

March 1st, 2013

Fundación México en Harvard, CONACYT and Harvard University are pleased to announce an agreement of cooperation for the creation of a post-doctoral program for Mexican Research Fellows.

Postdoctoral fellowships in the sciences at Harvard University: Mexico

Mexican scientists who already hold a PhD or equivalent degree may apply for a postdoctoral fellowship if they are committed to return to Mexico upon completion of the fellowship. All applicants must be employed full time in Mexico, or if not currently employed full time, demonstrate a prior educational history that has taken place largely, but not necessarily entirely, in Mexico. **All applicants will be expected to return to Mexico upon completion of the fellowship.**

Researchers from Mexico may apply for a postdoctoral fellowship appointment in the life, physical, or quantitative sciences, bioengineering, or environmental science and engineering. Such applicants shall have completed their doctoral programs no more than **three years prior** to the application deadline below. These postdoctoral fellowships are available in the following Harvard schools:

- Faculty of Arts and Sciences, in the life, physical and quantitative sciences
- School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, in bioengineering or environmental science and engineering
- Harvard Medical School (“HMS”), working with an HMS faculty member, (NOTE that the sponsoring faculty member must be a Professor, Associate Professor, or Assistant Professor in one of HMS’s Basic and Social Science Departments. A list of these departments can be found at this web address: <http://hms.harvard.edu/research/basic-and-social-science-departments>. Faculty members’ names and titles can be found on the departments’ websites.)
- School of Public Health

This program is possible thanks to the vision and generosity of the Government of Mexico, through its National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT), and to the Fundación México en Harvard.

How to apply

Applicants from Mexico for a postdoctoral fellowship in science should, first, contact the Harvard faculty member with whom they wish to work on scientific research projects, and should include a CV and a research proposal that explains why the applicant wishes to work with this particular faculty member.

If the Harvard faculty member is interested in working with the applicant as a postdoctoral fellow, the applicant should submit the following materials to the relevant Harvard school(s)

through the ARIeS portal (<http://academicpositions.harvard.edu/postings/search>; search by keywords “Mexico Postdoctoral Fellowship”) no later than **May 1, 2013**:

1. CV in English (all candidates must be members of the National System of Investigators, Mexico, in any of SNI’s categories or levels; Candidate for National Researcher or National Researcher - Level I, II or III);
2. Copy of the certificate showing assignment of SNI membership;
3. Research proposal, signed jointly with the relevant Harvard faculty member;
4. Diploma or transcript from the home university verifying receipt of the doctoral degree (must include English translation of diploma or transcript but translation does not need to be a “Certified Translation”);
5. A copy of the photo page of a Mexican passport or other documentation to show that the applicant is a citizen of Mexico;
6. Two letters of recommendation, in English, from individuals in a position to judge the applicant’s record of academic and research accomplishment;
7. A note indicating when the applicant and the relevant professor would like the postdoctoral appointment to start;
8. A letter of support from the relevant faculty member either included with these materials or sent separately by the faculty member.

Selected fellows may start their appointments at any time mutually agreeable to the applicant and the host faculty member.

Appointments will be highly selective, with applications subject to extensive review. Successful applicants will demonstrate superior academic and research credentials and a close fit between the research they plan to conduct during the fellowship and the work of the sponsoring faculty member or laboratory. Notice of appointment may be sent at any time during the year.

It is anticipated that there will be one postdoctoral fellow each year in each of these four Harvard Schools. However, Harvard does not guarantee any specific number of postdoctoral appointments.

Terms of appointment

Each School will receive \$75,000 per year for the support of each postdoctoral fellow admitted under this program. Funds will be used for a fellow’s stipend, health insurance and benefits, research support, travel, and other expenses to be determined by the relevant Harvard school.

Postdoctoral fellows eligible for support under this program may also seek other sources of financial support. Ordinarily, postdoctoral fellows at Harvard may not serve as “Principal Investigators” on research projects, with some exceptions subject to the policies of the relevant School.

Each researcher may be appointed for a one-year or a two-year term, as determined by the relevant Harvard school. Terms may be extended for an additional year. Extending a two-year term for a third year requires mutual agreement between the individual, the relevant Harvard School, and CONACYT and the Fundación México en Harvard.

Appointment decisions

All postdoctoral appointment decisions will be made on an individual basis and solely by the appropriate Harvard Dean of School, acting upon the recommendation of the faculty member, who wishes to host the postdoctoral research scientist. The decisions will be made in accordance with Harvard's applicable policies and procedures for postdoctoral appointments. In particular, all such decisions will be made in strict adherence to Harvard's policies on nondiscrimination.

Accepted applicants will receive a letter of invitation for the postdoctoral appointment, to be signed by the faculty member and the relevant Dean.

All such appointments may only be funded upon the explicit concurrence of CONACYT and the Fundación México en Harvard.

Obligations

- Before receiving support, researchers funded under this Agreement must sign a contract with the Fundación México en Harvard that requires that they return to Mexico after completing the Research Fellowship¹.
- Researchers who are accepted into a postdoctoral fellowship under this program, must provide to the Fundación México en Harvard copies of documents 1 through 8 under *How to Apply* above, as well as a copy of the invitation letter from the Harvard faculty member and relevant Dean.
- CONACYT will require the following documents for all researchers who are accepted into a postdoctoral fellowship under this program:
 - A copy of the invitation letter from the Harvard faculty member and relevant Dean,
 - If the accepted Fellow is currently employed in Mexico, a commitment letter by their institution of employment to conserve the researcher's post for the duration of their fellowship,
 - If the accepted Fellow is currently employed in Mexico, a commitment letter by the researcher to return to the home institution upon completion of the fellowship².

Intellectual property

Intellectual property created by a postdoctoral researcher will be governed by the relevant laws of Mexico and the United States and by Harvard intellectual property policies.

Questions

Questions may be sent **in English** to mexicopostdocs@harvard.edu.

¹ The commitment to return to Mexico is between the candidate and the Fundación México en Harvard, not between the candidate and Harvard University.

² The commitment to return to the home institution is between the candidate and the home institution, not between the candidate and Harvard University.