Arizona State University and CONACYT Doctoral Fellowships

The Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONACYT) signed an agreement with Arizona State University in 2015 to accomplish two purposes:

1. Provide up to **30 fellowships** each year to Mexican students regularly admitted to and enrolled in **PhD programs** at ASU. Every year, CONACYT publishes a request for applications (RFA) (see details below). Individuals admitted to ASU doctoral programs apply for financial support to CONACYT headquarters or to CONACYT branches in various Mexican states. RFAs specify how to apply and identify the target disciplines/programs eligible for these fellowships.

2. Support a **visiting scholar** program from Mexico and ASU. Applications are open throughout the year.

**CONACYT Doctoral Fellowships FAQs**

**Terms of the agreement**

- CONACYT will offer in-state tuition, a stipend for living expenses, and support for health insurance according to its established guidelines.
- ASU Units will offer an assistantship that provides an annual stipend equal to CONACYT’s stipend, non-resident tuition support and supplemental support to cover the cost of health insurance.
- Student fees (registration, program, course, etc.) will be the responsibility of the student. ASU Units are urged to obtain resources to help students cover these expenses.
- CONACYT and ASU will provide the aforementioned financial supports for a maximum of four years.
- More information about these terms and application procedures are presented in subsequent paragraphs.

**ASU/CONACYT Fellowship eligibility**

- **What are the applicant eligibility criteria for the fellowship?**
  - Be admitted to an ASU Ph.D. program. Admission letter is required.
  - Pass a language proficiency test (TOEFL = 550; IDT (79/80); IBT = 79-80 (internet version); IELTS = 6.5
  - Mexican applicants admitted to ASU will need to apply for funding to CONACYT. See list of required materials for these applications at **Becas al Extranjero**
  - See application evaluation criteria at (see pp. 11-12): **Evaluation and Selection**

- **What disciplines or knowledge areas does the fellowship cover?**
  - Priority is given to disciplines in the hard and natural sciences—e.g., math, physics, chemistry, biology, earth sciences, engineering, environmental sciences, biotechnology, oceanography, health and life sciences, agricultural sciences, energy. Other disciplines are included in RFAs from CONACYT headquarters.
  - See information at **BECAS CONACYT AL EXTRANJERO 2017** and from various Mexican states
Does the fellowship exclusively target Ph.D. students or can other doctoral programs be included (e.g., Ed.D.; J.D.)?

Only Ph.D. programs are supported by this fellowship program.

ASU/CONACYT Fellowship details

What does the ASU/CONACYT fellowship cover for the students?

CONACYT will offer:
- In-state tuition according to its established guidelines
- a stipend for living expenses ($1,100/month), paid directly to the student monthly
- annual support for health insurance ($715), paid directly to the student

ASU Units will offer:
- a 25% assistantship that provides an annual stipend equal to CONACYT’s stipend $1,100 per month
- non-resident tuition support
- supplemental support to cover the cost of health insurance.

Student fees (registration, program, course, etc.) will be the responsibility of the student. ASU Units are urged to assist students to cover these expenses.

What is the duration of the fellowship?

CONACYT and ASU will provide the aforementioned financial supports for a maximum of four years.

How do the students pay tuition?

ASU will bill CONACYT and tuition will be paid directly to ASU.

What is the application cycle?

In 2017, RFAs for Ph.D. fellowships will be released on April 17 and will close on June 16.

What is the application process?

Applicants must be admitted to ASU before they apply for CONACYT funding. CONACYT application requirements, procedures and materials are described at Becas al Extranjero.

To expedite the process, applicants can start the CONACYT online application at the same time they prepare and submit the ASU application. Online CONACYT applications can be saved so that the ASU admission letter can be subsequently uploaded (when available) to complete the CONACYT application.

Currently enrolled CONACYT students

Do the students enrolled under the ASU/CONACYT Fellowship need to pay program fees?

Yes, any mandatory program fees plus any other university fees are the responsibility of the students.

Are the CONACYT students eligible for RA/TA positions?

The ASU admission letter should specify whether such positions will be awarded to applicants. CONACYT allows supported students to work up to 20 hours/week.

Questions related to enrolled students that receive support from this fellowship program (including reporting requirements) must be directed to Samuel Manterola, Subdirector de Becas en el Extranjero at smanterola@conacyt.mx
• What are the students’ responsibilities for maintaining the fellowship?
  o Renewal of CONACYT-ASU supports as specified in this agreement is contingent upon:
    ▪ Full time enrollment.
    ▪ Satisfactory progress toward the graduate degree.
    ▪ Maintenance of good academic (minimum GPA = 3.2) and disciplinary status.
    ▪ Compliance with all reporting requirements specified by CONACYT due every semester.
  o Return to Mexico upon graduation for a minimum of two years per the J-1 visa requirements.
• Do the students need to be enrolled full-time?
  o Yes.

Recruitment

• How can I recruit students for my doctoral programs supported by the ASU/CONACYT Fellowship?
  o Track regularly the CONACYT RFAs (Convocatorias) at http://www.conacyt.gob.mx and Convocatorias Abiertas Becas al Extranjero to gather information about deadlines and priority areas and disciplines.
  o Identify Mexican universities in which your Unit has partnerships and ongoing collaborative efforts through faculty projects and/or institutional agreements.
    ▪ Additional information about ASU activities, projects and initiatives in Mexico can be found at https://mexico.asu.edu. A list of several Mexican universities that have collaborated with ASU Units and faculty can be obtained from Peggy Reid.
  o Communicate with Deans and Graduate program directors at the target Mexican institutions to coordinate recruitment efforts.
    ▪ Coordinate with ASU’s recruiters in Mexico from International Admissions to disseminate information about your Ph.D. programs.
    ▪ Contact Cesar Flores Marquez for more information about International Admissions recruitment supports.
  o Involve current CONACYT-supported doctoral students in your recruitment activities/events (e.g., webinars, etc.). Use networks at their respective Mexican universities to maximize the number of applications.
  o Identify the Mexican states that publish RFAs (Convocatorias) every year to determine how your Unit’s resources and assets (e.g., faculty projects and contacts, institutional collaborations) could be mobilized to support your recruitment efforts in those states.
• Are there recruiting or promotional materials already available?
  o Materials from CONACYT describing the fellowships are available from the ASU Graduate College.
  o Units should use their own materials in recruitment efforts.
Visiting Scholars

- **What is the application period for visiting scholars?**
  - Applications are open throughout the year

- **Visiting Scholars from Mexico**
  - Mexican master’s students can visit ASU for up to six months to obtain research experience.
  - Scholars will receive a living stipend and partial support for health insurance.
  - Fees are the responsibility of the visiting scholar.

- **Visiting Scholars from ASU**
  - The ASU Graduate College may propose visiting scholars enrolled in Master’s (6 months) and Ph.D. (12 months) programs.
  - The scholars must visit an accredited program to gain research experience in projects listed on the Programa Nacional de Posgrados de Calidad (PNPC) or National Graduate Program of Excellence certified by CONACYT.
  - CONACYT will provide a stipend and a health service to all ASU scholars for the duration of the visit to Mexico.
  - ASU scholars are responsible for tuition or fees required by the receiving Mexican institution.
  - Visiting scholars are responsible for obtaining visas, permits, or approvals and complying with all Mexican immigration laws and regulations.

Contacts

**Who are the contacts at ASU and in Mexico for general inquiries?**

- **CONACYT**
  - **Marcela Cruz Caballero**, MS. Subdirectora de Asignación de Becas en el Extranjero. mcruzca@conacyt.mx Tel: 55 5322-7700, ext. 1210.
  - **Xochitl Rodriguez**, Subdirección de Asignacion de Becas en el Extranjero xrodriguez@conacyt.mx Tel. (55) 53 22 77 00, ext. 1208.
    - Ms. Rodriguez coordinates the review of applicants for CONACYT funding that have been admitted to ASU Programs and communicates to the ASU Graduate College, a list of applicants that receive these fellowships.
  - **Samuel Manterola**, Subdirector de Asignación de Becas en el Extranjero. smanterola@conacyt.mx Tel. (55) 53 22 77 00 ext. 1248 3.
    - Mr. Manterola is the lead contact for Mexican students supported by CONACYT currently enrolled at ASU and leads the collections of student progress reports.

- **ASU**
  - **Alfredo J. Artiles**, Dean of the Graduate College alfredo.artiles@asu.edu.
  - **Katrina Roalson**, Director of Fiscal Business Services, ASU Graduate College Katrina.Roalson@asu.edu.
  - **Paola Garcia**, Office of University Affairs, Director, Mexico and Latin America Initiatives Paola.Garciahicks@asu.edu.