

September 9th, 2014

**OAS Working Group 2 Initiative on Human Resources Training and Engineering:
MOBILITY AND TRAINING PROGRAM FOR ENGINEERS IN THE AMERICAS
FINAM**

Bases¹ – 1st Call for Pilot Proposals 2014

1. Introduction

The FINAM Program proposes the implementation of cooperation projects among engineering education institutions in the Americas that may include participation by industry.

2. Objectives

The Mobility and Training Program for Engineers in the Americas has the following goals:

- Strengthen comprehensive education and training for engineering undergraduate and graduate students and research professors.
- Promote and consolidate lasting partnerships among engineering education institutions in the Americas
- Encourage mutual recognition of academic terms
- Promote research activities within inter-university networks.
- Promote the development of internships and coops in collaboration with industry
- Benefit technology and innovation transfer through the promotion of research and development and innovation.

3. Program Features

The program calls for academic cooperation projects to be developed jointly by engineering education institutions of the Americas

3.1 Eligible Institutions to submit projects

¹ This consensus document was prepared jointly with the representatives of the countries of Working Group 2 of the Organization of American States (OAS); the Competitiveness, Innovation and Technology Section / Department of Economic and Social Development / Executive Secretariat for Integral Development / Organization of American States; the Latin American Association of Institutions for Engineering Education (ASIBEI) and the Pan American Union of Engineering Associations (UPADI).

Eligible institutions will be those authorized by each State that participates in the Program and which offer Engineering degrees.

Each university will be asked to name an Institutional Coordinator for the selected projects. This coordinator must work at the institution's Office of International Relations or its equivalent.

3.2 Project Characteristics

The following aspects will be considered for the evaluation and selection of projects:

- Mutual academic recognition for proposed activities (credits, academic activities, comparative analysis of curricula, etc.).
- Equal participation of all institutions in the project, and reciprocal mobility flows that meet the objectives of the project.
- Significant progress towards the implementation of a dual degree scheme.
- Implementation of joint research projects.
- Creation or consolidation of academic networks that will promote engineering education networks
- Logistic support for mobilities.

3.3 Implementation Modalities

Currently, there are two project modalities:

- University Partnerships: Consisting of agreements among universities in the framework of undergraduate and / or graduate (Masters and PhD) programs. Under this modality, mobilities will last for a period of 1 to 3 month for professors and a maximum of 6 months for students.
- R+D+I: Additional funding must be provided for this modality, which can last from 2 to 3 years. In this case, the program will cover mobility for research and training for a period of one to three months.

Mobilities will be based on the principle of reciprocal exchanges, with a view to maintaining a balanced flow of people between countries.

The general modality is detailed below:

- The home and host institutions will designate corresponding institutional and academic liaisons.
- The home institutions will propose Work Plans for the research professors, and graduate and / or undergraduate students.
- The host institutions will explicitly accept the Work Plans for the research professors, graduate and /or undergraduate students.
- Host Institutions will attest to the activities carried out by the research professor, graduate and /or undergraduate students during the exchange by means of a certificate.

- The home institution will recognize the activities carried out by the research professors, graduate and /or undergraduate students during the exchange period accredited by the host university.

The projects approved by the Program will be implemented according to the modality chosen by the stakeholders.

The projects will be implemented through mobilities of students and research professors. Only mobilities to institutions linked to the project and belonging to the host countries will be financed; funding will not be allocated for mobilities within the home country.

3.3.1 Mobility of Students:

The students interested in participating in the mobility program should meet the following requirements:

- Be a citizen of the home country, and a regular student of an engineering program participating in one of the projects selected by the Scientific and Academic Council.
- Have passed at least 60% of the curriculum and be in school at the time of application.
- Have adequate knowledge of the language of the host country.
- When selected, formally commit to return to his/her home country to complete his/her undergraduate/graduate education. Those who violate this requirement shall have to repay all funds allocated to them.

The universities participating in each project will be in charge of selecting the students for the Program, following the requirements set forth above. Universities must also specify what policies - formal or ad hoc - are in place to ensure the return of the students and their reintegration to the institution.

3.3.2 Mobility of researcher professors:

The following are the requirements for research professors to participate in the mobility program:

- Have an engineering degree.
- Be a faculty member who carries out research or a researcher in any of the engineering education institutions involved in the projects selected by the Scientific Council.
- Have adequate knowledge of the language of the host country.

4 Presentation

The proposal should be submitted to both home and host universities in their respective language using the Project Application Form.

The submission should contain the following documents:

- Project Application Form
- Background Application Form for Individuals
- Budget Worksheet
- Reports on previous mutual cooperation (if any)
- Agreements signed by the institutional partners offering guarantees for the implementation of the project, particularly with regard to mutual recognition of the studies carried out by the engineering students in the host institution.
- Institutional Guarantees: All institutions participating in each project must present an institutional endorsement signed by their highest competent authority.

4.1 Project Submission

All of the documents listed above should be submitted **by November 3rd, 2014**.

All Documentation presented after the deadline will not be considered.

For this call for proposals, the National Direction of International Relations of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation (MINCYT) of Argentina will act as FINAM's provisional Executive Secretariat. All projects must be sent to:

-Online applications: finam@mincyt.gob.ar (FINAM Executive Secretariat), c.c. the COMCYT Executive Secretariat, at mbeltranmartinez@oas.org. Files cannot be more than 4 MB

- Mailed applications:

Dirección Nacional de Relaciones Internacionales
 Secretaría Ejecutiva del PROGRAMA de Movilidad FINAM / Formación de Ingenieros de América.
 Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación Productiva-MINCYT
 Godoy Cruz 2320 - 4º Piso - C1425FKD- CABA
 ARGENTINA

5. Evaluation and Selection

The Executive Secretariat will verify each project's compliance with eligibility criteria. The Scientific Committee will evaluate the projects received. The FINAM Council – integrated by the ONCYTs (National Organization of Science and Technology) and/or the Ministries of Education will make the final selection taking into account the recommendations of the Scientific Committee's, UPADI's advise and national priorities.

The result of the final selection and the criteria for approval will be officially notified to the participating institutions by the Executive Secretariat.

6. Funding

The Home and Host ONCYTs of each university participating in the projects approved by the Council will finance the planned activities according to the availability of funds in their annual budgets and after making the necessary adjustments to comply with national regulations. Projects may have other funding sources.

Home institution will pay for the flight tickets, medical assistance and required insurances.
Host Institutions will pay for housing, food and transportation expenses.

7. Schedule

ACTIVITY	DATE
Publication of the bases for the call for proposals; beginning of period to submit projects.	22 september, 2014
Deadline to submit projects.	3 november, 2014
Project evaluation by the Scientific and Academic Council	4 -30 november, 2014
Final selection by the FINAM Council	1 -10 december, 2014
Starting period for mobilities	1° Semester 2015

8. Important Provisions

Any institution receiving funding is responsible for managing them, and for presenting the corresponding financial reports.

Not presenting the financial and academic reports, as required by the Program, may invalidate the release of assigned funds.

The purchase of airline tickets must comply with the regulations of each country.

Given the inherent administrative delays in budget execution in the public institutions sponsoring the FINAM program, it is suggested that the participating universities reserve funds in advance so as to cover students who start their exchange at the beginning of each fiscal year.

For Argentinean students, the cost of the compulsory health coverage must be financed by the home university. Coverage may be purchased directly in the host country. The total cost is approximately USD 250 (TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS) for one year or less and must be reimbursed by the scholar's university.