



TEXAS GLOBAL CAREER LAUNCH IN MEXICO U.S.-Mexico Border Environmental Program

Texas Global, The University of Texas at Austin's (UT-Austin) international programs office, has funded Global Career Launch Fellows-Mexico (UT-Austin US-Mexico Fellows), supporting each year as many as ten faculty-driven internships and research opportunities in Mexico during 2021 and 2022. Each UT-Austin US-Mexico Fellow will be eligible for a stipend of up to \$4,000 to support internship fieldwork in Mexico. The RGK Center for Philanthropy and Community Service at the LBJ School of Public Affairs also can designate each appropriate Global Career Launch Fellow as a Meadows Fellow, eligible for possible supplemental support through the RGK Center, if appropriate. Other funds may be available from other donors for particular research projects, as appropriate. (Only UT-Austin students are eligible for the UT-Austin stipends.)

UT-Austin is willing to invite graduate or undergraduate students from other US (Texas or New Mexico) or Mexican border-state (Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon, Coahuila or Chihuahua) universities into the program, contingent on support for each Fellow by their home university. For example, Mexican university students can work in US-based or Mexican internships if their home institution can support their students' travel to the internship site as well as cover the costs of their lodging and food during the internship. Similar options are available for students of other Texas or New Mexican universities. (Any university can participate in the Fellowship program if the university can support their own students.)

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality will assist each UT-Austin US-Mexico Fellow to identify an assignment addressing trans-boundary environmental management between Mexico and the USA. Mexican governmental agencies (federal, state, and local), as well as Mexican universities and non-governmental organizations, may also assist in defining assignments, as appropriate. Each assignment will have U.S.-based and Mexico-based supervisors, reflecting each Fellow's assignment. Most Fellows will also have an university and/or non-profit organization Mentor to assist the Fellow as part of a team to conduct research regarding the trans-boundary environmental quality issue.

Undergraduate and graduate students at The University of Texas at Austin (UT-Austin) will be eligible to apply for Texas Global Career Launch Fellowship (TGCLF) beginning **Monday, October 26, 2020**, with an open enrollment, until all ten of the 2021 placement positions are filled. The positions to which students will apply are being developed by the two governments, Mexico and the USA (not by the students). Students will apply for the role or roles they wish to take, and will make a case for their fitness for the assignment(s).

Students will be asked to submit four items through an on-line application process: (a) a letter of interest; (b) a resume; (c) proof of language proficiency (in Spanish for US citizens), as assessed (in UT-Austin) through the Department of Spanish and Portuguese; (d) a plan for how the applicant will prepare for scientific or technical expectations of Mexican fieldwork.

TGCLF applications will be reviewed by a team of up to seven representatives: one from Texas Global (Kirsten Hagen or her representative); one from the LBJ School of Public Affairs (Professor David Eaton or his representative); one from the RGK Center for Philanthropy and Community Service (Moirá Porter or her representative); one from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (Border Affairs Unit Director Edward Moderow or his representative); one from one of the Mexican governmental program sponsors (a person to be identified later); and one from an appropriate Mexican university or non-profit organization, as appropriate (a person to be determined later). Interviews will be conducted at least in part in Spanish.

TGCLF candidate who do not have prior scientific or engineering background to address the research they intend will be expected to study during Spring 2021 to be prepared for fieldwork. The RGK Center is creating a class in Spring 2021 that can enable TGCLF participants to develop technical skills and prepare for field placements. In the event that COVID-19 will continue to be a barrier to travel, it is possible that the trans-boundary research assignments will be implemented remotely. In the event that international travel resumes to Mexico, each Fellow will be located in Mexico, as appropriate.

One of the most productive elements of U.S.-Mexican relations in 2020 has been trans-boundary environmental quality, particularly between Texas and its four neighboring Mexican states of Tamaulipas, Nuevo León, Coahuila, and Chihuahua. The U.S. and Mexico signed the 1983 La Paz Agreement to protect and improve the environment in the border area. The two nations have worked together effectively, with renewed energy after the signing of the United States – Mexico – Canada Agreement to reduce air pollution and water pollution, dispose solid and hazardous waste adequately, and improve air and water quality along the border. One of the reasons for the success in reducing pollution and improving ambient environmental quality along the Texas-Mexico border is the close cooperation between Texas and its Mexican border states through initiatives such as Border 2020 and now Border 2025. Texas has taken a leadership role by partnering with EPA to lead binational efforts in the Four State Regional Workgroup (Texas, Coahuila, Nuevo León and Tamaulipas) and the Three State Regional Workgroup (Texas, New Mexico and Chihuahua).

TCEQ cooperates with counterparts of the four neighboring Mexican states to improve and promote bilateral cooperation on shared environmental matters such as monitoring air quality and water quality, sustainable waste management and emergency response issues. TCEQ can enhance this binational cooperation and partnership in 2021 by sponsoring interns from UT-Austin in Mexican environmental offices for high priority initiatives under TCEQ's Border Initiative, the Border 2025 Program, and existing Memorandums of Cooperation with Mexican States. The TCEQ Border Affairs team and the LBJ School of Public Affairs have identified an initial ten to thirteen positions that would be appropriate for TGCLF undergraduate or graduate students. The initial internships are in air quality, water quality, recycling, scrap tires and development of cross-border initiatives, such as cooperation in air quality monitoring. Supplemental internship positions will be developed and posted based on recommendations by either U.S. or Mexican participating governmental agencies or non-profit organizations. Each internship would allow a TGCLF intern to have the unique experience of working simultaneously with either a U.S.-based institution (in the U.S., Texas or New Mexico) and the appropriate Mexican institution (in Mexico City, Tamaulipas, Nuevo León, Coahuila or Chihuahua).