



To promote the internationalization of research, strengthen research groups, and train young researchers, the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) and Illinois International at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), together with the Autonomous University of Querétaro (UAQ), Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM), the National Autonomous University of Mexico through the National School of Higher Studies, Juriquilla Campus (UNAM-ENES J)—invite eligible candidates to submit their applications

2nd JOINT CALL FOR PROPOSALS

To submit to the Joint Collaboration Program for Supporting International Research Projects.

I. Proposers

Principal Investigators (PI) and Co-Investigators (Co-I) must be full-time faculty members at the Mexican Institutions and full-time, tenure-track faculty at the University of Illinois.

II. Requirements

- 1.1 Proposals require a core team of (3) three investigators (2 PIs and 1 Co-PIs) and may include additional members, up to a maximum team size of six (see Section IV).
- 2.1 PIs and Co-PIs must be part of an academic/research group at their respective institution.
- 3.1 At least one member of the group must be part of the National System of Researchers (SNII) (in the case of the UAQ, ITESM, and UNAM-ENES J).
- 4.1 They must not have any outstanding debts at their home institution (in the case of the UAQ; they must not have outstanding reports for any of the calls issued by the Secretariat of Research, Innovation, and Graduate Studies (SIIP).
- 5.1 The inclusion of undergraduate and/or graduate students is required.
- 6.1 For ITESM, the Principal Investigator must have a permanent contract.

III. Funding Areas and Theme

This program will fund projects in three thematic areas: **Food and Health, Water Management, and Energy**. The overall objective is to contribute to addressing issues related to Poverty, the Environment, and Sustainable Well-being. To maximize the impact of the proposals, priority will be given to multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches. Specialists from the social sciences, humanities, and related fields (such as psychology, education, sociology, law, and others) are also welcome to participate in a cross-cutting manner, integrating the human, regulatory, educational, and community dimensions into the development and implementation of solutions.

3.1 Food and Health [Human (physical and mental) and animal]

- Food sovereignty, security, and sustainable agri-food systems (e.g., local food networks, agricultural policy, and community-led food production).
- Nutrition and public health education (promotion and consumption of balanced diets, restoration of traditional/natural food consumption, nutritional literacy, and behavioral health).



- Diagnosis, prevention, treatment, and control of diseases (e.g., chronic degenerative diseases, public health interventions, and healthcare access policy).
- Mental health and social well-being of children, adolescents, and youth (including psychosocial support, community dynamics, and educational environments).
- One Health approaches integrating human, animal, and environmental health dynamics.
- Others must justify relevance, social impact, and interdisciplinary scope.

3.2 Water Management:

- Water crisis, scarcity, and community governance (e.g., rainwater harvesting/recovery systems, equitable supply strategies, public management, and water rights/policy).
- Water pollution, sanitation, and environmental law (e.g., sanitation systems, wastewater treatment technologies, regulatory frameworks, and community hygiene education).
- Water imbalance in ecosystems and territorial planning (e.g., sustainable water use technologies, watershed conservation, and participatory land-use management).
- Others must justify relevance, social impact, and interdisciplinary scope.

3.3 Energy:

- Energy poverty and social transition (e.g., affordable/renewable energy access, social adoption of green technologies, energy justice, and policy frameworks).
- Energy resource depletion and territorial adaptation (e.g., technological innovation, local capacity development, and climate resilience).
- Energy literacy, education, and cultural engagement (e.g., public awareness campaigns, educational programs, and community-driven sustainability initiatives).
- Others must justify relevance, social impact, and interdisciplinary scope.

IV. Eligibility Criteria

4.1 Prior to submitting proposals, a networking event will be organized to establish links between researchers from institutions of both nations (date: October 12, 2026).

4.2 A total of six (6) collaborative teams will be selected for funding.

4.3 Each project team must comprise (3) three core members eligible to receive funding (See Section VII)—two Principal Investigators (PIs) and one Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PIs)—distributed as follows:

- **One (1) PI**, who is a full-time tenure-track faculty member at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES).
- **Two (2) full-time faculty members from distinct participating Mexican institutions** (UAQ, ITESM, or UNAM-ENES J)—one serving as PI and the other as Co-PI.

The permitted institutional pairings are set forth in the table below



Table 1. UIUC and Mexican Institutional Partnerships

Proposals	UIUC	Mexican Partnerships	
1	1 PI	1 PI (UAQ)	1 Co-I (ITESM)
2	1 PI	1 PI (UAQ)	1 Co-I (UNAM-ENES J)
3	1 PI	1 PI (ITESM)	1 Co-I (UAQ)
4	1 PI	1 PI (ITESM)	1 Co-I (UNAM-ENES J)
5	1 PI	1 PI (UNAM-ENES J)	1 Co-I (UAQ)
6	1 PI	1 PI (UNAM-ENES J)	1 Co-I (ITESM)

- 4.4 In addition, the proposals may include additional non-funded members up to a maximum team size of (6) six.
- 4.5 All members must preferably have a doctoral degree.
- 4.6 Proposals must be original and not duplicates of proposals submitted to other national or international funding agencies.
- 4.7 Participation is limited to a maximum of (2) two proposals per researcher: no individual may serve as PI on more than (1) one proposal, though they may serve as a non-funded collaborator on one other application
- 4.8 Faculty members who participated in the previous call—either as Principal Investigators (PIs) or as collaborators—are eligible to participate in this call solely in the role of non-funded members.

V. Presentation and Submission of Proposals

- 5.1 Proposals must adhere to the outline provided at the link below (<https://forms.illinois.edu/sec/1599631103>), including a timeline for completing the various project-related tasks. Applications may be up to four (4) pages, excluding the title page, references, annexes, and appendices.
- 5.2 Proposals must be submitted in English by November 29, 2026, as a single PDF document to ui-mexico@uillinois.edu (UIUC), with a copy to gestionproyectos.siip@uaq.mx (UAQ); ouni_enesj@unam.mx (UNAM-ENES J) and enlacefondeo@servicios.tec.mx (ITESM). Complete the information at the following link: <https://forms.illinois.edu/sec/1599631103> (Annex 1). The Illinois Mexican & Mexican American Students Initiative (I-MMAS), and the Autonomous University of Querétaro, through the SIIP, will manage the entire proposal process.
- 5.3 The proposal must include the following sections:
Research Project (maximum (4) four pages, excluding cover page, references, annexes, and appendix):
- State of art.
 - Scientific and social relevance of the project.
 - Review of academic literature.
 - Objectives:
 - o General Objective(s)
 - o Specific Objective(s)
 - Methodology
 - o Research methods and stages



- Team members, including researchers and number of undergraduate or graduate students.
- Work plan
 - o Timeline
 - o Deliverables (Technical report, research plan, and evidence of potential external funding for the continuity of the project, and the academic products established by each convening institution (in the case of the UAQ, ITESM and UNAM-ENES J, see Annexes 2 and 3).
- Budget:
 - o Detailed description of the financial requirements for the UI and Mexican Institutions.
 - o Selected projects may request a combined total maximum of USD \$24,500 (described in the Funding Section). ACES UI will provide a maximum of \$8,000 per project.
- Budget Justification: For UIUC, UAQ, ITESM, and UNAM-ENES J., PI, provide detailed justification for each requested item.
- References in APA seventh edition format.
- Appendix.
 - o Researchers' CVs (maximum (3) three pages).
 - o Attach a detailed budget.
 - o For Mexican PIs, a letter of institutional support for the project signed by the head of the Research Department (maximum size: 15 MB).
 - o Letter of institutional support from the head of the corresponding unit at the University of Illinois (maximum size: 15 MB).
 - o If the files exceed the maximum size allowed, please contact: Illinois researchers, write to I-MMAS at ui-mexico@uillinois.edu, and Mexican Researchers, write to: gestionproyectos.siip@uaq.mx (UAQ); ouni_enesj@unam.mx (UNAM-ENES J) and enlacefondeo@servicios.tec.mx (ITESM).

VI. Evaluation and Selection

- 6.1 All proposals that meet the requirements of this call will be evaluated by a joint peer review committee of faculty and researchers appointed by the ACES Associate Dean of the Office of International Programs or his/her designees, and the Principals of the Mexican Institutions or his/her designees.
- 6.2 Committee members shall disclose any potential conflict of interest and abstain from evaluating proposals where such conflict exists.
- 6.3 The decisions of the joint evaluation committee will be final.
- 6.4 The evaluation criteria will include:
 - Technical quality,
 - Relevance of the topic and social impact,
 - Degree of collaboration and interaction in this proposal,
 - Participation of undergraduate and/or graduate students.
 - Continuity and external funding plan. Each funded project shall identify, as part of its final deliverables, at least one concrete opportunity for external funding or institutional/industry partnership to support the continuation, scaling, or further development of the project.



- 6.5 The results will be published on February 1, 2027. The funds will be available for use from March 2027 to March 2028.
- 6.6 Funded projects will be subject to a midterm progress evaluation (to assess initial deliverables and budget execution) and a final evaluation at the conclusion of the funding period. Approval of the midterm report and presentation will be required for the continuation and formal closure of the project.

VII. Funding

- 7.1 A total of 6 joint projects will be funded.
- 7.2 Total institutional funding for the one-year project period amounts to \$108,000 USD, contributed as follows:
- **UIUC:** \$48,000 USD
 - **UAQ:** \$20,000 USD
 - **UNAM-ENES J:** \$20,000 USD
 - **ITESM:** \$20,000 USD
- 7.3 Additional funding from CONCYTEQ is expected once project selection has been completed.
- **CONCYTEQ:** \$40,000 USD

Table 2. Funding Distribution by Proposal and Roles (USD)

Proposal	ACES-UIUC PI	Mexico PI	Mexico (Co-I)	Total per Proposal
1	\$8,000	\$8,250 (<i>UAQ</i>)	\$8,250 (<i>ITESM</i>)	\$24,500
2	\$8,000	\$8,250 (<i>UAQ</i>)	\$8,250 (<i>UNAM-ENES J</i>)	\$24,500
3	\$8,000	\$8,250 (<i>ITESM</i>)	\$8,250 (<i>UAQ</i>)	\$24,500
4	\$8,000	\$8,250 (<i>ITESM</i>)	\$8,250 (<i>UNAM-ENES J</i>)	\$24,500
5	\$8,000	\$8,250 (<i>UNAM-ENES J</i>)	\$8,250 (<i>UAQ</i>)	\$24,500
6	\$8,000	\$8,250 (<i>UNAM-ENES J</i>)	\$8,250 (<i>ITESM</i>)	\$24,500
Proposals Subtotal	\$48,000	\$49,500	\$49,500	\$147,000
Colloquium Fund	—	—	—	\$1,000
TOTAL BUDGET				\$148,000

- 7.4 Each institution will manage its own contribution. Transfers between institutions are not allowed
- 7.5 The maximum amount allocated by each institution to the selected projects must be spent no later than February 2028.
- 7.6 All funding commitments described in this Call are subject to the execution of the applicable institutional agreements and availability of funds.



VIII. Eligible / Ineligible Expenses

8.1 Eligible expenses include the following:

- o Domestic and international travel expenses (including transportation, lodging, and meals) related to planning, research, training, fieldwork, laboratory work, archival research, and data collection. (Conference attendance has lower priority in the review process).
- o Student grants (travel, hourly research assistantship).
- o Scholarships (according to the operating rules of each institution)
- o Laboratory services.
- o Research materials and supplies.
- o Minor equipment.

8.2 Ineligible expenses include the following:

- o Salaries of PIs or other collaborators.
 - o Tuition or fees for research assistants.
 - o Indirect costs or institutional overhead, such as rent, infrastructure, and administrative expenses.
- *These expenses will be regulated according to the operating rules of each institution.

IX. Formalization, Monitoring, and Project Closure

- 9.1 Approved projects must comply with each institution's regulations for registration, monitoring, and closing of proposals.
- 9.2 Funded projects will be subject to a midterm progress evaluation (to assess initial deliverables and budget execution) and a final evaluation at the conclusion of the funding period. Approval of the midterm report will be required for the continuation and formal closure of the project.
- 9.3 All academic, technological, and outreach products generated by the project (as listed in Annex 2) must be the direct result of joint research and active collaboration between researchers from both participating institutions.
- 9.4 All proposals must explicitly demonstrate tangible social impact, aligning their outcomes and community engagement strategies with the criteria and indicators outlined in Annex 3.

X. Specific Agreements

The ownership and title to any intellectual property rights arising from projects approved under this Call for Proposals shall be established through specific agreements between the participating institutions. Researchers shall comply with the applicable intellectual property and copyright regulations of each institution and shall duly acknowledge the participation and contributions of all individuals involved in the creation of the resulting materials, developments, or other project outcomes.

XI. Schedule

Activity	Date
Call Opens	October 1, 2026
Networking	October 12, 2026
Deadline	November 29, 2026
Committee Evaluation	November 30, 2026 – January 29, 2027
Result publication	February 1, 2027
Project Validity	March 2027 – March 2028



**College of Agricultural,
Consumer &
Environmental Sciences**
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



**Tecnológico
de Monterrey**



The convening institutions will resolve any issues not covered in this call for proposals.

For more information, please contact:

ui-mexico@uillinois.edu (UIUC),

gestionproyectos.siip@uaq.mx (UAQ);

ouni_enesj@unam.mx (UNAM-ENES J)

enlacefondeo@servicios.tec.mx (ITESM).



ANNEX 1

Contents of the "Webtools" link to be completed by applicants:

1. Name of the Mexican Principal Investigator (PI) and Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI)
2. Email of the Mexican PI and Co-PI
3. Title of the Mexican PI and Co-PI
4. Academic Units of the Mexican PI and Co-PI
5. Name of the PI at the U of I System
6. Email of the PI at the U of I System
7. Title of the PI at the U of I
8. Department of the PI at the U of I
9. Faculty of the PI at the U of I
10. Thematic area of research: Food and Health; Water Management; Energy.
11. Secondary thematic area of research (optional): e.g., Energy Poverty.
12. Title of the proposal
13. Duration of the project (in months)
14. Preferred start date
15. Total budget in USD, limited to 25 characters.
16. Mexican Institutions budget in USD (the answer must be numerical)
17. U de I budget in USD (the answer must be numerical) Attach proposal (maximum size: 15MB)



ANNEX 2

RESEARCH PRODUCT CATALOG

Code	Product Name / Description
A.1	Publications in peer-reviewed journals indexed in JCR or SCOPUS with collaborators affiliated with foreign Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).
A.2	Record of doctoral degree completion for a student advised at Mexican institutions, related to the LGAC (Line of Generation and Application of Knowledge) of the Researcher, Academic Body, or Collegiate Group.
A.3	Granting of rights by IMPI: Patent, utility model, industrial design, or Integrated Circuit Layout Design.
A.4	Technological development: systematic use of knowledge or research directed toward the production of materials, devices, systems, or methods, including the design, development, and improvement of prototypes, processes, products, services, or organizational models.
A.5	Peer-reviewed book published by editorial houses that guarantee double-blind review or equivalent rigor with an ISBN (author, co-author, or editor).
A.6	Publications in peer-reviewed journals indexed in JCR or SCOPUS.
A.7	Creation of an international academic collaboration network with a formal agreement.
B.1	Publications in peer-reviewed and indexed journals.
B.2	Record of master's degree or medical specialty completion for a student advised at Mexican institutions, related to the LGAC of the Researcher, Academic Body, or Collegiate Group.
B.3	Peer-reviewed book chapter published by editorial houses that guarantee double-blind review or equivalent rigor with an ISBN (author or co-author).
B.4	Creation of a national academic collaboration network with a formal agreement.
B.5	Publications in peer-reviewed and indexed journals with ISSN*.
B.6	Teaching or training material for artistic-cultural education or the professionalization of artistic disciplines, derived from research and comprising didactic-pedagogical planning, instructional resources, objectives, and competencies to be achieved.
C.1	Publications in science outreach or general dissemination journals with ISSN.
C.2	Invited an international keynote lecture.



C.3	Workshops or courses derived from registered research to promote scientific, technological, humanistic, and cultural vocations.
C.4	Generation of graphic or audiovisual content derived from the project and published through platforms or magazines accessible to the public.
C.5	Record of bachelor's degree completion for an advised student (thesis or research work) or record of specialty diploma completion.
C.6	Full proceedings with ISSN (with student participation).
C.7	Science outreach talk derived from registered research aimed at a non-academic audience.
C.8	Copyright computer program (software).
C.9	Filing of rights application before IMPI (Patent, utility model, industrial design, or Integrated Circuit Layout Design).
C.10	Copyright registration (INDAUTOR). For any work other than a computer program.
C.11	Thesis committee membership with Master's or Doctoral Degree Completion Record.
C.12	Thesis committee membership with Degree Completion Record (thesis, mini-thesis, intervention projects, professional report, textbook authoring, lab manual, teacher guide, research work, mini-thesis).
C.13	Organization of a nationally or internationally recognized prestigious event derived from the proposal (congress, festival, gathering, seminar, symposium, fair, colloquium).
C.14	Video declaration from beneficiary groups regarding the social impact of the project is important.
C.15	Paper/Presentation delivered at a recognized prestigious international event.
C.16	Paper/Presentation delivered at a recognized prestigious national event.
C.17	Poster presentation at a conference, or participation in a round table, symposium, workshop, or seminar with student collaboration.



ANNEX 3

SOCIAL IMPACT EVALUATION CRITERIA AND CORRESPONDING DELIVERABLES.

Social Impact Criterion	Expected Focus & Scope	Deliverables and Verifiable Evidence
1. Relevance & Alignment with Priority Themes	Projects aimed at addressing issues related to Poverty, Environment, and Sustainable Well-being across three core thematic areas: • Food and Health • Water Management • Energy	• Peer-reviewed and indexed journal publications documenting the research problem and proposed solution. • Technological developments, prototypes, systems, or organizational models applied to the targeted issue • Patents, utility models, or copyright registrations with IMPI / INDAUTOR.
2. Direct Beneficiaries & Social Testimony	Demonstration of tangible improvements in quality of life for target populations or priority sectors served by the project.	• Video testimony from beneficiary groups demonstrating the project's social impact.
3. Interdisciplinarity & Human Dimension	Cross-cutting integration of social sciences, humanities (e.g., psychology, education, sociology, law), and community/regulatory dimensions in the solution's design and implementation.	• Workshops or courses derived from the research project aimed at community engagement. • Intervention projects, professional reports, or community guides developed alongside undergraduate students.
4. Social Knowledge Ownership & Outreach	Knowledge of democratization and communication geared toward non-academic audiences using clear, inclusive, and culturally appropriate language.	• Creation/participation in graphic or audiovisual content via public platforms or magazines. • Publications in science communication journals (with ISSN). • Outreach talks based on registered research intended for a non-academic audience.
5. Human Capital Formation & Social Reciprocity	Active engagement of undergraduate and graduate students, as well as direct social giveback activities and technical training.	• Awarded Ph.D., Master's, or bachelor's degree certificates for advised students conducting research within the project. • Conference proceedings, posters, symposia, and workshops involving student collaboration.