



The Autonomous University of Queretaro and the University of California Call for Collaborative Research Proposals 2026

The Autonomous University of Queretaro (UAQ) and University of California Alianza MX (UC Alianza MX) are pleased to announce a “Call for Collaborative Research Proposals” 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 UAQ 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 advancements that contribute to a positive social impact in at least one of the following areas. *(Note: Preference in the selection process will be given to proposals that foster interdisciplinary collaboration and/or include innovative applications of emerging technologies)*

- **Health**
 - Biomedical engineering and medical devices
 - Digital health and telemedicine
 - Epidemiology and public health informatics
 - Mental health and wellbeing
 - Precision medicine and personalized health care
- **Energy**
 - Energy efficiency and storage technologies
 - Energy impact on the environment
 - Smart grids and energy systems integration
 - Renewable energy generation
- **Emerging Technologies**
 - Artificial intelligence and machine learning applications
 - Big data analytics and visualization
 - Biotechnology and sustainability
 - Blockchain technologies
 - Cyber and data privacy
 - Internet of things (IoT)
- **STEM Education and Pedagogy**
 - Advanced learning methodologies

- Inclusive and equitable education
- Innovative teaching practices

Selected proposals will be funded for a two-year period, with funding awarded annually for each year of the project. Research projects will be executed in two consecutive 12-month periods, with each year funded separately on an annual basis.

1. Eligibility

Each proposal must include at least four (4) Principal Investigators (PIs): two (2) from UAQ and two (2) from the UC system.

- 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. UAQ PIs must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- PIs must be full-time professors.
- PIs must be part of an academic/research group.
- At least one PI must be part of the National System of Researchers (SNII) or National System of Creators (SNC).
- PIs must be without outstanding debts.
- Part-time professor, associate professor

II. UC PIs must be eligible under [UCOP PI Guidelines](#).

- Postdoctoral researchers and students are not eligible to submit proposals, but they may be included in proposals that are submitted by eligible PIs. *(Note: Preference will be given to proposals that support unique opportunities for postdoctoral researchers and students).*
- 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).
- UC PIs may not apply to this call if they have an active research funding award from Alianza MX at the time of their proposal submission.

2. Applications

All applications should be written in English and submitted as a single pdf file that includes the following components:

(Note: UC applicants are required to submit their proposal to the Sponsored Programs Administration / Sponsored Projects Office (SPA/SPO) at their campus for prior review and approval)

- a) **Cover sheet.** Provide full names and contact information for PIs from both institutions, as well as an abstract that is understandable by a diverse review committee of academic experts.
- b) **Project plan.** Please include all of the following components:
- i. **Objectives.** State the objectives of the project for advancing scientific knowledge and/or technology development in specific area (or areas) (2000 characters);
 - ii. **Context.** Provide background information, including a brief summary of previous research and academic literature, as well as a description of the project's potential impact on the broader economic, environmental, political, or social context (4000 characters);
 - iii. **Timeline.** Describe the specific research tasks to be performed, who will perform each task, a clear timeline governing the work, and a brief summary of expected results (4000 characters);
 - iv. **Significance.** Explain the significance of the work for international research collaboration, including a brief summary of any previous collaboration among PIs (2000 characters);
 - v. **Postdocs & Students.** Describe the expected contributions of postdoctoral researchers or student research assistants, including specific tasks to be performed, relevance to their training or studies, and the supervision of their participation (2000 characters); and
 - vi. **Continuation.** Briefly summarize plans for continuation of the project beyond the grant period, including plans to seek additional funding from other sources (2000 characters).
- c) **Budget request.** Specify the cost of planned expenses and cost distribution for both UAQ and UC PIs. The budget should be denominated in USD and itemized for PIs at each participating institution on a year-by-year basis (Year 1 and Year 2) across the following categories:
- i. For UC participants only: Salaries and Benefits (*for postdoctoral researchers and student research assistants only; see Section 5 for details*)
 - ii. Laboratory Services
 - iii. Research Materials & Supplies
 - iv. Laboratory equipment
 - iv. Travel, including flights, local transportation, lodging, and meals; and
 - v. Other Costs

(Note: This list is not exhaustive and additional budget categories are permitted according to each institution.)

UC Participants: Allowable Expenses	UAQ Participants: Allowable Expenses
● Research materials and supplies ● Laboratory access ● Domestic and international travel costs—including transportation,	● Research Support and Supplies ○ Research materials, laboratory supplies and access

lodging, and meal expenses—for planning, research, and training; field, laboratory, and archival research; and data collection. <i>(Note: Conference attendance is given lower priority in the review process.)</i> Salaries or stipends for research assistants that are not eligible to serve as PIs. <i>(Note: These salaries may be paid to postgraduate researchers or students.)</i>	- Laboratory and specialized analytical services. - Scholarships for students. Travel and Fieldwork - Domestic and international travel expenses—including transportation, lodging, and meals—directly related to project planning, research activities, training, fieldwork, laboratory work, archival research, or data collection. <i>(Note: Conference attendance is considered a lower priority during proposal evaluation).</i> - Fieldwork expenses, which must strictly comply with applicable institutional regulations. Administrative and Auditing Fees - A portion of the budget must be explicitly allocated to cover external auditing costs (external audit), in accordance with UAQ financial guidelines.
UC Participants: Non-Allowable Expenses	UAQ Participants: Non-Allowable Expenses
- Purchase of equipment that exceeds USD \$5,000 - Salary payments to PIs or other academic collaborators - Payment of student tuition or fees for research assistants - Payments to teaching assistants for department courses or seminars led by the PI. - Indirect costs or institutional overhead assessments - Reimbursement for activities outside of the project period	Salaries and Compensation - Salary payments or stipends for Principal Investigators (PIs) or other academic collaborators - Standard salaries and wages. - Tuition or enrollment fees for student assistants. Equipment Restrictions - Purchase of any equipment, including computers, tablets, and other electronic devices. Infrastructure, Maintenance, and Utilities - Civil works, facility renovations, construction, or general building maintenance. - Equipment maintenance and software license payments/renewals. - Basic services and utilities (e.g., water, electricity, gas, telephone, internet). Administrative and Overhead Costs

	○ Indirect costs or institutional overhead assessments.
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- d) **Curricula 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. The letters should be on official letterhead and include signatures from the relevant authorities at each institution:
- For UC participants: Unit Director(s) or Head(s) of Academic Departments of which PIs are members. An Institutional Approval letter is also required from the Sponsored Projects/Programs Office confirming review and approval of the proposal.
 - For UAQ participants: Head of the Secretariat for Research, Innovation, and Postgraduate Studies.
- 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 at their institutions will be sufficient for the application, but evidence of approval or exemption will be required before projects can receive funding support.
- Institutional Ethics Committee (CEI) (for UAQ participants only): Projects must be reviewed and approved by the UAQ Institutional Ethics Committee (Comité de Ética Institucional, CEI). Specific deadlines and guidelines for submitting project proposals to the CEI will be published once the call is formally opened.

3. Evaluation

UC and UAQ 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:

- Quality and originality of the project;
- Clarity in the presentation of the problem, scientific approach, objectives and research goals;
- Congruence between objectives, financial request, and viability to finish the project in two years;

- d. Contribution of the project to the advancement and application of knowledge, including educational, social, or technological innovations; and
- e. Academic background of the PI and the research group, as well as complementarity between binational counterparts.

Reviewers will also consider meaningful participation of PIs at both institutions, potential development of new research programs and resources to support long-term collaborative activities, participation of postdoctoral researchers and students research assistants, and the stated intention to submit applications for extramural funding for their proposals that may provide additional long-term support.

Awardees will be selected jointly by UAQ and the UC, taking into consideration evaluations obtained from both parties.

4. Funding

UAQ and UC Alianza MX will provide the following funds:

Institution	Cash contribution	Additional support or in-kind contribution
UAQ	Up to \$25,000 USD (or equivalent in MXN) per project per year, for up to two years	In-kind contributions will support the hosting of research workshops at UAQ.
UC	Up to \$25,000 USD per project per year, for up to two years	An additional sum of up to \$5,000 USD per project will be made available for travel expenses to participate in research workshops hosted by UAQ.

- a. The agreement between UAQ and UC Alianza MX for the 2027-2029 Call for Collaborative Research Proposals provides maximum funding for three (3) proposals total over a two-year period. Each selected project may receive up to \$25,000 USD (or the equivalent amount in Mexican pesos [MXN]) per institution, per year, for two years, for a maximum total award of \$50,000 USD per institution over the project period.
- b. Awardees will be contacted in **February 2027**, and the full list will also be published on the UC Alianza MX and the UAQ websites. Decisions on the projects selected for funding will be final.
- c. All funds will be administered in accordance with UAQ 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 financial department at UAQ.

- d. Each project selected for funding will be executed in two (2) consecutive periods of 12 months each. PIs will be required to complete and sign Award Conditions & 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.
- e. PIs are responsible for administration, accounting, and timely completion of financial reports.
- f. Final scientific and financial reports are to be submitted jointly by all PIs to both UAQ and UC authorities and PIs should also retain copies. Financial reports will be audited.
- g. UAQ and UC Alianza MX support must be acknowledged in all publications and products resulting from this financial support.

5. Additional information

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

- UAQ: gestionproyectos.siip@uaq.mx
- UC Alianza MX: AlianzaMXResearch@ucr.edu

6. Calendar

Activity	Date
Launch of the call / Application period opens	October 12, 2026
Networking Session	October 26, 2026
Submission deadline / Application period closes	December 6, 2026
Evaluation Period	December 2026–January 2027
Announcement of Results	February 2027
Institutional Project Registration at UAQ	February 8–28, 2027
Project Launch / Start Date	March 2027

The funding and project execution period runs from March 2027 to March 2029:

For UC PIs, the Midterm Progress Report by January 31, 2028, and a Final Project Report after presenting their project results on March 19, 2029.

For UAQ PIs, the Midterm Progress Report by November 26, 2027, and deliver the Final Project Report and Presentation on March 16, 2029.

7. Proposal submission

Research proposals must be submitted electronically via the application portal:

<https://forms.gle/kXh9msnQMWYa2n8e8>

Proposal submissions must be received by **December 6 , 2026** to be eligible for consideration.