The University of Southern California (USC) and the Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONACYT) endorse their commitment to the creation of a Joint Postdoctoral Fellowship Program, as signed in a Specific Agreement in 2014, by joining efforts and resources through this Call for Proposals.

Objective

Contribute to the strengthening of scientific capacity, technology and innovation of the United States and Mexico.

Presentation of proposals for postdoctoral fellowships

Researchers from Mexico that have obtained the degree of PhD in a period of no more than 4 (four) years prior to the year of publication of this Call for Proposals.

Postdoctoral residencies will be completed at the University of Southern California.

Up to 30 (thirty) postdoctoral fellowships will be awarded, for an amount of up to USD $60,000 (sixty-eight thousand and 00/100 USD) salary and $8,000 USD toward a benefits package including health, dental, vision, life, accidental death and dismemberment, short-term and long-term disability insurance plans for one year, with the possibility of renewal for a second year, depending on evaluation and development of the fellow.

The postdoctoral fellowship proposal must include

- CV for the postdoctoral researcher (2 pages)
- Letter of intention, including summary of proposal
- Detailed research proposal that must include: a literature review, research timeline, research objectives, deliverables, and an explanation of how research and expected deliverables will promote interaction between institutions in the U.S. and Mexico
- Proof of Ph.D. degree
- If the researcher is employed in an institution, a letter from the researcher’s direct supervisor stating the employment status and authorizing the postdoctoral researcher leave
- 2 (two) letters of reference
Postdoctoral residencies will be conducted in different Schools at the University of Southern California, in the following disciplines:

- Biological sciences
- Earth Sciences
- Chemistry
- Engineering
- Health Sciences
- Gerontology
- Physics
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Social Work
- Spatial Sciences
- History
- Pharmacy
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Public Policy
- Craniofacial Molecular Biology
- Neuroscience

**Shared costs**

Due to limited resources, applicants may also solicit funding from other sources. Applicants must identify other sources and amounts of external funding in their applications to this Call.

**Review and Evaluation**

All proposals received will be subject to a formal review according to the following procedures. Proposals that fulfill the requirements of this Call will be reviewed and considered for potential funding by an Evaluation Committee, made up of experts from USC and CONACYT. Proposals recommended by the Committee will be considered for fellowship funding.

1. **Initial review**
   Proposals will be considered for technical review when they meet the following requirements:
   - Include all required documents.
   - Clearly identify focus, objectives, and/or deliverables.
   - Sufficiently justify the relevance of the project.
2. Evaluation Committee assessment
   • Eligible proposals will be reviewed by the Evaluation Committee based on their scientific merit and relevance, expected impact and potential for long-term collaboration.
   • Results are final.

3. Evaluation Criteria
   • Quality of the argumentation presented by the applicant, which should include the reasons for selection of the postdoctoral program are explained; justification of the realization of a postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Southern California, demonstrating the relationship between the proposal and previous academic and/or employment experience.
   • Academic support and consistency in his/her academic and/or labor career to ensure the successful completion of the postdoctoral fellow, showing by the applicant through his/her academic or professional history.
   • The information submitted by the applicant, relating to his/her professional experience will be considered, if that is the case.

Length of Call for Proposals

Proposals will be accepted until June 1, 2015 at 10:00 pm Central Time (US) and Central Time (Mexico). Proposals received after this time will not be considered.

Proposal Contents

All proposals must be written in English. Proposals must include the following components to be considered:

• CV for the postdoctoral researcher (2 pages)
• Proposal summary/ letter of intention addressed to the host institution
• Detailed research proposal that must include: a literature review, research timeline, research objectives, deliverables, and an explanation of how research and expected deliverables will promote interaction between institutions in the U.S. and Mexico
• Proof of Ph.D. degree
• If the researcher is employed in an institution, a letter from the researcher’s direct supervisor stating the employment status and authorizing the postdoctoral researcher leave
• 2 (two) letters of reference
Proposal submission

Electronic submission

All proposals must be submitted in electronic form in PDF in separated files according to requested in this call, which must be uploaded at the following link:

- [https://grad.usc.edu/usc-conacyt/](https://grad.usc.edu/usc-conacyt/)

Where to ask questions

- Questions about this Call for Proposals at the University of Southern California:
  
  Dan Carino  
  postdocs@usc.edu

- Questions about this Call for Proposals at CONACYT:
  
  Pablo Zazueta Carpinteyro  
  pzazueta@conacyt.mx  
  Teléfono (55) 5322-7700 ext. 6002 y 6007

Formalization

The formalization consists in the subscription to the postdoctoral and complementary documents, including postdoctoral assignment letter, where the terms of support and commitments acquired by beneficiaries and CONACYT under applicable regulations are established.

- During formalization, CONACYT will deliver to selected beneficiary the postdoctoral assignment letter, which be useful for it to perform the management of the visa directly to the appropriate Embassy. To activate the postdoctoral in the system and begin delivery of support, it is mandatory that CONACYT has received the correspondent documents of formalization signed by the beneficiary or his representative and a copy of his/her visa issued by the government country where conducted postdoctoral studies. The beneficiary must be inform about the immigration and financial conditions required by the country and in some cases the locality where the postdoc is meant to realize for the granting of the visa.

- CONACYT, except the established in the last paragraph, shall not interfere with the performance of the host country in any management regarding the immigration status of the beneficiary, remaining under their responsibility the corresponding procedures.

- Similarly, during formalization process, the CONACYT will deliver to selected beneficiary bank documents necessary to receive the payment of the financial support granted by the Council.
Allocation of resources

In case of approval for postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Southern California, the allocation of resources will be held on a monthly basis for the duration of the stay, through the procedure to be established for this purpose.

Calendar

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TRANSPARENCY, EFFICIENCY, EFFECTIVENESS, ECONOMY, AND INTEGRITY

It is an obligation of the Government of Mexico and its public servants to administer economic resources with transparency, efficiency, effectiveness, economy, and integrity, meeting the objectives for which they are designed.

Beneficiaries should also observe these principles, administering the funds they are awarded for the due completion of their stated ends.

To meet this objective, reports must be presented according to the terms presented in the Agreement. CONACYT may verify compliance at any time.

Any deviance from these principles will be motive for cancellation of support.

The received information as a result of this call is subject by the Federal Law of Transparency and Access to Public Government Information, which will be considered public. In cases where confidential information is delivered, reserved or commercial reserved, you must manifest that character written, where there must be identify the documents or sections containing sensitive information, including why they are consider of having that character.
The incorporation of sensitive or confidential information, and the consequences of their possible exposure to third parties will be exclusive responsibility of the applicant, in case the proponent does not emit specifying sensitive or confidential information, this will be considered public. People who have on custody or transaction confidential information will be required to maintain that quality. Those who violate this provision will be sanctioned in accordance with penal laws and/or administrative provisions.

Under the above, CONACYT will safeguard classified information and will establish the necessary mechanisms to ensure the confidentiality of the contained information in the presented proposals, both during assessment and monitoring.

FAIRNESS AND NONDISCRIMINATION

The selection of recipients of CONACYT funds is conducted through competitive, efficient, fair, transparent, and public procedures, supported by merit and quality; funding awarded is subject to evaluation processes, selection, formalization and follow-up, according to the normative framework that corresponds to each program. As such, CONACYT, and the designation of resources to its beneficiaries, is obliged to not discriminate against applicants for any reason or social condition.

SOCIAL APPROPRIATION OF KNOWLEDGE

The knowledge generated by scientific, technological research and innovation must be used by Mexican society in its permanent process of transformation, social and economic development; particularly that knowledge must become an engine of development and in dynamic factor of social change. The knowledge must be socialized to have a real impact.

The social appropriation of knowledge should serve to consolidate the institutions devoted to research and research groups.

In accordance with article 12, fraction XV of the Law on Science and Technology, the beneficiaries of the support granted by the federal government in science, technology and innovation, will diffuse to society their activities and the results of their research and development, without prejudice to the corresponding intellectual property rights, and the information that, by reason of its nature, must be reserved.

The subjects of support or beneficiaries, as part of the project deliverables must submit an executive summary of the project objectives and outcomes; such information will be public and may be requested to the subjects of support or beneficiaries to present at events or public workshops, which in case, CONACYT or any department or agency of the sector concerned, organize.
The information presented by the subject of support or beneficiaries must be included in the integrated system of information on scientific research, technological development and innovation referred to in articles 14 and 15 of the Law on Science and Technology.

**INTERPRETATION AND UNFORSEEEN ISSUES**

The interpretation of the present Call for Proposals and unforeseen issues within will be jointly resolved by CONACYT and the University of Southern California and their resolutions will be binding.

The terms of the present call for proposals are in accordance with the juridical dispositions derived from the Ley de Ciencia y Tecnología and other applicable related findings. The results derived can only be questioned within the legal framework indicated.

The presentation of applications under the terms of this call implies the acceptance of the established conditions and other regulations issued by CONACYT or applicable to the case.