



InnovaUNAM of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and Alianza UCMX of the University of California (UC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico

ANNOUNCE

SPECIAL CALL FOR BINATIONAL COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS ADDRESSING COVID-19

OBJECTIVE

To support UNAM-UC collaborative innovation, product development, and applied research that aims to mitigate the health, social, and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

FUNDING

- **First Stage:** Up to **\$5,000 USD** to fund activities through UC and up to the equivalent of \$5,000 USD in Mexican pesos to fund activities through the UNAM, to create a total maximum budget per project of **\$ 10,000 USD**. The project will have a maximum duration of 6 months in its first stage. At the end of this period, the team must present a final report and a budget report detailing the expenses for each institution. Funding will be subject to budget constraints at each University.
- **Second Stage:** Teams funded in the first round may request a second tranche of funding up to \$25,000 USD to continue their work. Details of the second stage application process are forthcoming, and funding will be subject to budget constraints at each University.
- **Projects will be funded on a rolling basis subject to availability of funds.** Thus, proposals submitted earlier will be evaluated earlier, and may be funded earlier. Funds are limited.
- **Expenses that will NOT be funded include:**
 - Indirect institutional costs and expenses (overhead costs)
 - Salaries for any university employees, with the exception of students
 - Purchase of equipment that exceeds \$2,000 USD (for all equipment; \$2,000 maximum for the UC budget and \$2,000 maximum for the UNAM budget)
 - Advertising

ELIGIBILITY

- Any active members of the UC or UNAM communities (faculty, students, staff, visiting scholars, fellows, etc.) may submit a proposal for consideration.
- Any submission from someone other than a member of the faculty (students for example) must identify a faculty mentor from their institution who will act as both research mentor and fiscal sponsor (managing

the research funds). If this is the case, applicants must provide a letter of support from the faculty mentor.

- All final submissions must also identify (and include a letter of support from) a collaborator from the other university (from UC for UNAM proposals and from UNAM for UC proposals). If the collaborator will receive any funding and they are not a member of the faculty they will also need to identify a faculty mentor.
- If the primary applicant has not been able to identify a collaborator, they need to 1) upload their draft proposal to the application platform; 2) email the administrators (email addresses below) that they need assistance finding a collaborator for submitting the final version.

REVIEW PROCESS/SELECTION CRITERIA

All proposals will be evaluated by a Binational Evaluation Committee which will review proposals based on the following criteria: potential to mitigate the impact of COVID-19; feasibility; quality and appropriateness of the proposed design and methodology; and ability of the applicants to conduct the proposed work.

AREAS OF PRIORITY

Include, but are not limited to, the following areas:

Biomedical:

- a) **Diagnostic tests** and associated supplies and equipment, from sample collection to analyzers and robots.
- b) **Screening protocols** to detect symptoms associated with COVID-19 (e.g., before entering work/school/hospitals).
- c) **Treatment and Preventative Technologies**, including: vaccines, drugs, antibodies, respiratory support devices, oxygen concentrators and personal protective equipment.

Health Systems:

- a) **Tools for healthcare providers**, including: telemedicine; remote monitoring of patients in quarantine; tools for managing patient flow, human resources or supplies and equipment; and tools for monitoring, risk stratification and prioritization.
- b) **Platforms** that improve access to information in Spanish for medical personnel regarding the pandemic.
- c) **Market analysis** tools for accessing medical supplies and equipment.
- d) **Tools for remote screening, interviewing, hiring and capacity-building** of health personnel.
- e) **Mathematical/Epidemiological predictive models.**
- f) **Development of appliances or replacement parts**, such as



of 3D prints for ventilators.

Social and Economic Consequences of the Pandemic:

- a) **Tools to mitigate the social and economic impact**, including: tools that can enable informally employed people to continue to earn a living; online purchasing platforms that include informal vendors; tools to address psychosocial and behavioral problems; tools to improve security and reduce delinquency.
- b) **Electronic platforms to enable telecommuting and/or** community connectivity to mitigate the negative consequences of social isolation – especially for people with limited digital access.
- c) **Social entrepreneurship programs** designed to alleviate the economic impact of the pandemic.

CONDITIONS

- All projects are expected to be completed within six months.
- The final report should be submitted electronically. The report should be up to 1,500 words summarizing the main results and should be written in a way that is comprehensible to a general audience (in English or in Spanish). If the project lead is not a faculty member, the report should be accompanied by an evaluation of up to 200 words from the faculty mentor.
- The financial report must specify how the funding was utilized.
- Support from **Alianza UCMX and Coordinación de la Investigación Científica y la Coordinación de Vinculación y Transferencia Tecnológica de UNAM** should be acknowledged in publications, conference materials, exhibitions, and/or other products that result from the funding.
- Funded projects are subject to the regulations of the respective institution.

NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS

We expect to notify applicants within 30 days of submission of the final application about whether their proposal will be funded.

CONFIDENTIALITY

All information provided by the applicants will be treated as confidential. Funded teams will be expected to provide a short description of the project and the research team that can be shared publicly.

RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

The responsible parties who will coordinate and administer this call for proposals are the UNAM via InnovaUNAM and UC through Alianza UCMX. Any unforeseen circumstances will be resolved jointly by the responsible parties.

DEADLINE

Proposals will be accepted immediately following publication of this RFP and will not be accepted after May 30, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time. Proposals will be continuously evaluated by binational reviewers and funded on a rolling basis until the funding is exhausted.

APPLY ONLINE

Applications will be accepted in English or in Spanish and can only be submitted via our online portal <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=pimsa>

Any questions regarding this call for proposals can be directed to innovaunam@unam.mx and/or eurzuaf@unam.mx and/or xochitl.castaneda@berkeley.edu and/or Caroline Dickinson cdickinson@berkeley.edu