



## **The Universidad Autónoma de Baja California and the University of California Call for Collaborative Research Proposals 2024**

The Universidad Autónoma de Baja California (UABC) and University of California Alianza MX (UC Alianza MX) are pleased to announce a “Call for Collaborative Research Proposals in Applied Sciences” between our respective institutions.

The main objective of the Joint Call is to enable the establishment of new collaborative research initiatives that have the potential to create permanent ties between UABC and the UC that will grow and continue with the support of other institutional and extramural funds.

Collaborative research proposals should significantly promote scientific knowledge and technological advances that contribute to a positive social impact in at least one of the following areas. *(Note: Preference will be given to proposals that support inter-disciplinary research collaboration.)*

- Climate change and its impact on the greater Gulf of California region, including but not limited to the following:
  - Biodiversity and ecosystem resilience
  - Coastal communities
  - Water management
  
- Renewable energy development and its impact on the greater US-MX border region, including but not limited to the following:
  - Deployment of new technologies
  - Infrastructure and grid integration
  - Policy and regulatory issues

Selected proposals will be funded for a two-year period, and research projects will be executed in two (2) consecutive periods of twelve (12) months each.

### **1. Eligibility**

Each proposal must be co-directed by at least four (4) eligible Principal Investigators (PIs): two (2) from UABC and two (2) from the University of California.

- a) To be considered for funding, proposals must include at least a minimum number of eligible PIs. Proposals that include only one (1) eligible PI from either university will not be considered for this call.
  - i. UABC PIs must meet the following eligibility criteria: (1) full-time professor; (2) part of academic/research group; (3) member of the National System of Researchers (SNII); (4) without debts in the research project registration platform (SICASPI).
  - ii. University of California PIs must meet eligibility criteria for research or training contracts and grants by academic appointees in the following title groups: (1) Members of the Academic Senate, including emeriti; (2) Appointees in the Agronomist series, including emeriti; (3) Appointees at 50 percent or more of full time in the Adjunct Professor series, the Clinical Professor series, the Professional Research Series, or the Cooperative Extension Specialist series.
- b) Postdoctoral researchers and students are not eligible to submit proposals, though PIs are encouraged to submit proposals that include additional academic participants from their institutions, such as postdoctoral researchers and student research assistants. *(Note: Preference will be given to proposals that support unique opportunities for postdoctoral researchers and students.)*
- c) PIs may submit only one original proposal to this call (i.e., it may not be an exact copy of proposals submitted to other funding agencies).

## 2. Application

All applications should be written in English and submitted to as **a single PDF** that includes the following components:

*(Note: UC applicants are requested to review their proposal with the Office of Sponsored Projects at their campus before applying to this call. This will significantly expedite the process for administering funding awards for selected projects.)*

- a) **Cover sheet.** Provide names and contact information for all PIs and an abstract that is understandable by a diverse review committee of academic experts.
- b) **Project Plan.** State the project's specific objectives and provide background/context information, including a summary of relevant academic or scientific issues and literature. Describe the specific research tasks to be performed, indicating who will perform each task (the participation of all PIs must be evident) and the timeline governing the work. Explain the

significance of the work in terms of its potential for the advancement of science, scholarships, or technology, as well as its possible impact on economic, environmental, political, or social development. If the proposal includes postdoctoral researchers or student research assistants, describe the work they will undertake, its relevance to their training or studies, and the supervision of their participation. Finally, discuss plans for continuation of the project beyond the grant period, including plans to seek additional funding from other sources.

The project plan should include the following components:

- i. Scientific objectives (2000 characters);
  - ii. Research tasks and methodologies (4000 characters);
  - iii. Timeline of activities and summary of expected results (4000 characters);
  - iv. Significance of international research collaboration, including previous collaboration among PIs (2000 characters);
  - v. Expected contributions and training of postdoctoral researchers or student research assistants (2000 characters); and
  - vi. Plans for continuation of the project and additional funding options (1000 characters).
- c) **Budget Request.** Specify the cost of planned expenses and cost distribution for both UABC and UC PIs. The budget should be itemized on a year-by-year basis denominated in USD and it should include the following categories: Salaries/Wages; Employee Benefits; Laboratory Services; Research Materials & Supplies; Travel Costs, including flights, ground transportation, lodging, and meals; and Other Costs. (Note: This list is not exhaustive and additional budget categories are permitted.)
- d) **Curriculum Vitae.** Summarize relevant qualifications, publications, and research experience for all PIs (maximum 2 pages per person). CVs are not required for postdoctoral researchers or student research assistants.
- e) **Institutional Support.** Provide letters of support from each PI's home institution, including signatures of Unit Director(s) or Head(s) of Academic Departments of which PIs are members.
- f) **Research Methods.** Provide copies of approval or exemption for projects that use animals or human subjects, including pilot surveys or interviews.

Evidence of requests submitted by PIs to the relevant authorities will be sufficient for the application, but evidence of approval or exemption will be required before research projects can receive funding support.

### **3. Submission**

Research proposals must be submitted electronically as one file in .pdf format via Google form <https://forms.gle/JkvWHqSFnBSEM8LEA> before the deadline of **November 19, 2024**, for the application to be considered complete and eligible for consideration for a funding award.

### **4. Evaluation**

UABC and the UC are committed to the principles of peer review and parity in the selection processes. Each proposal will be reviewed, evaluated, and rated by a committee of experts from both institutions. Proposals should be written for a committee constituted of individuals with broad expertise and interests.

The following criteria will be applied to the evaluation:

- a) Quality and originality of the project;
- b) Clarity in the presentation of the problem, scientific approach, objectives and research goals;
- c) Congruence between project objectives, budget request, and proposed timeline of activities;
- d) Contribution of the project to the advancement and application of knowledge, including educational, social, or technological innovations; and
- e) Academic background and qualifications of the PIs, as well as complementarity between binational counterparts.

Reviewers will also consider the meaningful participation of PIs at both institutions, potential development of new programs and resources to support long-term collaborative activities, participation of post-doctoral researchers and students, and PIs' stated intention to apply for extramural funding that may provide long-term support for collaborative activities.

Awardees will be selected jointly by UABC and the UC, taking into consideration evaluations obtained from both parties. Awardees will be contacted in February 2025 and the full list will also be published on the UC Alianza MX website. Decisions on the projects selected for funding will be final.

## 5. Funding

UABC and the UC will provide the following funds:

Institution	Cash Contribution	Additional Support or In-Kind Contribution
UABC	Up to \$25,000 USD (or equivalent in MXN) per project per year  <i>(Each institution has a maximum fund of \$150,000 USD—or equivalent in MXN—to support three projects, each funded over a two-year period)</i>	In-kind contributions will support the hosting of research workshops at UABC.
UC	Up to \$25,000 USD per project per year  <i>(Each institution has a maximum fund of \$150,000 USD—or equivalent in MXN—to support three projects, each funded over a two-year period)</i>	An additional sum of up to \$5,000 USD per project per year will be made available for travel expenses to participate in research workshops hosted by UABC.

- a) The agreement between UABC and UC Alianza MX for the 2024 Call for Collaborative Research Proposals provides up to the maximum amount of funding listed above for three (3) selected proposals. Research projects will be executed in two (2) consecutive periods of twelve (12) months each.
- b) All funds will be administered in accordance with UABC and UC policies and procedures. The portion of the grant awarded to UC PIs will be transferred to their respective UC campus and the portion of the grant awarded to the Mexican PIs will be transferred to their department at UABC.
- c) PIs will be required to complete and sign Conditions of Award and Assurances before transferring funds requested for Year 1 of the project budget. PIs will then be required to submit a one-year progress report on the project before transferring funds requested for Year 2 of the project budget.
- d) PIs are responsible for administration, accounting, and timely completion of financial reports.

- e) Final scientific and financial reports are to be submitted jointly by all PIs to both UABC and UC authorities and PIs should also retain copies. Financial reports will be audited.
- f) UABC and UC Alianza MX support must be acknowledged in all publications and products resulting from this financial support.

***Allowable expenses include the following:***

- Research materials and supplies
- Laboratory access
- Domestic and international travel—including transportation, lodging, and meal expenses—for planning, research, and training; field, laboratory, and archival research; and data collection. (Note: Conference attendance is given lower priority in the review process.)
- Only for UC participants: salaries or stipends for research assistants that are not eligible to serve as PIs. (Note: These salaries may be paid to postgraduate researchers or students.)

***Non-allowable expenses include the following:***

- No indirect costs or institutional overhead may be charged against funds awarded under this program.
- For UC participants: salaries, wages, or stipends paid to PIs; tuition and fees for student participants.
- For UC participants: purchase of equipment, including computers, tablets, and other electronic devices in excess of \$1,000 USD per item.
- For UABC participants: salaries, wages, or stipends; scholarships of any kind; furniture and equipment; construction work and renovations or expenses related to construction.

## **6. Additional information**

For additional information on the Call for Collaborative Research Proposals please use the following contact information:

- UABC: [dflores@uabc.edu.mx](mailto:dflores@uabc.edu.mx)
- UC Alianza MX: [alianzamxresearch@ucr.edu](mailto:alianzamxresearch@ucr.edu)

## Calendar

Activity	Date
Publication of the Call and Beginning of Application Period	September 17, 2024
End of Application Period and Deadline to Submit Proposals	November 19, 2024
Publication of Results	February 2025
Target Start Date for Selected Research Projects	March 2025