



# Question & Answer Report

## Live Q&A Session for the The 2021 U.S.-Brazil Innovation Fund Grant Competition

February 3, 2022

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### General

- 1. How long should the program last?**  
You should plan to implement your program during a 12-month implementation period. For this specific competition, the implementation period is September 1, 2022, to August 31, 2023.
- 2. Should a PI (Project Investigator) from each participating institution be listed in the project? Can a member of the third institution (optional) be a PI? Can multiple PIs be from the same institution?**  
Yes, a PI should be listed from each participating institution in your application form. A member of the third (optional) institution can be listed as a PI for that institution but may not be the PI for the proposal. There can be multiple PIs from the same institution.
- 3. How are proposals evaluated?**  
Partners of the Americas convenes two evaluation committees made up of international education and subject-matter experts who review and score the proposals using an objective scoring matrix.
- 4. The proposal asks for credit-bearing activities. Do you have examples or guidelines for the expectations regarding such activities?**  
Student participants in 100K-funded programs are required to receive academic credit from their *home* institutions so that the exchange programs do not interrupt their graduation plans and form an integral part of their academic education.
- 5. Does the proposal have to be approved by the University Office of Sponsored Projects (OSP) Officials?**  
We highly recommend involving your OSP and making sure that they know that you are submitting a proposal, as it ensures that your program will be well-supported at the institutional level if your proposal is selected for funding. Additionally, submitting a Letter of Support from your OSP will strengthen your proposal in the review process.



## Eligible Partnerships

### 1. Can a non-SENAI institution in Brazil be the lead?

Non-SENAI higher education institutions in Brazil are eligible to be a part of a tripartite alliance; however, they cannot be the prime applicant in the proposal. They may only participate as a partnering institution, alongside a U.S. HEI and a SENAI Innovation Center or SENAI Higher Education School, any of which could serve as the prime applicant of the grant.

### 2. My institution is part of a higher education institution (HEI); however, we are a Research Center that offers only MSc and PhD studies, could we submit a proposal?

Yes! Proposals for projects focused on masters or PhD students are eligible.

### 3. Is it necessary to have a prior partnership with SENAI and a U.S. HEI? What kind of partnership?

You do NOT have to have an existing partnership. You are welcome and encouraged to form a new partnership for your proposal.

### 4. If an institution has received a grant with you in the past with a different country and completely different project, how does it affect applications for future grants?

It does not affect it at all. Many institutions have won several 100K grants in multiple competitions.

## SENAI Institutions

### 1. Can we have a contact in which we could get in touch with the person in charge of the SENAI network in Brazil in order to set a partnership with one of them?

Please send an email to [partners.senai@senaicni.com.br](mailto:partners.senai@senaicni.com.br) to receive information and support in partnering with SENAI institutions.

### 2. What SENAI universities fall under Business Development?

SENAI universities lay under technological issues. There are no universities that focus on business development at this moment.

### 3. Can you provide a few examples of the SENAI Innovation Institutes? I'm not familiar with them.

You can see a full list at <http://institutos.senai.br/english.html>.

## Budget

### 1. Does the U.S. university necessarily need to match funds? Will my proposal be any weaker if it relies solely on the 100K funds?

Cost-share is required, but there is no required amount; however, proposals that can match the grant 1:1 are viewed more favorably by the Review Committee. In fact, cost-sharing by winning proposals of previous Innovation Fund competitions have averaged more than 1.5 to 1. The evaluation committees do consider the level of matching funds, but it is only one of many factors considered.



2. Concerning the cost-share aspect of the project proposal, does it have to be clearly specified from the start, or can it be adjusted along the way as the project takes place?

You will be obligated to comply with the budget as stipulated in your proposal. That said, the cost-share should be feasible and practical for your institution and partners. You may also add additional cost-share as your program is implemented.

3. Can the primary institution be in Brazil in case that minimizes overhead costs, for instance?

Either the U.S. or the Brazilian partner institution can serve as the primary institution. In either case, all of the costs should be included in the budget.

4. Is there a list of activities/objectives on which the resource should be spent?

In general, the budget should be reasonable, well-justified, and in accordance with activities that can be convincingly demonstrated to be related to the objectives of the proposed program. Diverse activities may be proposed as long as they are clearly described and reasonably budgeted as part of the proposed program to build the capacity of the partnering institutions, and to encourage and promote mobility in either or both directions. Examples include:

- 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%.)

5. Can the funds be used to directly support students' travel and per diem expenses?

Yes, we encourage you to use funds to directly defray student costs.