



# University of California Alianza MX Strategic Research Projects Call for Proposals: 2025–27 Project Cycle

*Application Deadline: March 1, 2025*

Alianza MX announces a call for proposals for Strategic Research Projects on a two-year funding cycle beginning in 2025.

The primary objectives of this program are to support applied research and engagement with non-academic stakeholders on issues of strategic importance to Mexico or its bilateral relationships with California and the United States. The program seeks proposals for applied research in all areas of study, including multi-disciplinary research applications, with the aim of advancing evidence-based solutions to shared binational challenges and consolidating long-term binational partnerships.

Proposals should include clear plans for engaging non-academic stakeholders as participants in research activities and/or as audiences for research output. Non-academic stakeholders may include government agencies or officials, private sector firms, non-profit organizations, and/or community representatives. Research activities and output may include publications, events, or programming, and will be expected to both advance academic understanding in the relevant discipline(s) as well as demonstrate the real-world impact of insights gained through academic research.

## ***Eligibility***

Proposal submissions must be submitted by a principal investigator (PI) from the UC and must specify at least two (2) principal collaborators: at least one from a different UC campus and at least one from an academic institution in Mexico. Only University of California employees eligible under [UCOP PI Guidelines](#) may submit proposals. (*Note: Students and postdoctoral researchers cannot submit proposals.*)

Proposal submissions must also specify at least one (1) non-academic stakeholder to be engaged through the research project. This engagement may take the form of a non-academic research publication (e.g., policy briefs or white papers), public event (e.g., conference or workshop), or curated programming (e.g., communications or information sharing). Applications may include elements of basic research but must provide a clear justification for doing so and a clear plan for engaging non-academic stakeholder(s) through these research activities.

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 be up to date with all reporting requirements.

## *Conditions of Award*

Projects selected for funding may receive up to \$200,000 in seed funding for projects beginning on or after September 1, 2025, and extending up to 24 months.

As seed funding, awards from Alianza MX are not intended to be a source of continuing support, so PIs whose projects are selected for funding awards will also be expected to establish a plan for securing additional support to continue their research activities beyond the initial 24-month project period:

- At the time of application, proposal submissions must specify at least two (2) additional funding sources from which the PI intends to request additional funding, and to justify the selection of these potential sources. Additional funding may be requested from either UC or extramural sources, and requests may also be included in a voluntary cost sharing arrangement with the Alianza MX award, or they may be pursued independently of this award. For PIs that intend to request additional funding via cost sharing, the proposal should also provide a clear justification for that decision.
- At the conclusion of the project, PIs must demonstrate that they have requested a total amount of additional funding that is equal to or greater than the Alianza MX award. For PIs that secure a commitment of additional funding before the conclusion of the project, the request for additional funding need only match the difference between the amount of previously secured funding and the Alianza MX award.

Alianza MX support must be acknowledged in publications, extramural funding proposals, or other materials that directly result from this funding award.

Award recipients must submit a progress report at the mid-point of the project period and a final report at the end of the grant period, as well as copies of relevant publications, proposals, event reports, or other materials.

Allowable expenses include the following:

- Salary and benefits paid to the PI and/or specified academic collaborators, including faculty, academic staff, postdoctoral researchers, or student research assistants.
- Research supplies and services, including methods of data collection and analysis.
- Program management and publication costs, including a project website.
- Domestic and international travel for the PI and project participants. Applicable costs include transportation, lodging, and meals in accordance with UC campus guidelines.
- Event hosting costs at a UC campus and/or at Casa de California in Mexico City. *(Note: Alianza MX will provide funding award recipients with specific requirements that must be completed prior to scheduling events at Casa de California.)*

The following expenses are not allowable:

- Payments to teaching assistants for department courses or seminars led by the PI.
- Tuition or academic fees for student research assistants.
- Single material and supply purchases over USD \$1,000.

- Reimbursement for activities that occur before the project period begins.
- Indirect costs or institutional overhead assessments.

## ***Submission of Proposals***

The following items must be submitted via **Google Form** at the link below.

- Application:** Complete an application form ([available here](#)) that outlines the proposed research participants, activities, output(s), and timeline; a plan for engagement with non-academic stakeholders in Mexico (and if applicable, California and/or the United States). Include contact information for the PI, department administrator, and Contracts & Grants Office. *(Note: Funding awards are administered as intramural funding. Proposals should be reviewed by the PI's sponsored projects office prior to submission.)*
- 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 and justifications for expenditures in the following categories: academic salaries and benefits; research supplies and services; program management and publication costs; domestic and international travel costs; and/or event hosting costs. The budget should clearly indicate specific funding requests in 12-month increments (e.g., Year 1 and Year 2 of the project). Max. 2 pp total. *(Note: Review of the proposal budget by a financial analyst is not required but is strongly recommended prior to submission.)*
- Additional Funding (required):** Provide a list of at least two (2) additional funding sources from which additional funding will be requested, and a brief justification for selecting these potential sources. If requesting additional funding via cost sharing, please provide a clear justification for that arrangement. Max. 1 pp total.
- Additional Funding (if applicable):** Provide documentation of any additional funding already secured from UC or extramural sources, and a brief description of how this funding complements a seed funding award from Alianza MX. Proposals that include documentation that additional funding has been secured before the start of the project period will be considered favorably.

Proposals will be reviewed and selected by an evaluation committee organized by Alianza MX. In addition to such standard criteria as quality, clarity, and feasibility of the proposal, 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. Proposals selected for funding will be final.

For questions, contact [alianzamxresearch@ucr.edu](mailto:alianzamxresearch@ucr.edu)

**Please submit your complete proposal at the following link  
no later than March 1, 2025:**

<https://forms.gle/hgTE5nRmBqp9LUq58>