

Question & Answer Report

100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund Informational Webinar

The 2022 U.S.-Andean Innovation Fund Grant Competition

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Grant Competition Eligibility & Institutional Partnerships	1
Project Design & Mobility	2
Budget/Finances	2

Grant Competition Eligibility & Institutional Partnerships

1. Can one institution submit more than one proposal?

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 also be involved in proposed activities for multiple proposals within the same RFP as a partner.

2. Do projects submitted by the same institution have to be focused on different academic areas or can they be in the same academic area?

If an institution submits multiple proposals, they can be in the same subject area; however, the proposed projects must be different/distinct from each other.

3. Can an individual participate as a Co-PI of more than one proposal?

Yes, there is no limit to the number of proposals in which PIs or Co-PIs can be involved.

4. Is it possible to also partner with a non-university entity, such as an NGO or governmental agency (Ministry of Health)?

Of course!. In fact, proposals are encouraged to include partnerships with civil society, associations, government agencies, non-profit organizations, or private sector partners—along with the main partnership between at least two HEIs (one in the U.S. and the other in one of the other eligible countries).

Project Design & Mobility

1. Would you prefer for more students going for less time or for less students to go for longer time?

The Innovation Fund does not have a preference. We would recommend whatever your institutions think would have a greater impact on students and lead to the best results. Be sure to explain your decisions in detail in your proposal.

2. Should the bi-directional student travel occur at the same time/same semester or happen at different times (back-to-back)?

The in-person student mobilities can take place at any time during the implementation period. There is no preference for the timing, as this depends on the schedules of your institution and your partner institution(s).

3. What is expected in the “Sustainability Plan” of the proposal?

The Sustainability Plan should demonstrate how your institution and your partner institution plan to continue to collaborate and exchange students, faculty, curriculum, etc. after the grant ends. Remember that each institution’s Sustainability Plan will be unique. The important thing is to provide some sort of plan/steps that you and your partners will take. The more specific examples that you can provide, the stronger the plan. For more details on what to include in this section, please visit our [Proposal Format & Design Guidelines page](#) and our [Grant FAQs page](#).

Budget/Finances

1. What expenses can be covered by the fund? Can the grant be used to cover travel and other expenses for students?

There are no restrictions on what the grant can cover, as long as the priority is on supporting the students and removing any financial barriers that they may have to pursuing study abroad. Funds can be used to cover travel and other student expenses. Please refer to the [RFP](#), our [Grant FAQs page](#), and our [Proposal Format & Design Guidelines page](#) for more information on the use of grant funds.

2. What kind of cost-share/matching funds are required, if any?

Cost-share/matching funds can come in various forms that reflect the contributions from the partnering institutions, whether it is staff time or the use of facilities/equipment. Although cost-share is required, there is no specified 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. You can find more details at [Grants FAQs page](#) as well as at our [Proposal Format & Design Guidelines page](#).

3. Can matching funds come only from the “prime” institution?

No, cost-share can be contributed from your institution, your partner institution(s), and any other entities involved in your project.

4. Is the expectation that the students be housed in paid rooms (dorms/hotels, etc) or with a host family?

The Innovation Fund does not have a preference on the type of housing for students. This is up to your institution and your partner institutions to decide what is the best and safest option for accommodations for your students, as well as to their overall cultural learning and development.

5. Can a host family (if possible) be compensated?

This is an allowable cost. We leave it up to your institution/partner institution(s) on whether or not host families are compensated.