additional funding from outside agencies and foundations. Explain the importance of work, both its potential for the advancement of science, training or technology and its possible importance at a regional, environmental, economic and social level. Describe the work that the students participating in the project will carry out, the relevance for their studies and the supervision foreseen for their participation. The text of the project must not be less than 11 points, they must be written with a minimum space of 1.5 and margins of 1 inch.

- **Bibliography**. Provide a list of key resources or references for the project plan, cited in the language in which they were published.

- **Attached files**. These should be kept to a minimum and in PDF format. Attach only critical documents in online submission, such as maps or sample survey instruments. Do not attach large files, additional articles, or appendices that lengthen the text of the project plan.

- **Keep a copy** of all application materials submitted. You can print a copy of the cover information and links to the files uploaded from the online application site, under "View and print the application cover".

- **MGREP-IPN** does not provide a prior review of the proposals. However, specific proposal writing suggestions for this program can be found on this website [Suggestions for writing MGREP IPN proposals](#).

### VI. DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF PROPOSALS


To be considered, proposals must be submitted to the online application site no later than **January 14, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.** Late or incomplete proposals will not be considered. Keep in mind that all elements must be signed.

**VII. REVIEW PROCESS AND CRITERIA**

a) UCI-IPN are committed to the principles of peer review and equality in the review and selection processes.

b) Each proposal will be reviewed, evaluated, and qualified by a committee of members of the IPN and the UCI that represent the experience in the topics of this call.

c) In addition to the standard review criteria such as clarity, quality, and feasibility of the proposal, the Committee will attach great importance to the nature and equality of the proposed collaboration and the binational unit of work.

d) The reviewers will look for evidence of significant participation among all collaborators and will look for a project design that leads to the development of new research programs and resources at UCI and IPN.

e) The potential for the establishment of long-term collaborative activities between the Principal Co-Investigators, their students and their institutions are a critical factor.

f) The committees will evaluate the importance of the proposed work for society and / or for the advancement of science and training.

g) Student participation is an important factor and will be evaluated in terms of student participation in a way that improves their training.

h) Applicants must apply environmental protection standards when conducting research in Mexico and are particularly attentive to the risk of introducing or spreading invasive or exotic pathogens in native ecosystems or agricultural systems.

i) Participants must follow research protocols that demonstrate sensitivity to cultural factors that affect human subjects and non-academic participants.

j) In the narrative of the proposal, special attention should be paid to the research methodology, including how the samples will be drawn, how the control groups will be used, how the questionnaires will be constructed and administered, and generally, how the cooperation of local informants and topics will be obtained.

k) Proposals must indicate knowledge of the appropriate permits, human subject reviews, and other documents required for research in Mexico or the United States, and the grant may be dependent on evidence of these permits or approval by the Institutional Board of Review of each campus.

l) The Committee will evaluate if the budget is in accordance with the methodology, appropriate to the goals of the program and within the permitted criteria established by MGREP and IPN.

m) In accordance with the intention of the program to provide seed funding, the members of the review committee will also consider plans for future work beyond the project period and the intention of the researchers to develop requests for external funding from other agencies and foundations that can provide substantial long-term financing.

n) The program does not offer any prior review of proposals, nor will reviewer comments be provided after the competition.

o) Additional suggestions for writing specific proposals for this program can be found on the website as [Suggestions for writing MGREP IPN proposals](#).

**DELIVERABLES**
The expected results of the funds allocated include:

Presenting a final report of results before the MGREP-IPN evaluation committee, containing the following:
1. Presentation of a major research proposal for the advancement and significance of the work carried out with the UCI-IPN seed funds.
2. Detailed plan for obtaining extramural funds.
3. The results must be consistent with the calendar of activities proposed in the original request for funds. In case of not complying with the proposed, give a detailed explanation of the causes.
4. Mention the dissemination made to the work achieved and places where such dissemination has been made.
5. Each lead researcher will be equally responsible for the assigned resources, expenses, quality of the work carried out, punctuality in the fulfillment of deliverables and financial reports.
6. The final report is a document jointly prepared by the leading researchers of the UCI and the IPN, in accordance with the established date and time, with the purpose of being reviewed and preserved by the evaluation committee for future reference.

VIII. SUPPORT MANAGEMENT

a) All funds will be administered in accordance with the policies and procedures of the UCI and the IPN that applies to them.
b) The financial support for each project will be administered by MGREP of the UCI, in accordance with the budget initially proposed in the application.
c) Each Principal Investigator is responsible for the accurate and proper administration of funds, accounting of expenses, and finalization of financial reports.
d) They are also responsible for preparing the required final narrative report and for acknowledging the support of MGREP and IPN in the products resulting from the scholarship.
e) The final reports and the accounting of the funds must be presented jointly by both Co-Principal Investigators within the terms established in the operational calendar of this call.
f) No indirect costs or institutional overheads can be charged to the funds awarded for this program.

IX. OPERATING CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Publication of the call</td>
<td>October 18, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online application period</td>
<td>October 18, 2021, to January 14, 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation of proposals</td>
<td>January 17 to January 28, 2022</td>
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<td>Publication of results</td>
<td>March, 2022</td>
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X. TRANSIENT

Any matter not foreseen by this call will be resolved by the Technical Committee for Academic Mobility.
XI. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Instituto Politécnico Nacional

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Ciudad de México, a 11 de octubre de 2021

“Irving, CA, Oct 11, 2021  
“Fiat Lux”

“La Técnica al Servicio de la Patria”