

2020 Mexico- U.S. Innovation Fund Competition
Informational Webinar - October 21, 2020
Q&A Report

Question	Answer
Will you share the recording with us?	All materials are available at https://www.100kstrongamericas.org/webinars/ .
Is this fund offered every year?	Grant competitions that are focused on U.S.-Mexico are dependent on the availability of funding, and we at the Innovation Fund continue to work hard to provide these opportunities as often as possible. Note that we open at least 4 new grant competitions on a yearly basis and, as a U.S. institution, you are eligible for all 100K grant competitions--the only difference may be the partnering country, which would be specified in the RFP. To stay up-to-date on these grant competitions as they open, make sure to join the 100K Innovation Network: https://www.100kstrongamericas.org/join
Should each institution just have one account in the network, or can different individuals from the same institution each have their own account?	Different individuals from the same institution are able and welcome to register for the Innovation Network! https://www.100kstrongamericas.org/join/
Can you explain what is expected in "student credit"?	Students must receive some level of academic credit from their home institution during, or as a result, of the proposed program.
How many proposals can a university submit?	There is no limit to the number of proposals a university can submit.
Is this program only for international academic mobility and is not possible for applied research or for other areas? I represent the Institute of Innovation of the UPNFM of Honduras	Firstly, please note that for this specific Innovation Fund competition, only higher education institutions in the U.S. and Mexico are eligible to participate. For future competitions, please consider the following. We understand that applied research does not typically include travel or mobility; however, it can be incorporated into the experience. Your institution may design a program where students will conduct most of the research in Honduras and then travel to the host institution in the U.S. to continue part of the research, work with U.S. student peers to analysis their work or results, or present to their U.S. peers. If it is not possible for Honduran students to travel, you can have U.S. students travel to your institution. Note that bilateral mobility is not required. For the grant, you may propose a unilateral mobility program first (i.e. only one side travels) with the future goal of bilateral exchange.
You mentioned partner matching. Who do we contact for that if a US school does not have a partner in Mexico?	There are multiple ways that your institution can find a potential partner. You are welcome to reach out to us directly at 100kstrongamericas@partners.net and we can assist you in finding a partner. You are also welcome to visit the Innovation Network where we have created a "2020 Mexico-U.S. Competition" Forum for institutions to connect with each other to form potential partnerships. If you are not already a member of the Innovation Network, you are welcome to register at https://www.100kstrongamericas.org/join . An instruction guide for accessing the Forum has been included in the email message you received and can also be found in English and Spanish at https://www.100kstrongamericas.org/webinars/ .
What is an HEI?	HEIs are Higher Education Institutions - this includes four-year degree-issuing institutions (public and private), community colleges, technical/vocational schools, and other post-secondary institutions with credit-bearing programs. these include colleges, univerisites, vocational and technical institutions.
If we are given a grant, do the funds need to be spent during the fiscal year?	The grant funds must be spent within the implementation period indicated in the RFP, which is from September 1, 2021 - August 31, 2022.
Can you also include an NGO?	Yes! We are happy to see the involvement of NGOs and any other partners in addition to the two partnering higher education institutions.

	<p>We do not have one definition of underserved/underrepresented student populations as this may differ from institution to institution. We refer to these groups as being "underserved/underrepresented, according to your institutional context/environment (e.g., socio-economic, racial/ethnic, gender, geographical, etc.). For instance, more females from your institution may typically study abroad, making males an underrepresented group. In other institutions, this could be the opposite.</p>
Please specify 100K's definition for underserved or underrepresented populations. Thank you!	If you plan to target an underserved/underrepresented student population, you will need to describe how this population qualifies within the context of your and/or your partner institution, as well as include a recruitment plan for reaching the selected group.
Approximately how much is the grant?	Thank you for your question! There will be up to 11 grants of \$25,000 USD awarded for this competition.
Do the partner institutions have to be new or can they be current partner institutions with in the university?	Proposals may involve new institutional partnerships or build on existing partnerships, but in all cases, should demonstrate strong institutional support and should focus on creating sustainable exchange programs among the partnering institutions.
Is there a platform where we could search for other HEIs that are also interested in participating?	Yes! The Innovation Network is designed precisely for this purpose. We encourage you to create an account and login to search other member institutions by a number of criteria, including, but not limited to, country, language, type of institution, etc. We have also a "2020 Mexico-U.S. Competition" Forum on the Innovation Network website for institutions to connect with each other to form potential partnerships. If you are not already a member of the Innovation Network, you are welcome to register at https://www.100kstrongamericas.org/join . An instructions guide for accessing the Forum has been included in the email message you received.
Having so many institutions involved, how did you distribute the funds or how did you prioritize the allocation of funds?	The grant funds go directly to the primary applicant HEI.
Do you have past accepted proposals that we can view?	Thank you for your question! A proposal format and design guide, as well as a sample proposal, can be accessed at https://www.100kstrongamericas.org/app-format/ .
If we applied and were not awarded in the past, can we re-apply?	Yes! We welcome you to reapply.
Will we receive the attendees list?	In our follow-up email to this webinar we have asked participants to advise us if they give us permission to share their contact information with other participants. We will then share the list of all those who approve.
What are the main activities that you feel should be funded by the grant?	Innovation Fund grant proposals should include the use of innovative practices and models that will increase academic exchange and training opportunities in selected academic areas for students in Mexico and the United States. Applicants should also include activities that enhance student academic learning through practical training, such as engagement through service-learning, field-based activities, or other methods to combine with class-based course work.
In the preproject present by Kristin Allen of Northern Arizona University, the project was a 9-day long event. So is it OK to assume that the budget has to be exercised within the 1-year window, but can be used to fund activities that do not necessarily spread out throughout the entire year?	That is correct!
Does there need to be a reciprocal in-person exchange of students or if only one institution sends students abroad is that sufficient?	Bidirectional mobility is preferred but is not mandatory, one-way is also considered.
What is the success rate for the grants, do you have a huge amount of requests?	This depends on the number of available grants and the number of proposals received. The success rate could range from 25%-50%. We have also found that the institutions who aren't selected for funding in one round and ask for feedback on their proposal (that we freely provide), which they then use to improve their proposal for the next round, often have increased chances of being selected for funding in future rounds. If not selected the first time, you can always re-apply again, but ask for feedback.

	<p>If it is a satellite campus of your institution in Mexico and holds the same name, then it may not be the primary partner and the proposal cannot be just between your main HEI in the U.S. and your Mexico-based institution; however, if you have other different Mexican institutions as partners included in the proposal and you add your institution located in Mexico, then yes, this is fine.</p> <p>The intent of the Innovation Fund is to create partnerships among different institutions. As long as you have at least one institution in Mexico (outside of your university system) + one institution in the United States involved in the project, then you can include as many other institutions as you would like.</p>
We have an Institution located in Mexico. Could we include that Institution, in addition to others, in our proposal?	
Can multiple individuals from the same institution propose different projects?	Yes, institutions may submit multiple proposals. Applications must indicate the school, college, or department within the institution as the applying entity in the proposal cover page. Due to limited available funding, however, it is unlikely that multiple awards will be given to the same institution under a single RFP even if submitted from different schools. An institution overall can be involved in proposed activities for multiple proposals within the same RFP as a partner.
	Some institutions do receive additional funding from other entities. Additionally, institutions are highly encouraged to use institutional cost-share as a way to leverage 100K funding.
\$25,000 seems like it can't go too far when you think about flights and hotels. Do applicants usually have other funding?	Response from Kristin Allen of NAU: "We had some external funding come in to assist, but it wasn't significant. We stayed on a very tight budget to accommodate 16 students and 4 faculty."
Can we write numerous proposals with different partners? Or only 1 proposal per HEI?	Yes! You may write/submit proposals with different partners. There is no limit to the number of proposals an institution may submit.
As long as the main partners are an HEI from the US and MX, can there be other international partners in the project from other countries?	For this particular Innovation Fund competition, only institutions in the U.S. and Mexico are eligible to apply/participate.
	<p>There are no restrictions on what the funding covers, as long as the grant funds are used for programmatic costs that help support student mobility and activities. We encourage you to review this sample proposal to see the items they presented in their budget https://www.100kstrongamericas.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/100K-Sample-Proposal.pdf. Examples include...</p> <p>Personnel, fringe, consultants Travel costs (e.g., flights, hotels, transportation, meals, etc.) Faculty/student stipends/scholarships Communications, marketing materials, translation, etc. Use, rental, or purchase of equipment, software, facilities, etc. Program monitoring/evaluation tools Indirect/administrative costs (Maximum allowable of indirect costs charged to grant is 20%.)</p>
Typically, does funding cover travel costs (i.e. is that what most people ask to be covered)? Does the RFP stipulate what it can/cannot cover? Thinking of things like personnel costs, tech equipment, vs. things like flights, per diem, etc.?	The exact proposed distribution of grant funds is up to the applying institution.
As a followup to the previous question regarding \$25K not being enough. IMO this is a really great opportunity to bootstrap a program and find funding for subsequent iterations. As part of this program, do you provide any type of opportunities for awardees to grow their network, and possibly connect with other funders that could possibly be interested in funding followup activities?	At this moment, we do not have an established or formal system to continue to support grantees in these areas after the grant; rather, some have developed organically or by grantees remaining in close contact with the Innovation Fund after the grant and continuing to collaborate with us on other activities. That said, we are aware of the need for this and are considering developing this aspect of our programming.
How can we be added to your email list?	We invite you to join the Innovation Network at https://www.100kstrongamericas.org/join