



Challenge-Based  
Research Funding  
Program

Call for Proposals  
2024



# Agenda

- Challenge-Based Research Funding Program 2024
  - Modalities
  - Strategic Major Areas and Other Topics
  - Eligibility
  - Expected outcomes
  - Eligible Costs
  - Important dates
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- **An internal fund that aims to enhance the impact of applied research and technological development through interdisciplinary research, focusing on creating solutions that positively impact the challenges defined by Tecnológico de Monterrey. Additionally, it fosters national and international collaboration and supports the attraction of external funding.**
  - **This fund will also promote a meritocratic culture in research, ensuring the proper generation of proposals, efficient execution, and the successful completion of projects.**
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Modality	Description	Duration	Grant
<b>Discovery</b>	This modality supports projects <b>exploring state-of-the-art</b> topics. <b>Interdisciplinarity proposals are encouraged but not required.</b> Strategic Major Areas, Other Topics (SECIHTI) & Ruta Azul.	Up to 2 years	1,000,000 MXN per year
<b>Sinergy</b>	<b>Interdisciplinary projects</b> that aim to develop disruptive and multifaceted solutions in Tec's high-impact <b>Strategic Major Areas Research</b> , projects of the SECIHTI & Ruta Azul are encouraged.	Up to 2 years	3,000,000 MXN per year
<b>Translational</b>	<b>Interdisciplinary research to the market</b> , resulting in technological developments with commercialization potential. Proposed projects must have reached at least TRL4 (proof of concept).	Up to 1 year	2,500,000 MXN per year
<b>Moonshot</b>	Characterized to be extremely ambitious projects undertaken to achieve transformational impact and position the Tec de Monterrey as a leading institution in that area. There is no pre-established funding level or timeline, funding for these projects is subject to availability, justification and validation.		

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SMA	Topic	SECIHTI PECT 2024-2030 (*)
Climate and sustainability	Adaptation and Resilience	Aseguramiento Hídrico / Protección al medio ambiente
	Sustainable Business Models and Supply Chains for the Circular Economy	Semiconductores en México y su inserción en la cadena de proveeduría global /Transición energética
	Sustainable Development and Social Responsibility	Protección al medio ambiente
Prosperous Cities and Communities	Financial Inclusion and (Public) Entrepreneurship	EIBCT / Pobreza, Desigualdad y Perspectiva de género
	Technological Innovation for Thriving Communities	Ecosistema de Innovacion de Base Científica y Tecnológica (EIBCT)
	Urban Sustainability, Green Infrastructure and Transformation Process	Transición energética
Education	Education as a Catalyst to Social Inclusion and Community Development	Pobreza, Desigualdad y Perspectiva de género / Transformaciones históricas de Mexico
	Education for Skills Development, Entrepreneurship and (Public) Leadership Enhancement	Ecosistema de Innovacion de Base Científica y Tecnológica (EIBCT)
	Transforming Education through new Technologies or Neuroscience	Arte, Filosofía, Ciencia y Tecnología
Health	Healthy Aging	Prevención Integral de la Salud
	Public Health	
	Precision Medicine	
	Advanced Therapies	
Industrial Transformation	Industry 5.0	Transición energética
	Industrial Competitiveness	Prevención Integral de la Salud / Arte, Filosofía, Ciencia y Tecnología
	Artificial Intelligence Driven Economy	

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**IMPORTANT**

- PI only Research Model Professors
- For **Discovery and Moonshot**, interdisciplinary teams are encouraged but not required.
- For **Synergy and Translational**, **interdisciplinary collaboration is required**, and this must be reflected in the team structure by incorporating:
  - ideally more than six research model professors from three different entities (two from each).
  - but at least two research model professors from two different entities.
- The team structure must include at least 20% (minimum one) of Early Career Researchers (ECR).

**Principal Investigators from previous editions** of this call are eligible to submit a proposal upon review of the following evidence:

1. **Approval report of compliance** that validates the proper management of the previous project, both in budget and technical outcomes. Compliance department contact: [ejuares@tec.mx](mailto:ejuares@tec.mx)
2. At least **one submitted proposal for external grants** during the last 12 months.

**The letters of intent and full proposals must be approved by the research leaders of the involved entities (Institute Directors, Centers Directors, and/or Associate Deans of Research)**

## Other team members

- **External experts** for specific tasks, including professionals from strategic universities and/or industry sectors relevant to the proposal.
- Faculty of Excellence (FoE).
- **Non-research model professors** from Tecnológico de Monterrey with **desirable expertise** in the topics of the proposal.
- Participation of **students** as part of the research teams, **particularly PhDs** and undergraduate students.
- Postdocs (\*) Postdocs **funded by this grant** are limited to **one per year under the Discovery** modality and **three per year under the Synergy** modality. This grant does not support postdocs for the Translational modality. Additionally, for each postdoc hired, a PhD student must also be included.
- **Additional eligibility** elements applicable for **Translational** modality:
  - At least **one team member with experience** in the technologies required by the project.
  - At least **one team member with business/commercial experience**.
  - **Evidence that proposal has reached a minimum Technology Readiness Level (TRL) TRL4** determined with the TRL calculator defined in ANNEX 1. Virtual prototypes (modeling/simulation) are accepted.

Evidence	Discovery	Sinergy	Moonshot	Translational
Quantifiable impact	Report of quantitative and qualitative indicators declared in the project goals.		Report of the potential economic, social, or environmental impact	Notification of invention
Scientific products	COT Q1 journals preferably 10% top journals Conference proceedings			
		Publications above average of team members		
		If apply Intellectual Property registration		
External funding attraction	At least one submitted proposal for external funding per year. Attracting external funds in line with the goal defined by researcher's school/institute/center.			
National and International Collaboration	Productive collaboration with international and national universities / relevant partners and participation in national and international research networks			
Talent attraction and development	Early career researchers, PhD and Undergraduate Students			
Project management	Carry out the work plan and budget as established in the proposal- complying with the commitments by the end of the project. If applicable, detailed reports of the activities carried out during Research Stays as well as the Technology Development Expert must be included.			
MVP Documentation			Internal report	
Functional prototype verified under laboratory conditions (TRL 5 or higher).			Internal report	
Proof of Technology Readiness Level (TRL) (If applicable)			Internal report	Internal report



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Talent	Postdoctoral position	Discovery: 1 per year <b>upon the inclusion of a PhD student</b> . Sinergy/Moonshot: 3 per year <b>upon the inclusion of one PhD student for each postdoctoral position</b> within the research team.
	Technology Development Expert	To complete a <b>specific task</b> within a <b>maximum timeframe of 12 months with no renewal contract</b> . <b>This expense is subject to audit by the Institution.</b>
Research Stays	Short-term Research Stays	Up to <b>15 days</b> , only professors & postdoc <b>with an active contract</b> . <b>Final report</b> will be required.
	Research Stay Fellowship	Only <b>PhD Students</b> , up to <b>1 year</b> , selection process. <b>Final report</b> will be required.
Materials and Experimentation	Internal Services	<b>Internal services</b> such as <a href="#">oriGen</a> , <a href="#">Core Labs</a> and/or <a href="#">Expedition Labs</a> In special cases <b>up to 20% of the total budget</b> for external services, <b>this expense is subject to audit by the Institution.</b>
	Equipment	Discovery: Up to 500,000 MXN, Sinergy and Moonshot: up to 1,000,000. <b>Evidence of no duplicity</b> required. Evaluation to integrate to a Lab after the Project.
	Materials and supplies	Acquisition of tools and devices without inventory identification number, according to the project requirements and with sufficient justification
Scientific products	Open Access journals and conferences	Up to 10% of total Budget only for COT (10% or Q1).
	Intellectual property	Property intelectual related fees
Travel expenses	Research Travels	Expenses derived from project activities require visits to partners, industries, etc. only for team members. Allowed research travels costs are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•For local distances (within 50km): Transportation (Taxi, Highway stalls, Fuel)</li> <li>•For distance greater than 50km: Transportation, Accommodation, Food expenses</li> </ul>
	Travel expenses related to publish articles in conferences	Expenses related to conference participation (FAP).

## Not Eligible Expenses

1. Payment of **additional research time** for professors, post-docs, students, and other Tec de Monterrey collaborators.
2. Payment of **additional benefits** for professors, staff, and students, such as meals and tuition.
3. Expenses to attend **conferences as a participant, or poster presentations**.
4. **Memberships** in professional or scientific associations.
5. **Hiring staff** to manage projects or administrative activities.
6. **The exchange of financial resources** between institutions is not allowed, except for contracts for the development of experimentation in the university's laboratories under special cases.
7. The grants will not finance **additional time for researchers**, all professors in the research model have allocated time to do research. If one professor who is not in the research model is invited, she/he will participate in her/his intellectual vitality time.
8. For **Translational modality**:
  - **Consultancy fees** in entrepreneurship, intellectual property, commercialization, or technology transfer: Resources may not be used to hire consultants in the aforementioned areas.
  - **Infrastructure adjustments and equipment purchases**: However, exceptions could be made in cases well justified and validated for the adjustment of laboratories and/or equipment that are directly related to the project's purpose.
  - **Marketing and Publicity**: registration to trade shows and publications in trade magazines, nor the design, preparation, or distribution of technical documents, posters, and advertising, among others.
  - **Administrative expenses**: expenditures or expenses such as salaries or bonuses of administrative personnel, office materials and supplies, contingencies and general services are not part of the items to be financed by this call for proposals.
  - **Software**: The acquisition of software licenses is not allowed.

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Activity	29-Nov	8-Dec	15-Dec	22-Dec	29-Dec	5-Jan	12-Jan	19-Jan	26-Jan	2-Feb	9-Feb	16-Feb	23-Feb	2-Mar	9-Mar	16-Mar	23-Mar	30-Mar	6-Apr	13-Apr	20-Apr	27-Apr	4-May	11-May	18-May	25-May	1-Jun	8-Jun	15-Jun	22-Jun	29-Jun	6-Jul	13-Jul	20-Jul	27-Jul	3-Aug	10-Aug		
Launch of the call	Orange																																						
Preparation and submission of Letter of Intention		Green	Green	Grid	Grid	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	
Letter of Intention - evaluation process											Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	
Invitation to submit full proposal																																							
Feedback to letter of intention's applicants																																							
Preparation and submission of Full Proposals																																							
Full Proposals evaluation process																																							
Announcement of winning proposals																																							
Feedback to all applicants																																							
Budget agreements and endorsements																																							
Starts setup processes																																							
Projects start date																																							

Jan 27<sup>th</sup>, Submission Letter of Intention

March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Invitation for Full Proposals

April 14<sup>th</sup>, Submission Full Proposals

June 26<sup>th</sup>, Announcement