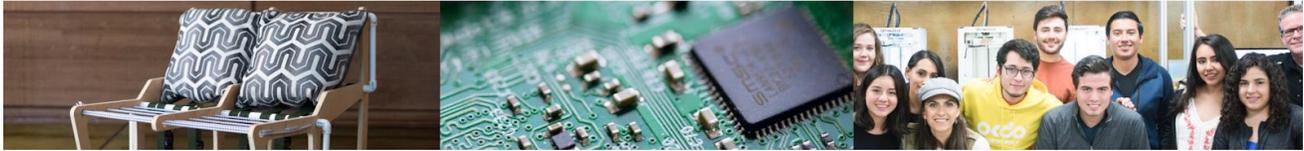




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Tecnológico  
de Monterrey



## CITRIS & Tec de Monterrey COVID-19 Response Seed Funding

Application Deadline: **Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at 5:00 PM (PST) / 7:00 PM (CST)**

Program Information: [https://citrissmapply.org/prog/citrissm\\_2020/](https://citrissmapply.org/prog/citrissm_2020/)

Questions: CITRIS Team at [seeds@citrissm-uc.org](mailto:seeds@citrissm-uc.org) (University of California)

Dr. Pedro Ponce Cruz at [pedro.ponce@tec.mx](mailto:pedro.ponce@tec.mx) (Tec de Monterrey)

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[CITRIS and the Banatao Institute](#) create information technology solutions for society's most pressing challenges. Established in 2001, the Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society (CITRIS) leverages the interdisciplinary research strengths of multiple UC campuses to advance the University of California's mission and the innovative spirit of California. The institute was created to shorten the pipeline between world-class laboratory research and the development of cutting-edge applications, platforms, companies, and even new industries.

The [Tecnológico de Monterrey](#) was founded in 1943 by Eugenio Garza Sada and a group of Mexican entrepreneurs who implemented their vision for a cutting-edge educational institution. Tec de Monterrey is a private, non-profit institution, independent from political and religious affiliations. Tecnológico de Monterrey seeks to develop leaders who embrace an entrepreneurial spirit, a humanistic outlook, and are competitive on an international scale.

The 2020 CITRIS & Tec de Monterrey Seed Funding opportunity invites Principal Investigators at Tecnológico de Monterrey in Mexico to work with researchers at UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Davis Health System, UC Merced, and UC Santa Cruz to apply for seed funding that furthers our mutual research interests, strengthens connections among the campuses, and catalyzes early-stage research that can lead to external funding.

Projects catalyzed by the CITRIS Seed Funding Program have attracted follow-on support from federal, state, corporate, and private sources including the National Science Foundation,

National Institutes of Health, Intel, Microsoft, Mellon Foundation, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

## 2020 CITRIS & Tec de Monterrey Seed Funding RFP Overview

Areas of Interest	<p>Project proposals for this call must have a well-articulated theme and reflect a mature or emerging research area, demonstrating a high-quality solution to confront the current health emergency due to COVID-19.</p> <p><b>Main topics of interest:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Clinical Care/Therapeutics</li> <li>● Data Analytics/Modeling</li> <li>● PPE/Equipment</li> <li>● Viral or antibody testing</li> <li>● Digital Contact Tracing Tools</li> <li>● COVID Test alternatives</li> </ul> <p>Existing CITRIS research in these area is described at: <a href="https://citrис-uc.org/citrис-seed-funding-covid-19-response-awarded-projects/">https://citrис-uc.org/citrис-seed-funding-covid-19-response-awarded-projects/</a></p> <p>Proposals that do not address the main topics can be considered for this call if they describe a high-quality solution relevant to COVID-19.</p>
Total Funds Available	TBD
Available per Project	Up to \$50,000 (budgeted 50% Tec de Monterrey / 50% CITRIS)
Eligibility	<p>All applicants must have Principal Investigator (or exceptional PI) status on their campus. At least two PIs required per proposal. Minimum of one PI from Tec de Monterrey and one PI from a CITRIS campus at the University of California:</p> <p><a href="#">UC Berkeley</a>   <a href="#">UC Davis</a>   <a href="#">UC Davis Health</a>   <a href="#">UC Merced</a>   <a href="#">UC Santa Cruz</a></p>

## Timeline

- **June 8, 2020:** Call for CITRIS & Tec de Monterrey Seed Funding COVID-19 Response Proposals announced.
- **June – July 2020:** Matchmaking and multi-campus team formation occurs among Principal Investigators. Contact [seeds@citris-uc.org](mailto:seeds@citris-uc.org) (University of California faculty) or Dr. Pedro Ponce Cruz [pedro.ponce@tec.mx](mailto:pedro.ponce@tec.mx) (Tec de Monterrey faculty) for assistance with finding compatible co-PIs.
- **June 12, 2020:** Online application portal opens for submissions. Link to the portal will be posted on the [CITRIS & Tec de Monterrey Seed Funding webpage](#).
- **July 15, 2020 at 5:00pm PST:** Applications are due via [online portal](#).
- **July 24, 2020:** Awardees are notified.
- **August 3:** Awardee funds are distributed.
- **August 10, 2020:** Performance period begins for 2020 awarded projects.
- **August 10, 2021:** Performance period ends for 2020 awarded projects.
- **Jan 31, 2022:** Final reports for 2020 Seed Fund Award projects are due.

## Eligibility and Proposal Requirements

- To encourage California–Mexico collaboration, each proposal must include at least two Principal Investigators: at least one from Tec de Monterrey and at least one from a CITRIS campus (UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Davis Health, UC Merced, or UC Santa Cruz).
- Projects that use CITRIS research assets, such as the [Marvell NanoLab](#) and [CITRIS Invention Lab](#), are also encouraged.
- UC investigators need not submit proposals for review through their Sponsored Projects Office.

## Exclusions

- CITRIS Seed Funding may not be used for faculty salary or non-resident tuition. Indirect costs are not allowed.
- Principal Investigators may participate in no more than two proposals per application cycle and serve as lead researcher on no more than one proposal per application cycle.
- Principal Investigators who previously received seed funding must submit an online progress report for the prior project(s) before being considered for a new CITRIS Seed Fund Award.

## Evaluation Criteria

1. **Feasibility:** Can the stated goals be achieved within 12 months?
2. **Creates solution to a societal challenge and demonstrates impact:** Is the societal problem and its scale clearly identified? What potential impact will this seed-funded work have on the challenge, field, and/or society?

3. **Potential for follow-on funding:** How will investigators build upon the Seed Fund Award outcomes? Has this topic been identified by federal agencies or other funders for future investment? Projects demonstrating a clear path from seed investigation to expanded funding will be rated more favorably. Awardees will be asked to report on resulting proposals.
4. **Alignment with the CITRIS [mission](#) and [research thrusts](#):** Does the proposal advance information technology solutions in one or more of the current CITRIS interest areas described below? Under the charter of the [Banatao Institute](#), applications that benefit developing regions in the U.S. and abroad are also welcome, but not required.
5. **Use of CITRIS and the Banatao Institute research assets** including the [Marvell NanoLab](#), [CITRIS Invention Lab](#), or other CITRIS-affiliated testbeds is encouraged, but not required.
6. **Inclusion of pre-tenured faculty** is highly encouraged, but not required.

### **Submission Instructions and Requirements**

The online application portal can be accessed via the [CITRIS & Tec de Monterrey Seed Funding webpage](#). You can submit and manage your applications online when the portal opens on **June 12th**

You will be guided to create an application management account or log in to your existing account. We recommend that the Lead PI initiates the online account and application for each proposal team, using a campus email address. Any co-PI(s) listed will receive an automated email link to log on and view or edit the joint proposal. Please have the following information ready to complete your online application:

- Name, campus, home department, and CV link for each PI
- Project Title
- Project Summary/Abstract (*250 words max*)
- Project narrative (*750 words max*): What societal problem does your proposal aim to address? What methodologies or processes will you employ?
- Impact statement (*500 words max*): What results do you hope to achieve? What potential impact will the research results have on the field? On society?
- Budget narrative with allocation of funds between campuses (*500 words max*).
- Downstream project applications (*500 words max*): What opportunities do you anticipate for building on the results of this seed award, if awarded? Describe larger grant proposal opportunities or partnerships here.
- Up to five references (*weblinks*). These may refer to the challenge being addressed or to existing work you intend to build upon.
- Optional: upload a one-page graphic file to illustrate the project.
- List of prior CITRIS Seed Awards (if any): PI names, year, project title.