INSTITUTE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY OF SAN LUIS POTOSI
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

CALLING 2013 FOR THE ADMISSION TO POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMS IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

2013

www.ipicyt.edu.mx
San Luis Potosí, Mexico, September 03rd 2012

The Division of Environmental Sciences of the Institute of Scientific Research and Technology of San Luis Potosí calls:

to Mexican and foreigners students interested in applying to our Master and Ph.D. programs in Environmental Sciences, which focus in developing research activities in two main Lines for the Development and Application of Knowledge:

• Ecology and Global Environmental Change
• Biotechnology and Environmental Engineering

OBJECTIVES OF THE GRADUATE PROGRAM:
The fundamental purpose of our graduate programs is contributing to the formation of high-level human resources for the development of scientific research and technological innovation in an environment of academic excellence. Our entire curriculum belongs to the National Postgraduate Quality (PNPC); the Ministry of Public Education (SEP) and the National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT) accredit them.

The Master's program and Ph.D. program in Environmental Sciences aim to train scientists and technologists with an innovative, multi-interdisciplinary vision that allows them to interact smoothly among them and with researchers from other disciplines, such as Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Molecular Biology, Geology, Engineering Sciences and Social Sciences. The academics involved in these graduate programs are focused in promoting research within two board areas: Biotechnology and Environmental Engineering, and Ecology and Global Environmental Change.

We invite interested parties to visit the webpage of the Division of Environmental Sciences in order to revise the lines of work of our researchers. The following pages contain all the requirements needed to apply to our graduate programs, as well as the procedures we use for the selection of candidates.
MASTER’S PROGRAM IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

OPEN CALL TO START IN 2013

The selection of students for the Master’s program in Environmental Sciences is done annually during June. Admitted candidates will start their studies in August and all of them receive a scholarship provided by the National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT). Parties interested in participating in the next selection process must meet the following guidelines and requirements:

• **Dates:** Receipt of documents starts at September 03rd 2012. Deadline for submitting documents is May 17th 2013. Candidates meeting the requirements will be notified by email on May 24th 2013 and will be invited to participate in the selection process described below.

• **Career profiles:** Candidates need to have coursed careers closely related to Environmental Sciences. Desirable career profiles are Agronomy, Agroecology, Biology, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Environmental Science, Forestry, Ecology, Chemistry, Microbiology, Natural Resources, and other careers related to Environmental Sciences.

• **Average:** Candidates need to have a GPA of 8 (eight) or higher in their graduate studies, rated on scale 1-10. Candidates from institutions with other rating systems must make the conversion of their average to scale 1-10 by following the guidelines established by our Graduate Department. For more information, write to the Postgraduate Department, M. E. Ivonne Lizette Cuevas Velez (icuevas@ipicyt.edu.mx).

• **General language requirement:** All applicants must submit a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Depending on the type of TOEFL, applicants must meet the following requirements:
  1. more than 400 points in TOEFL-ITP (Institutional) or PBT (Paper Based Test);
  2. more than 33 points in TOEFL-IBT (Internet Based Test);
  3. more than 98 points in TOEFLCBT (Computer Based Test)

TOEFL certificates must be dated, at most, within 12 months preceding the date of this announcement. Those applicants enable to take an official TOEFL exam (and receive the certificate) may attend to an equivalent examination, free of charge, which be held on May 17th 2013 in the facilities of IPICYT. Candidates interested in applying to this examination must indicate this when submitting the application documents. Applicants from countries where English is the native language are exempt from filing this requirement.

• **Particular Language Requirement:** Candidates who are not Spanish speakers, besides accomplishing the English requirement, must demonstrate sufficient knowledge of Spanish language. They should present an official certificate attesting that handle the intermediate level B1 of Spanish, which is the third level of six levels established by the Instituto Cervantes (www.cervantes.es).
**Required Documentation:** All candidates must send the following documents:

1. Application form ([available on the website of the Master’s program](#))
2. Copy of the degree certificate studies (Bachelor or Engineer). If you’re in the graduating process, please submit a letter signed by your thesis advisor with the following specifications: thesis title, advisor’s name and graduation date; the date of graduation shall not exceed four months from the closing date of this announcement. If thesis is not required for obtaining your degree, then a letter of recommendation from your academic supervisor is needed.
3. Official copy of your transcript with the grade point average.
4. Intent Letter addressed to the Academic Coordinator of the program; here you must explain why you want to take our graduate program and what research line of the Division of Environmental Sciences is of your interest: (i) Ecology and Global Environmental Change, or (ii) Biotechnology and Environmental Engineering
5. Two recommendation letters.
6. Curriculum Vitae, duly documented.
7. TOEFL certificate.

**Foreign applicants must also provide:**

8. Copy of all pages of your passport, which must be valid.
9. Copy of birth certificate or equivalent document.
10. Unique email address for sending information and a contact address online Windows Live Messenger or Skype.
11. Certified Spanish language domain (see requirements above).

All documents must be sent in PDF format to the Academic Coordinator of the program ([ernesto.badano@ipicyt.edu.mx](mailto:ernesto.badano@ipicyt.edu.mx)) and to the IPICYT’s Graduate Department ([icuevas@ipicyt.edu.mx](mailto:icuevas@ipicyt.edu.mx)). Incomplete applications will be rejected.

**Mandatory course:** Candidates meeting the above requirements will be admitted to our Mandatory Course, which will be conducted between June 03rd and July 05th 2013 (five weeks). This course will be held at the facilities of IPICYT and consists of three subjects: Environmental Sciences, Physical Chemistry, and Mathematics. The admission to the program depends on successfully passing these three subjects. The applicants may prepare themselves for these subjects by using a series of study guides that will be provided by e-mail.
PH. D. IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
OPEN CALL TO START IN 2013

The selection of students for the Ph.D. program in Environmental Sciences is held twice a year, in July and December, for both Mexican and foreign candidates. Candidates admitted in December 2012 start their studies in January 2013, while those admitted in July 2013 start their studies in August of that year. Students admitted in this program receive a scholarship for their studies by the National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT). Parties interested in participating in the next selection process must accomplish the following guidelines and requirements:

• **Dates:** Receipt of documents starts on September 03rd 2012. Candidates interested in starting their studies on January 2013 must submit their documents before November 16th 2012, and they will be notified on November 20th 2013 whether they meet the requirements. Candidates interested in starting their studies on August 2013 must submit their documents before May 17th 2013, and they will be notified on May 24th 2013 whether they meet the requirements.

• **Expertise Profiles:** Candidates need to have a Master’s degree in programs related to Environmental Sciences, including Agronomy, Agroecology, Biology, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Environmental Science, Forestry, Ecology, Chemistry and Microbiology, Natural Resources, among others.

• **Average:** Candidates need to have a GPA of 8 (eight) or higher in their Master studies, rated on scale of 1-10. Candidates from institutions with other rating systems must make the conversion of their average to scale 1-10 by following the guidelines established by our Graduate Department. For more information, write to the Postgraduate Department, M. E. Ivonne Lizette Cuevas Velez (icuevas@ipicyt.edu.mx).

• **General language requirement:** All applicants must submit a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Depending on the type of TOEFL, applicants must meet the following requirements:
  1. more than 450 points in TOEFL-ITP (Institutional) or PBT (Paper Based Test);
  2. more than 45 points in TOEFL-IBT (Internet Based Test);
  3. more than 135 points in TOEFLCBT (Computer Based Test)

TOEFL certificates must be dated, at most, within 12 months preceding the date of this announcement. Those applicants enable to take an official TOEFL exam (and receive the certificate) may attend to an equivalent examination, free of charge, which be held on May 17th 2013 in the facilities of IPICYT. Candidates interested in applying to this examination must indicate this when submitting the application documents. Applicants from countries where English is the native language are exempt from filing this requirement.

• **Particular Language Requirement:** Candidates who are not Spanish speakers, besides accomplishing the English requirement, must demonstrate sufficient knowledge of Spanish language. They should present an official certificate attesting that handle the intermediate
level B1 of Spanish, which is the third level of six levels established by the Instituto Cervantes (www.cervantes.es).

- **Research Project:** Ph.D. candidates must write a research project framed within the Lines of Development of the potential advisor. For this, the candidates should contact the researcher who they want to work with in advance. The research protocol must meet the following guidelines in order to be submitted:

  1. **Format:** projects must be written in Arial 10 pts. Using 1.5 pt. spacing. The sections of the project must consider the following extensions:
  2. **Cover page (1 page):** must contain the title of the proposal, the candidate's name and the name of their potential advisor.
  3. **Introduction (maximum 5 pages):** must include the theoretical background and describing how the development of the proposal would contribute to the advancement of the area.
  4. **Hypothesis and objectives (1 page):** The hypothesis must be the tentative answer to the questions raised, directly or indirectly, in the problem statement. The objective(s) must be consistent with the hypothesis, but must not constitute the list of activities to perform during the development of the proposal.
  5. **Methodology (max 8 pages):** The Methods must be established in such a manner that they can be replicated in other studies. This section must include, if applicable, information on the study site, the experimental design and sampling protocol to use, the analytical and laboratory methods, and the mathematical procedures and/or statistics to be used for processing the data.
  6. **References:** Citations in the text should be arranged chronologically, in parentheses, and indicate the author's surname followed by year of publication –e.g. (Carlin 1992, Brooks & Carlin 1992). If more than two authors, only the first author should be cited followed by "et al." –e.g. (Carlin 1992, Brooks & Carlin 2004, 2005, Jones et al. 2007). In the Literature Cited section (after the Methodology) all references cited in the text must be given in full. The format for the references is:

    a. **Journal article:** Surname (s) and initial (s) of all authors, year, full title of article, full journal name, volume number, first and last page of the article. Example: Savidge, W.B. & Blair, N.E. 2004. Patterns of Intramolecular Carbon Isotopic HeterogenityWithin the Amino Acids of Autotrophs and Heterotrophs. Oecologia 139: 178-189.


    c. **Book:** name (s) and initial (s) of all authors, year, title of book, edition, publisher, place of publication. Example: Körner, C. 2003. Alpine Plant Life, 2nd edition. Springer, Berlin.
7. **Figures, graphs, diagrams and tables:** This material can be included as annexes at the end of the project. Each figure, graph, diagram and/or table should be accomplished by a brief caption, but should not constitute an extension of methodology.

8. **Schedule of activities:** At the end of the project a schedule detailing the activities to be developed must be included; this must consider a maximum of eight semesters (four years).

9. **The Project must not exceed a total of 20 pages**

   • **Required Documentation:** Candidates to the program must send the following documents:

   1. Application form ([available on the website of the PhD. program](#))
   2. Copy of the Master degree certificate. If you’re in the graduating process, please submit a letter signed by your thesis advisor with the following specifications: thesis title, name of advisor and graduation date; the date of graduation shall not exceed four months from the closing date of this announcement. If thesis is not required for obtaining the degree in your career, then a letter of recommendation from your academic supervisor is needed.
   3. Intent Letter addressed to the Academic Coordinator of the program explaining why you want to take our graduate program. In this letter, you must specify the title of your Master’s thesis and the name of your advisor. You must also indicate the name of the potential Ph.D. advisor within our Institution and the reasons by which you selected this researcher.
   4. Two recommendation letters.
   5. Curriculum Vitae, duly documented.
   6. TOEFL certificate.
   7. Research project

   • **Foreign applicants must also provide:**

   8. Copy of all pages of your passport, which must be valid.
   9. Copy of birth certificate or equivalent document.
   10. Unique email address for sending information and a contact address online Windows Live Messenger or Skype.
   11. Certified Spanish language domain (see requirements above).
   12. Copy of all pages of your passport, which must be valid.

All documents must be sent in PDF format to the Academic Coordinator of the program ([ernesto.badano@ipicyt.edu.mx](mailto:ernesto.badano@ipicyt.edu.mx)) and to the IPICYT’s Graduate Department ([icuevas@ipicyt.edu.mx](mailto:icuevas@ipicyt.edu.mx)). Incomplete applications will be rejected.

• **Selection Mechanism – Mexican Candidates:** Admission will be subject to evaluation of the research protocol submitted and its oral defense. An *ad hoc* committee will be designated by the Teachers College of Division of Environmental Sciences to conduct the evaluation of each candidate. Candidates applying to start on January 2013 will be evaluated on December 07th 2012 at the facilities of IPICYT. Candidates applying for start on August 2013 will be evaluated on June 07th 2013.

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• **Selection Mechanism – Foreign Candidates:** The Teachers College of the Division of Environmental Sciences will review the documents of each candidate and will determine the viability of each application. If appropriate, an ad hoc committee will be designated for each candidate. This committee will evaluate the research protocol and its oral defense. For this, the candidate will receive an e-mail indicating the date and time of the interview and the oral defense of the research protocol. If the candidate cannot be present at the IPICYT in that date, the interview and oral assessment will be performed by using online communication systems (Windows Live Messenger or Skype). If the candidate is not connected on the date and time indicated in the e-mail, the application will be discarded.

**Clarification:** Foreign applicants should initiate the application procedure at least six months in advance. This would provide enough time to meet all formalities required for obtaining the student visa. Traveling costs to the city of San Luis Potosi (Mexico), as well as all cost incurred for obtaining for the visa, must be covered by the candidate. Foreign candidates then should apply for funding to institutions in their home country or international institutions. The costs to be considered are: food, health insurance, tuition semester (8 semesters), and study materials.

**Contact for Information:**

Dr. Ernesto I. Badano  
Academic Coordinator  
Division of Environmental Sciences  
Institute of Scientific Research and Technology of San Luis Potosi  
Tel.: +52 (444) 834-2049  
Fax: +52 (444) 834-2010  
E-mail: ernesto.badano@ipicyt.edu.mx

www.ipicyt.edu.mx