



**To promote the internationalization of research, strengthen research groups, and train young researchers, the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Science at the University of Illinois and the Autonomous University of Querétaro, through the Secretariat of Research, Innovation, and Graduate Studies, are calling for applications.**

## **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

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

### **I. Proposers**

Principal Investigators (PI) must be full-time faculty members at the UAQ and full-time faculty members at the University of Illinois.

### **II. Requirements**

- 2.1 PI must be part of an academic/research group at their respective institution.
- 2.2 At least one member of the group must be part of the National System of Researchers (SNII) (in the case of the UAQ).
- 2.3 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 SIIP).
- 2.4 Proposals must be composed of at least two and up to three members from each institution.

### **III. Funding Areas and Themes**

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. Multi- and transdisciplinary approaches are especially welcome in the following areas:

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

- Food sovereignty.
- Nutrition (promotion and consumption of balanced diets, restoration of natural food consumption, nutritional education).
- Diagnosis, prevention, treatment, and control of diseases (e.g., chronic degenerative diseases).
- Mental health of children, adolescents, and young people.
- Other (justify relevance and impact).

#### **3.2 Water Management:**

- Water crisis and water scarcity (e.g., water capture and/or recovery systems, water supply systems and strategies).

- Water pollution (e.g., sanitation systems, others, with prior justification).
- Water imbalance in ecosystems (e.g., new water use technologies, implementation of improved water use management systems at the territorial level).
- Other (justify relevance and impact).

### 3.3 Energy:

- Energy poverty (e.g., affordable energy sources, energy transition, education, awareness and cultural development, etc., with prior justification).
- Energy resource depletion (e.g., technological innovation for territorial adaptation).
- Energy education, awareness and culturalization.
- Other (justify relevance and impact).

## IV. Eligibility Criteria

Prior to submitting proposals, a networking event will be organized by the UAQ to establish links between researchers from both institutions (date: August 29, 2025).

4.1 To be considered for funding, proposals must include at least two (2) members (PIP), who must be full-time faculty members: one (1) from the UAQ and one (1) from the UI.

4.2 In addition, the proposals must include at least two collaborators, and up to three, per institution.

4.3 All members must preferably have a doctoral degree.

4.4 Proposals must be original and not duplicates of proposals submitted to other national or international funding agencies.

4.5 Only one proposal may be submitted as a PIP, but they may be collaborators on a maximum of one other proposal.

4.6 Illinois principal investigators must have an approved Hatch or Multistate Hatch project prior to the start date of any award through this program.

## V. Presentation and Submission of Proposals

5.1 Proposals must adhere to the outline provided at the link below (<https://forms.illinois.edu/sec/2095343139>), including a timeline for completing the various project-related tasks. Applications will have a maximum of four (4) pages, not including the title page, references, annexes, and appendices.

5.2 Proposals must be submitted in English and Spanish by October 30, 2025, as a single PDF document to [ui-mexico@uillinois.edu](mailto:ui-mexico@uillinois.edu), with a copy to [gestionproyectos.siip@uaq.mx](mailto:gestionproyectos.siip@uaq.mx). Complete the information at the following link: <https://forms.illinois.edu/sec/2095343139> (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 pages, excluding cover page, references, annexes, and appendix)

- State of the 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
- Work plan:
  - o Timeline
  - o Deliverables (Technical report, research plan, and evidence of external funding for the continuity of the project and the academic products established by each convening institution (in the case of the UAQ, see Annex 2).
- Budget
  - o Detailed description of the financial requirements for the UI and UAQ.
  - o Each proposal may request a combined maximum of USD 8,000, which means a maximum of USD 4,000 per institution for the selected projects.
- Budget Justification: For Illinois principal investigators, expenses through this award must be directly related to the Hatch or Multistate Hatch project and must comply with NIFA's specific guidelines for Hatch funding. For the UAQ PIP, provide detailed justification for each requested item.
- References in APA seventh edition format.
- Appendix.
  - o Researchers' CVs (maximum 3 pages).
  - o Attach a detailed budget.
  - o For UAQ PIPs, a letter of institutional support for the project signed by the head of the Secretariat of Research, Innovation, and Postgraduate Studies (SIIP) (maximum size: 15 MB).
  - o Letter of institutional support from the head of the corresponding faculty/department/institute at the University of Illinois (maximum size: 15 MB).
  - o If the files exceed the maximum size allowed, please contact: Illinois researchers, write to Elvira de Mejia at [ui-mexico@uillinois.edu](mailto:ui-mexico@uillinois.edu), and UAQ researchers, write to [gestionproyectos.siip@uaq.mx](mailto:gestionproyectos.siip@uaq.mx).

## **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 director of the Faculty of Agriculture, Consumer Affairs, and the Environment or his/her designees, and the rector of the Autonomous University of Querétaro through the Secretary of Research, Innovation, and Graduate Studies. The decisions of the joint evaluation committee will be final.

6.2 The evaluation criteria will include:

- Technical quality,
- Relevance of the topic and social impact,
- Degree of collaboration and interaction in this proposal,
- Evidence of international work,
- Participation of undergraduate and/or graduate students.
- Potential to generate external funding.

6.3 The results will be published on December 15, 2025. The funds will be available for use from February 2026 to February 2027.

## **VII. Funding**

7.1 Each institution will invest US\$20,000 for one year. Funds are non-transferable between institutions. Each university will fund its faculty and research staff participating in the selected joint proposals. A proposal may request a maximum of US\$8,000 jointly.

7.2 A total of 5 joint projects will be funded annually.

7.3 The maximum amount allocated by each institution to the selected projects is US\$4,000, which must be spent no later than February 2027.

7.4 Eligible items 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.
- o Laboratory services.
- o Research materials and supplies.
- o Minor equipment

7.5 Ineligible expenses include the following:

- o Salaries of PIPs 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.

## **VIII. Formalization**

8.1 Approved projects must comply with each institution's regulations for registration, monitoring, and closing of proposals.

## **IX. Schedule**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date</b>
Networking	August 29, 2025
Call Opens	September 15, 2025
Receipt of Proposals	October 30, 2025
Committee Evaluation	November 2 - December 14, 2025
Result publication	December 15, 2025
Project Validity	February 2026 - February 2027

The convening institutions will resolve any issues not covered in this call for proposals. For more information, please contact [ui-mexico@uillinois.edu](mailto:ui-mexico@uillinois.edu) and [gestionproyectos.siip@uaq.mx](mailto:gestionproyectos.siip@uaq.mx).

## **ANNEX 1**

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

1. Name of the UAQ Principal Investigator (PI)
2. Email of the UAQ PI
3. Title of the UAQ PI
4. Academic Unit of the UAQ 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. UAQ 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	Name of Product
A.1	Publications in peer-reviewed journals indexed in JCR or SCOPUS.
A.2	Doctoral degree certificate of a student advised at UAQ, related to the PI's line of research or Academic Body/Research Group.
A.3	Grant of rights before the IMPI (Mexican Institute of Industrial Property): patent, utility model, industrial design, or layout-design (topography) of integrated circuits.
A.4	Technological development: systematic use of knowledge or research aimed at the production of materials, devices, systems, or methods, including design, development, or improvement of prototypes, processes, products, services, or organizational models.
A.5	Book peer-reviewed and published by an academic press with double-blind review or equivalent standards, with ISBN registration (as author, co-author, or editor).
A.6	Video testimony from beneficiary groups about the social impact of the project.
B.1	Publications in peer-reviewed and indexed journals.
B.2	Master's degree or medical specialty certificate of a student advised at UAQ, related to the PI's line of research or Academic Body/Research Group.
B.3	Peer-reviewed book chapter published by a press guaranteeing double-blind review or equivalent rigor, with ISBN (as author or co-author).
B.4	International keynote lecture by invitation.
B.5	Workshops or courses derived from the registered research project aimed at fostering scientific, technological, humanistic, and cultural interests.
B.6	Creation and/or participation in graphic or audiovisual content through platforms or journals accessible to the general public.
B.7	Publications in science communication journals with ISSN (peer-reviewed or indexed).
C.1	Bachelor's degree certificate of a student advised (thesis or research project), or diploma for a specialty, related to the PI's line of research or Academic Body/Research Group.
C.2	Extended proceedings with ISSN (with student participation).
C.3	Outreach talk based on registered research, intended for a non-academic audience.

<b>C.4</b>	Software program with copyright registration (derived from published research).
<b>C.5</b>	Submission of intellectual property application to IMPI (patent, utility model, industrial design, or layout-design of integrated circuits).
<b>C.6</b>	Copyright registration with INDAUTOR (Mexican National Institute of Copyright) for any work other than software.
<b>C.7</b>	Thesis committee membership with Master's or Doctorate degree certification.
<b>C.8</b>	Thesis committee membership with Undergraduate degree certification (thesis, final paper, intervention project, professional report, textbook, lab manual, teacher's guide, research paper, etc.).
<b>C.9</b>	Poster presentation at a conference, roundtable participation, symposium, workshop, or seminar involving student collaboration.