Fulbright-Universidad Nacional de Colombia Distinguished Chair in Biodiversity and Sustainable Development

Award Autogenerated Code
10131-CO

Region
Western Hemisphere

Country
Colombia

Number of Grants
1

Stipend

The scholar will receive a fixed amount of US $30,000 to cover all expenses, including international travel, housing, maintenance, and materials during the grant period.[1]

[1] Final grant amounts will be determined prior to the start of the 2021-2022 academic year and are subject to availability of funds. The United States Department of State and the Fulbright Commission in the host country reserve the right to alter, without notice, participating countries, number of awards and allowances.

Estimated Travel and Relocation Allowance

Included in the stipend amount.

Estimated Book and Research Allowance

Included in the stipend amount.

Dependent Tuition Allowance

No additional allowance is provided for scholars traveling with dependents.

Candidate Profile

Distinguished Chair

Activity
Research
Teaching/Research

Application Deadline
Tuesday, September 15, 2020

Grant Activity

The grantee may conduct research, teach graduate or undergraduate courses, participate in conferences and seminars, carry out fieldwork, advise students or faculty, among other activities.

Other specific objectives:
• Promoting the mobility and integration of professionals, professors, and researchers while setting the basis for further collaborative research
• Fostering interdisciplinary work/research that addresses different needs of Colombia
• Generating links between U.S. scholars and key stakeholders in Colombia, including government agencies, entrepreneurs, NGOs, local communities, students, etc.
• Supporting the internationalization process of the Universidad Nacional de Colombia

The primary objective of this award is to promote research and academic collaboration between U.S. scholars and their counterparts at Universidad Nacional de Colombia, in the fields of biodiversity and sustainability.

The grantee will be hosted at the largest public university in Colombia. Universidad Nacional de Colombia is the country's most comprehensive higher education institution, offering 95 undergraduate programs as well as 165 master's degrees and 64 doctoral programs. Among its academic community, the university has more than 53,000 students and more than 3,000 faculty staff throughout the country. In addition, it is the leading university in terms of scientific production in Colombia, with 794 recognized research groups and 637 laboratories. In the area of biodiversity and environmental sciences, there are currently 320 research groups, which have carried out more than 1,500 research projects.

According to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Colombia is listed as one of the world's "megadiverse" countries, hosting close to 10% of the planet's biodiversity. At the international level, it ranks first in bird and orchid species diversity and second in plants, butterflies, freshwater fishes, and amphibians. With 314 types of ecosystems, Colombia possesses a rich complexity of ecological, climatic, biological and ecosystem components. Colombia was categorized as one of the world's richest countries in aquatic resources, which is explained in part by the fact that it has access to the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans. Moreover, the country's large watersheds feed into the four massive sub-continental basins of the Amazon, Orinoco, Caribbean, Magdalena-Cauca and the Pacific.

The Colombian government has undertaken significant efforts over the last few decades to explore, value, and preserve the country's unique biodiversity and natural resources in a sustainable way. Under the implementation of the current Peace Agreement, the improvement of security conditions in several regions of Colombia has opened up opportunities for exploration, development, and research.

**Grant Length**
Three to six months

**Grant Dates**
Grantees can choose the most suitable grant dates according to their availability and arrangements with the host institution. A schedule of grant activities should be included in the statement of purpose. The grant must be initiated and completed between August 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022. The first segment of Flex grants must be completed before June 30, 2022.

**Locations**

Universidad Nacional de Colombia [1] has nine campuses, which are distributed across the country, as follows: four in the Andean Region, located in the cities of Bogota, Manizales, Medellin and Palmira; and five in Colombian border zones, located in the cities of Leticia (Amazonía), San Andrés, (Caribbean), Arauca (Orinoquia), Tumaco (Nariño) and La Paz (Cesar).

**Flex Option**
Yes

**Flex Description**
Flex grants, which allow the grant to be split into multiple in-country visits, will be considered. The minimum length of any grant segment is one month and the maximum length is three months. Two or three segments may be spread across one or two consecutive academic years.

All candidates applying to a Flex grant must specify in their applications the expected dates of grant segments.

**Discipline Type**

Only applications in the following disciplines will be considered

**Disciplines**
Agriculture
Anthropology
Archaeology
Architecture
Arts
Biology
Chemistry
Communication
Economics
Degree Requirements
Ph.D. (or other terminal degree) required

Additional Qualification Information
Ph.D. degree and a minimum four (4) years of relevant research experience.

Additional Language Requirement
The language requirements vary as required by grant activity, but in general intermediate or higher Spanish proficiency is recommended to help facilitate a scholar’s successful academic performance and interaction with Colombian counterparts, local populations, and other relevant stakeholders.

Candidates with basic or limited Spanish language skills can also be considered if the host institution does not require a fluent Spanish speaker, according to the proposed grant activities. In such cases, the language flexibility must be mentioned in the invitation letter provided by the Colombian host institution.

Invitation Requirement
A letter of invitation is required

Additional Comments
Grantees with dual U.S. and Colombian nationality are required by Colombian law to enter the country on a Colombian passport.

Helpful Links
Inquiries for local contacts and assistance with affiliation may be directed to Sergio Sánchez, Program Officer at the Fulbright Commission in Colombia. For more information about the U.S. Scholar Program in Colombia please visit our website.

For further inquiries about the Fulbright Program in Colombia, please visit the Fulbright Commission website.

For more information about the National University, please visit the university website.

Multi-Country/Area Award
No

Grant Length Filter
Flex
Three to five months
Six to 10 months

Invitation Requirement Additional Information
Applicants must submit an invitation letter signed by the dean of the school interested in hosting the candidate, or alternatively, by the director of the relevant academic department, institute or research center of the proposed affiliation. If interested in the award and need assistance in the search for host institutions in Colombia, please contact Sergio Sánchez, Program Officer at the Fulbright Commission.

Award Code
11433-CO
**Award Year**

2021-2022 Awards [6]

**Special Award Benefits**

During their grant period, Fulbright U.S. Scholars in the Western Hemisphere (WHA) region may apply for a short-term regional travel grant for activities such as workshops, seminars, presentations, lectures, performances, exhibits, curricular advising, and similar projects at institutions in eligible WHA countries. (Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados and Eastern Caribbean, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, México, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, and Uruguay). The Regional Travel Program covers travel to and from the destination; lodging may be offered by the hosting institution. Scholars may only apply for this grant once in the country on their Fulbright grant. Scholars who apply for the Flex award are ineligible for the Regional Travel Program. Additional information can be found at the Regional Travel Program website [7].

**Language Proficiency Requirements**

Recommended

**Required Proficiency**

Intermediate

**Required Languages**

Spanish [8]

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**Links**

[1] https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/?country=co
[3] mailto:ssanchez@fulbright.edu.co
[8] https://awards.cies.org/language/spanish