

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA ALIANZA MX
CALL FOR PROPOSALS: STRATEGIC RESEARCH PROJECTS
2024-2026 PROJECT CYCLE

Opening: Friday, December 15, 2023

Closing: Friday, March 1, 2024

Alianza MX announces a call for proposals for Strategic Research Projects on a two-year cycle beginning in Summer/Fall 2024 and ending in Summer/Fall 2026. Strategic Research Projects use academic insights to engage non-academic stakeholders on an issue (or issues) of strategic importance to Mexico or its bilateral relationship(s) with California and/or the United States.

Through this call, University of California researchers can apply for up to **USD \$200,000** in seed funding for projects extending up to **24 months**. Funding may support the performance of research activities by project participants, including via travel to Mexico; hosting one or more convenings at a UC campus or at Casa de la Universidad de California in Mexico City; and consolidating long-term partnerships between the UC system and partners in Mexico (including both academic institutions and non-academic stakeholders).

Project output may include publications (e.g., policy briefs or white papers), convenings (e.g., conferences, seminars, or workshops), and/or curated programming (e.g., communications and information sharing) that advance evidence-based solutions to shared binational challenges through engagement with non-academic stakeholders such as community representatives, government officials, non-governmental organizations, and private sector firms.

Eligibility

- Projects must be led by a principal investigator (PI) from the UC and must specify at least two (2) principal collaborators, including one from a different UC campus and one from an academic institution in Mexico.
- Only University of California employees eligible under [UCOP Principal Investigator \(PI\) Guidelines](#) may submit proposals. *NOTE: Students and postdoctoral scholars cannot submit proposals.*
- PIs may submit only one proposal in response to this call and must propose unique activities that are not included in any other submission to a call for proposals organized by Alianza MX.
- PIs that have previously received a funding award from Alianza MX must submit all required final financial and narrative reports for other research projects before applying to this call.

Budgets

Allowable expenses include the following:

- Salary and benefits paid to the PI and/or specified academic collaborators, including faculty, academic staff, postdoctoral scholars, or student research assistants.
- Domestic and international travel for the PI and project participants. Applicable costs include transportation, lodging, and meals in accordance with UC campus guidelines.
- Research supplies and services, including methods of data collection and analysis.
- Program management and publication costs, including a project website.
- Event hosting costs at a UC campus and/or at Casa de la Universidad de California in Mexico City.

- *Note: Please contact Alianza MX to request guidelines for event hosting costs at Casa de la Universidad de California.*

Strategic Research Project funding may not be used for the following:

- Payments to teaching assistants for department courses or seminars led by the PI.
- Student tuition or academic fees for academic collaborators.
- Equipment purchases for items over USD \$1,000.
- Reimbursement for activities that occur before the project period begins.
- Indirect costs or institutional overhead assessments.

Conditions

- Proposal submissions must specify at least one (1) non-academic stakeholder that will be targeted for engagement through action research activities. This engagement may include preparation of a non-academic publication (e.g., policy brief or white paper) and/or organization of a convening (e.g., conference, meeting, or workshop).
- Proposal submissions must specify at least one (1) additional funding source from which the PI has secured or will request funding support, which may come from another source at the UC or an extramural funder.
- If the research project has not yet received additional funding at the beginning of the project period funded by Alianza MX, the amount requested from an additional source must be greater than the seed funding award received from Alianza MX.
- Alianza MX support must be acknowledged in publications, extramural funding proposals, or other materials that directly result from this funding award.
- Funding award recipients must submit a final report within 60 days of the end of the grant period that includes copies of relevant publications, proposals, event reports, or other materials.

Submission of Proposals

The following items must be submitted via [Google Form](#) at the link below.

- Application:** Complete an application form that outlines the proposed action research activities, participants, output(s), and timeline, including a plan to engage non-academic stakeholders. Provide contact information for the PI, department administrator to receive and administer the funding award, and the relevant UC campus Research or Contracts and Grants Office. *Note: UC campus offices may require review of proposals prior to submission.* Max. 5 pp.
- Qualifications:** Provide CV for the PI and principal academic collaborators, including at least one (1) from another UC campus and at least one (1) from a Mexican academic institution, and professional bios or organizational information for key non-academic stakeholders to engage through action research. Max. 2 pp per CV and 1 pp per stakeholder bio.
- Budget:** Provide a summary of planned expenditures, including academic salaries and benefits; research supplies and services; program management and publication costs; domestic and international travel costs; and/or event hosting costs. Max. 3 pp.
- Additional Funding (if applicable):** Proposals that include documentation of matching funds provided by a UC campus or extramural source prior to the beginning of the project period will be considered favorably.

Review Process and Criteria

Proposals will be reviewed and selected by an evaluation committee organized by Alianza MX. Criteria for selection will include quality, clarity, and feasibility of the proposal, as well as efforts to broaden participation and endeavors that foster diversity, equity, and inclusion. In addition, the evaluation process will also assess the potential of each proposal to advance long-term collaboration between the UC system and partners in Mexico. Neither pre-review of proposals nor reviewer comments will be provided. Proposal selections for funding awards will be final.

For questions, please contact AlianzaMXResearch@ucr.edu.

**Please submit your complete proposal at the following link
no later than March 1, 2024:**

<https://forms.gle/75MVJJ3TNgJnvBD8>

Timeline	Dates	Notes
Call for proposals opens	December 15, 2023	
Call for proposals closes	March 1, 2024	
Evaluation committee meets	Spring/Summer 2024	<i>Dates TBD</i>
Funding awards announced	Summer 2024	<i>Dates TBD</i>
Research projects begin	Fall 2024	<i>Dates TBD</i>
Research projects conclude	Summer 2026	<i>Dates TBD</i>