Background
On June 21, 2016 the University of Texas System and Mexico’s National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT) signed a Cooperation Agreement to establish the ConTex Program to administer cooperative bi-national academic and research activities for the mutual benefit of the United States and Mexico as neighbors and partners. In November 2016, ConTex launched its first call for proposals for Postdoctoral Fellows.

Objective and Scope
We are pleased to announce a call for proposals for postdoctoral fellows at UT System or at Mexican institutions of higher education or research for the 2019-2020 academic year. The objective of the Postdoctoral Fellowship Program is to increase scholarly exchange and collaboration by supporting Mexican postdoctoral scholars at UT System institutions and UT System postdoctoral scholars at Mexican institutions.

Special consideration will be given to the following strategic areas:

- Health
- Management of water basins
- Food self-sufficiency
- Socio-ecological systems and sustainability
- Industrial development, solid waste, and toxicity
- Structural violence and inequality
- Education for inclusion and peace
- Democratic development
- Human mobility
- Energy transition
- Sustainability of urban areas
- Climate change and air quality
- Historical memory and bio-cultural wealth
Risk prevention and natural disasters
Sustainable, safe, and culturally and ecologically suitable housing

Fellowship Candidate Eligibility Requirements:

- Candidates must have graduated from a Ph.D. program no more than five years prior to August 9, 2019.
- Applicants must have earned their PhD at the time of submission (PhD candidates are not eligible to apply).
- Applicants who have received previous CONACYT funding must have fulfilled all obligations regarding their earlier fellowships.

Award Amount

- Fellowships will be awarded for a period of up to 12 (twelve) months.
- If the selected fellow is a Mexican citizen hosted at one of the institutions of the UT System, he/she will receive:
  - Annual award of $57,528 (salary of $50,004 and institutional allowance of $7,524)
  - Institutional allowance is to be budgeted first to cover health insurance exclusively for the postdoctoral fellow (no support for dependents) and any remaining funds may be used to help support other costs related to the appointment, or the fellow’s research.
- If the selected fellow is a graduate of a UT System institution hosted at a Mexican institution, he/she will receive compensation according to CONACYT’s salary guidelines.

Conditions of Support

- Fellows may begin their residencies as early as October 1, 2019 and no later than December 1, 2019.
- The fellowship may be connected to a project supported through the ConTex Collaborative Research Program. However, the postdoctoral proposal must be unique, i.e., it may not be a copy of the proposal submitted to the research grant program.
- Fellows are responsible for paying all applicable taxes in accordance with state and federal guidelines.
- Fellows are responsible for paying all costs of obtaining a visa to conduct research in a foreign country.
- Fellows must make host institution aware that the host faculty member, department, center, institute, or institution will be responsible for paying fringe benefits other than health insurance as well as any other campus based required fees. The $7,524 allowance may be used towards these expenses after the fellow’s health insurance has been covered.
- Fellowship is a full-time, in-person commitment at the host institution.
- Fellows must be affiliated with the host institution during the entire tenure of the fellowship.
- Fellows must complete proposed research project within established time frame. A final report of activities must be submitted jointly by the fellow and host faculty member. The report must include all publications submitted individually or jointly with the host faculty member. The PI and fellow will present their findings in peer-reviewed conference presentations and in peer-reviewed publications. Any presentation of findings (for example, at conferences, in articles, or online) should include the following acknowledgement:
Application Requirements

Eligible Mexican or UT System postdoctoral researchers must submit their applications electronically at [http://www.contex.utsystem.edu/postdoctoralfellowships](http://www.contex.utsystem.edu/postdoctoralfellowships) by August 9, 2019.

The following items are required as part of the application packet:

1. **Basic Information page – form to be filled online**
   - Name of applicant (as it appears on his/her official ID)
   - Email address
   - Current physical address
   - Date of graduation from doctoral program
   - Institution of graduate degree
   - Host institution for postdoctoral fellowship application
   - Host department, center or institute for postdoctoral application
   - Host faculty member for postdoctoral fellowship application
   - Email address of host faculty member
   - Title of proposed project
   - For Mexican applicants: status with regard to CONACYT fellowships and obligations: Liberado/no Liberado
   - Connection with ConTex Collaborative Research Project? Yes/No

2. **The following documents must be included in one, single PDF file, in the order indicated below. Applications that exceed the stated limits will not be evaluated**

   a) **Research Proposal**
      - **Cover Page**
        - Proposed Project Title
        - Fellowship Candidate’s Name
        - Fellowship Candidate’s Email Address
        - Host Institution
        - Host Faculty’s Name
        - Host Faculty’s Email Address
      - **Research abstract in English (not to exceed 400 words)**
      - **Project plan (not to exceed three pages, font size 11 Times New Roman, single space). Describe the proposed research and specific goals and objectives for the work to be undertaken. The following should be addressed:**
        - Significance of the proposed research within the discipline
        - How project is cutting-edge research within the discipline
        - Plans for continuation of the research, as well as the potential impact of the proposed research on the professional and academic development of the applicant
- Methodology, relevant literature and any disciplinary, interdisciplinary, and international collaborative approaches
- Expected impact of research in Mexico and Texas
  - Timeline (not to exceed one page) should detail research and work to be undertaken during the course of the one-year postdoctoral stay. The timeline should clearly specify where and when academic and research-related activities would take place.

b) Curriculum vitae of candidate (not to exceed three pages), including educational achievements, academic positions and/or awards, a list of relevant publications and current works in progress.

c) Abbreviated curriculum vitae of host faculty (and co-host if applicable), including publications and research interests in the last five years (not to exceed five pages).

d) Letter of intent from the host faculty (and co-host if applicable) indicating research responsibility and support. The letter of intent should provide evidence of the host’s familiarity with the applicant’s project plan, indicate host support for the proposed activities, and discuss the potential benefit of the stay to the scholar and host institution. The letter must be written on official letterhead and signed by the host faculty (not to exceed 2 pages).

e) Host Faculty Acknowledgement Form found here. Faculty member must acknowledge his/her understanding of conditions of award, as well as his/her commitment to secure funding to cover fringe benefits other than health insurance, if applicable. Form must be signed and dated.

f) Official letter of invitation from a UT System department, laboratory, research center, or institute; or from a Mexican institution of higher education or research center registered in the National Register of Institutions and Scientific and Technological Institutes (REINIECYT). The letter must be written by the department chair or by the director of the research institute, dean, etc. hosting the candidate’s residency (someone other than the host faculty). It must document that the candidate will be affiliated with that institution by the award start date and will be provided with adequate mentoring, space, basic services, needed resources, and supplies. It must also reference the amount in cost sharing that will be provided for any fringe benefits other than health insurance as well as any applicable campus based international processing fees.

g) Certification of completion of Ph.D. degree. Applicant must have earned his/her Ph.D. at the time of submission. Diploma or other evidence of Ph.D. completion must be submitted.

h) For Mexican applicants: certification of good standing with CONACYT (carta de liberación, if applicable).

3. Supporting letters

Two letters of reference in English and/or Spanish addressing the applicant’s research accomplishments and ability to undertake a postdoctoral research project. Ideally, one letter must be from the applicant’s dissertation adviser, or from a faculty mentor who has knowledge of the applicant’s research and academic trajectory. Letters must be on official letterhead and signed.
Review and Evaluation Process

Faculty members or researchers from Mexican and UT System institutions with expertise in the applicable topics will evaluate and rate each proposal. Proposals should be written for a committee with broad expertise and interests.

1. Administrative Review - every application is reviewed to ensure that the candidate meets the eligibility criteria and that all required documents are included in the proposal.

2. Evaluation Committee Assessment - Applications that pass the administrative review are subsequently evaluated based on scientific merit, relevance, and level of impact for the mutual benefit of the United States and Mexico. Evaluation criteria include:
   - Qualifications of the applicant.
   - Clarity, quality, and feasibility of the proposed work during the fellowship period.
   - Potential of proposed work to strengthen bilateral research ties and networks between UT System and Mexican institution.
   - Evidence that the scientific and academic activities to be undertaken will allow the applicant to develop unique expertise, to increase his or her knowledge, and provide access to new techniques and methodologies that will benefit the applicant’s future home institution.
   - Strong justification for conducting a full-time stay at the proposed host institution
   - Evidence that the host institution will provide adequate infrastructure for the postdoctoral fellow to be able to conduct the research study as proposed.

General Considerations

- Incomplete applications, submissions that do not meet the requirements, or applications not submitted online through the ConTex website will not be evaluated.

- The support granted under this call will not, under any circumstances, constitute an employment relationship with CONACYT, UT System institutions, or ConTex.

- The number of scholarships awarded under this call is subject to the provisions of the Agreement of Cooperation between CONACYT and UT System and the availability of funds.

The terms of the present call for proposals are in accordance with the legal requirements derived from Mexico’s Ley de Ciencia y Tecnología and other applicable statutes or regulations. Awards will be administered by ConTex in accordance with UT System policies and procedures and in observance of CONACYT’s institutional requirements.

The submission of applications under the terms of this call implies the acceptance of the established conditions and regulations issued by CONACYT, which may be applicable to this program.
Deadline to submit applications

To be considered, proposals must be submitted through the ConTex website no later than August 9, 2019.

ConTex will not provide pre-review of proposals, and reviewer comments on individual proposals will not be provided.

Results will be announced by Wednesday September 4, 2019.

For additional information contact:

CONTEX
Paloma Perry, Director of Programs
paloma.perry@utsa.edu
210.458.5528

Olivia Mogollon, Academic Program Coordinator
olivia.mogollon@utsa.edu
210.458.7738

or

CONACYT
Lic. Paulina Olavarría Sayavedra
Subdirección de Cooperación Científica Internacional
internac_ciencia@conacyt.mx
+52.55.5322.7700