



The Puentes Consortium Fund for Visiting Scholars and Ph.D. Students

2019 Call for Proposals

Background

The Puentes Consortium, a binational consortium of universities from the U.S. and Mexico that includes the Universidad de las Américas, the University of Monterrey, Rice University and the Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey, has created a fund to support the exchange of faculty members and Ph.D. students (or equivalent) among the institutions of the consortium.

Since its inception in 2008, the Puentes Consortium has facilitated research on issues related to the U.S. and Mexico, providing a distinctive voice to a binational community of scholars. The projects conducted by the researchers are generally multidisciplinary in nature and address relevant topics for the two countries with a special emphasis on research impacting public policy issues.

Objectives

This fund is intended to support an international scholarly visit of up to six (6) research professors and/or doctoral students from member universities. Preference will be given to international scholarly visits, although scholarly visits to member institutions in the same country will be considered.

The research visit is to be carried out at one of the universities within the consortium. A review committee will choose the six best proposals on a merit basis, with positive consideration for research topics relevant to both countries. The visit takes place during the summer for a period of four to eight weeks between June 1 and Aug. 15. The exact dates will be determined between the researcher and the receiving academic institution. Visits during other times of year, such as fall and spring, will be considered, but preference will be given to proposals for summer visits.

The candidates selected by the Puentes review committee will receive an invitation letter by the consortium to spend a period of their academic work at the selected university, as well as the

necessary information to process a J-1 visa at the nearest U.S. consulate in the case of scholars based abroad chosen to conduct research at a U.S. university; in the case of U.S. scholars conducting research in Mexico, the host university will provide support to secure a visa, if necessary, from the National Institute of Migration (INM) for academic research without compensation. The host institution will send original documents, as well as any other required paperwork, to the consortium's contact person at the scholar/student's home university, who will ensure that the documents reach the intended recipients.

Funding Available:

The Puentes Consortium will award up to \$7,500 to each scholar to cover the costs of the visit for one person (i.e., not for accompanying family members, if applicable), including airfare, room and board, medical insurance and expenses associated with J-1 or INM visa application.

Granted awards will vary according to stay duration as specified below:

Amount	Duration of Stay
\$7,500	8 weeks
\$7,000	7 weeks
\$6,500	6 weeks
\$6,000	5 weeks
\$5,500	4 weeks

Eligibility

Projects must be aligned with the consortium's objective of addressing issues that affect the binational relationship between Mexico and the U.S., ideally with an inclination toward public policy. Transdisciplinary research proposals are highly encouraged. Puentes funds for visiting scholars are available to:

- **Ph.D. students** who have completed the second year of doctoral study or other equivalent terminal degree.
- **Research Professors/Research associates** who can present a research project they are currently working on and on which they should be able to demonstrate substantial progress at the time of application.

Eligibility Requirements for Ph.D. Students:

- Applicants must have completed the second year of doctoral study or other equivalent terminal degree.
- Applicants must be developing research for which they should be able to present substantial progress and/or have an advanced doctoral dissertation.
- Applicants must submit a research proposal that clearly details the benefits of their research agenda and overall advancement of their doctoral degree and publications.
- Applicants must submit a letter of endorsement from their Ph.D. supervisor.
- Applicants must establish academic contacts at the host institution to ensure collaboration during their research stay. Ideally, applicants should be hosted within departments or faculties where they could be provided a working desk, library and/or lab access (if applicable).
- The stay must result in a tangible advancement (thesis chapter/book, article, paper, etc.) in which the Puentes Consortium is given recognition and acknowledgement. The product is expected within a reasonable period after the completion of the visit.

Eligibility Requirements for Research Professors/Scholars:

- Applicants must present a research project they are currently working on and on which they should be able to demonstrate substantial progress at the time of application.
- Applicants must submit a research proposal that clearly details the benefits of their research agenda, as well as a work plan to be followed during their research visit.
- Applicants must submit a letter of support from their department head or appropriate university leadership.
- Applicants must establish academic contacts at the host institution to ensure collaboration during their research stay. Ideally, applicants should be hosted within departments or faculties where they could be provided a working desk, library and/or lab access (if applicable).
- The stay must result in a tangible advancement (thesis chapter/book, article, paper, etc.) in which the Puentes Consortium is given recognition and acknowledgement. The product is expected within a reasonable period after the completion of the visit.
- Projects may be the work of just one scholar or collaborative, team-based work.

Application Materials

- All proposals should be submitted as a single PDF via email to: infopuentes@puentes-consortium.org
- Applications must be submitted by Dec. 1, 2018.
- All applications must include a budget proposal following the Puentes Consortium's template.
- All applications must include the required support letters.
- All applications must be submitted in English or Spanish.
- Budgets must be presented in U.S. dollars.

The following documents must be included in the application package. **Please follow these guidelines carefully. Submission of the correct application materials and strict adherence to the application length requirements are necessary to receive Puentes Consortium funding.**

1. Cover page (1 page):

Please include:

- Name and affiliation of the researcher (university and department). Please include postal address and phone number(s).
- Research project title.
- Abstract and research purpose (1 paragraph).

2. Project description:

- Research Objectives and Work Plan.
 - Please specify how your research outcomes build on binational Mexico-U.S. public policy, and describe the relevance of your research topic. Must not exceed 5 pages using font size 11.

3. Abbreviated CV:

- Please include a list of relevant publications or awards. Must not exceed 3 pages using font size 11.

4. Letter of endorsement:

- For Ph.D. students: applicants must submit a letter of endorsement from their Ph.D. supervisor.
- For researchers and scholars: applicants must submit a letter of support from their department head or appropriate university leadership.

5. Proof of collaboration:

- Please provide proof of collaboration arrangement with a faculty member at the host university (please specify department). The host institution's commitment to visiting scholars is limited to: workspace, library access and/or laboratory access (if applicable).

6. Budget proposal:

- Please use the budget template provided by the Puentes Consortium. Also please note that specific costs must be clearly identified in the proposed budget. The Puentes Consortium will not commit to covering expenses that were not properly disclosed in the application.

Evaluation Criteria

Following submission, proposals will be reviewed, evaluated and rated by a committee of faculty members and/or researchers from consortium institutions who are experts in topics relevant to binational Mexico-U.S. public policy. The selection committee will favor projects that involve international mobility, although projects that consider mobility within a single country will also be considered.

Proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

- a) The quality of the proposed research and its potential impact. Research proposals should state clear objectives and describe the specific outcomes and benefits of a scholarly visit.
- b) The relevance of the topic and its overall contribution to the field of study.
- c) The ability to leverage research outcomes to generate other high-impact products, such as scientific papers, books, journals, etc.
- d) The likelihood of creating and/or consolidating academic networks within the consortium.

Important Dates

Opening of call for proposals:	Oct. 2018
Deadline for proposal submission:	Dec. 1, 2019
Communication of results:	Jan. 14-18, 2019

Contact Information

Please address any questions related to this call to:

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The website URL is currently being migrated, so we have linked the current working URL and the new one.

Current URL: puentes-dev.rice.edu

New URL: puentes-consortium.org

COMPLETE PROPOSAL CHECKLIST*

- 1. Cover Page
- 2. Project Description
- 3. Abbreviated CV (including relevant publications)
- 4. Letter of endorsement (Ph.D. supervisor/head of department)
- 5. Proof of collaboration with faculty member(s) from host institution
- 6. Budget proposal (Puentes Consortium budget template)

*Complete Proposal (must be in PDF format)