



Question & Answer Report

100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund Informational Webinar

The 2022 Cacao for Peace Innovation Fund Grant Competition to Build Partnerships and Research Programs between the United States and Colombia

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Grant Competition Eligibility & Institutional Partnerships

1. The Eligible Thematic Areas seem to be quite broad. Is there any emphasis on them such as Climate Change, Climate Smart Agriculture or Food Safety?

The thematic focus of this grant competition is the cacao value chain. Any topics related to this topic will be considered eligible.

2. Are there resources available to find a partner university in the U.S.?

Yes! We provide several resources for finding a partner institution. Please refer to the PowerPoint to view these resources.

3. Can we create a new profile for our specific department when applying for this call? Since all communications will be done with the registered email.

Yes, universities can create multiple profiles in our application portal (as long as you use a new email address than the existing account[s]).

4. Can the same partnership (Colombian institution and U.S. institution) present 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.

5. “Small business” participation means that private companies could participate in a partnership with Colombian or U.S. universities in order to submit a proposal? How about practical application and implementation with private partners? Is that an interesting topic for 100k strong?

Yes. Businesses are permitted and encouraged to participate as a partner in addition to the partnership between at least one U.S. institution and at least one Colombian institution.

6. I did not fully understand the student mobility requirement. So, this means in order to apply, either a student from the US needs to come to Colombia or we need to send a Colombian student to a US institution. If this does not happen, we cannot apply. Is that correct? Hence, it is absolutely required that there is a partnership between a US and a Colombian institution. Meaning that no application from only a Colombia institution without a US partner institution is possible. Is that correct?

That is correct. All proposals must include a partnership between at least one HEI in the U.S. and at least one HEI in Colombia. Additionally, student mobility in at least one direction is required.

Budget/Finances

1. This call focuses on research partnerships. Are there any limitations on budget allocations for example for sampling, lab use, develop methodologies, and other research related activities? Or does the budget need to focus on student mobility as has been the case for the last calls?

The budget can and should include funding for a mix of activities including research related activities as well as student/faculty mobility.

2. 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.

3. 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](#).