Call for applications

UW Faculty Fellowship · Southbound Faculty Exchange

STEAM Education Alliance of the Americas: Bridging Hemispheres Through the Rockies

Sending institution
University of Wyoming
Laramie, Wyoming, USA

March 13–20, 2027

Host institution
Universidad Yachay Tech
Urcuquí, Imbabura, Ecuador

Positions	Applications close	In-country	Costs covered
One faculty fellow	**November 15, 2026**	**March 13–20, 2027** Spring Break	Airfare, insurance, lodging, per diem

Section I

About this fellowship

The Colorado Chapter of Partners of the Americas invites applications from tenured and tenure-track faculty at the University of Wyoming for a fellowship in the Southbound Faculty Exchange of the STEAM Education Alliance of the Americas: Bridging Hemispheres Through the Rockies, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and Partners of the Americas.

The selected fellow, at the assistant, associate, or full professor rank, will travel to Universidad Yachay Tech in Urcuquí, Imbabura, Ecuador, during Spring Break, March 13–20, 2027, to deliver discipline-specific academic activities, contribute to curriculum and research development, and help establish the terms of a lasting departmental partnership.

The fellowship does not end at the border. The fellow also serves as academic mentor and guide to the selected northbound cohort assigned to UW — students and early-career professionals from Latin America and the Caribbean chosen through an open call for applications — before, during, and after their visit to UW on April 10–20, 2027, making this a single exchange with two-way travel rather than a one-week visit abroad.

The program adheres to established international academic exchange practices and is implemented pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding signed by all five participating institutions.

Section II

The host institution

Universidad Yachay Tech is a public research university that opened in 2014 in San Miguel de Urcuquí, Imbabura Province, at the center of Yachay, the planned "City of Knowledge" in the northern Ecuadorian Andes. Its schools span biology, chemistry, physics, geology, mathematics, and engineering, and its research priorities include biodiversity, nanotechnology, energy, and computational science.

The university is young, research-oriented, and expanding its graduate offerings, precisely where an external faculty perspective carries weight. The fellow should expect counterparts who are actively designing programs rather than maintaining established ones.

Upper-division instruction at Yachay Tech is delivered in English, so academic activities may be conducted in English throughout. Spanish is welcome but not required.

Section III

The fellowship at a glance

Program	**STEAM Education Alliance of the Americas: Bridging Hemispheres Through the Rockies** Southbound Faculty Exchange
Sending institution	University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming, USA
Host institution	Universidad Yachay Tech, Urcuquí, Imbabura, Ecuador
Travel period	March 13–20, 2027 — 8 days, 7 nights, during university Spring Break
Positions available	One (1) faculty specialist
Fields of focus	Chemistry, physics, biology, geosciences, environmental science, natural resources, STEM education, and allied STEM disciplines
Stipend and costs	International airfare, health insurance, per diem, and an incidentals stipend are covered. Lodging and meals are arranged by the host institution.
Application period	October 15 – November 15, 2026. The selected candidate is notified within two weeks of closing.
Northbound cohort at UW	April 10–20, 2027
Optional Washington, D.C. component	April 18–20, 2027

Section IV

Who is eligible

Applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

- Hold a tenured or tenure-track faculty position at the University of Wyoming at the time of application and at the time of travel
- Hold a doctorate or an equivalent terminal degree in a STEAM field relevant to Yachay Tech's academic programs
- Demonstrate active research or teaching in one or more of the following: STEM education, chemistry, physics, biology, geosciences, environmental science, or natural resources
- Be a U.S. citizen
- Demonstrate experience with or a strong commitment to international academic collaboration and curriculum development
- Be available to travel March 13–20, 2027
- Commit to the pre-exchange, in-country, and post-exchange deliverables outlined in Section V
- Be free of any conflict of interest with Universidad Yachay Tech or with exchange participants

Section V

What the fellow delivers

Commitments span three phases. Together, they reflect the program's emphasis on sustained academic exchange rather than a single visit.

Phase one *Before travel · January–March 2027*

- Attend a mandatory virtual orientation hosted by the Colorado Chapter of Partners of the Americas
- Complete at least 15 hours of structured virtual engagement with the selected northbound cohort assigned to UW, including academic preparation, orientation to your institution's research culture, and the start of collaborative projects
- Co-design the in-country agenda with your Yachay Tech counterpart, aligning with institutional priorities and disciplinary needs
- Submit a Specialist Activity Plan of no more than two pages that covers proposed activities, learning objectives, and planned deliverables

Phase two *In country · March 13–20, 2027*

- Deliver at least two discipline-specific lectures, seminars, or workshops for students and faculty at Yachay Tech
- Lead at least one curriculum consultation with host faculty counterparts, providing an external perspective on current programs and identifying opportunities for joint development
- Facilitate at least one joint research planning session focused on collaborative grants, joint publications, or graduate student exchange
- Conduct an institutional needs assessment to inform the post-exchange partnership roadmap

- Participate in the cultural and community activities organized by the host institution

Phase three *After the exchange · April–July 2027*

- Complete at least 5 hours of structured virtual post-exchange engagement with the northbound cohort
- Serve as academic advisor and guide to the northbound cohort assigned to UW during their visit, April 10–20, 2027, accompanying and co-facilitating program activities where applicable, supporting their research projects, and providing disciplinary mentorship
- Submit one collaborative product by July 15, 2027 — either:
  - a co-authored syllabus or course outline for a new or revised graduate-level course developed in collaboration with host counterparts, or
  - a joint research proposal or concept note aimed at a specific funding opportunity
- Join the virtual closing session and contribute to the program's narrative report through either a written reflection of at least 500 words or a five-minute recorded interview on outcomes, institutional impact, and recommendations
- Present outcomes at the optional Washington, D.C., component, April 18–20, 2027, including a formal presentation to the U.S. Department of State if attending
- Stay engaged with the STEAM Education Alliance of the Americas network and support future exchange cycles as an alumnus specialist

Section VI

Scope of in-country activities

Activities are tailored to Yachay Tech's academic profile and institutional needs and may include:

- Lectures, seminars, or workshops at the undergraduate or graduate level in the fellow's field
- Curriculum consultation, including syllabus development or revision, learning outcomes, and assessment frameworks aligned with international standards
- Faculty development workshops or professional seminars for academic staff
- Support for strategic academic planning at the departmental or program level
- Research activities designed or co-designed with host faculty and graduate students, including literature reviews, methodological consultations, or pilot study design
- Partnership development, including joint grant opportunities, student exchange programs, and collaborative publication pathways
- A public lecture, open to the broader community, on a topic of current relevance in the fellow's field

The final agenda is co-designed by the fellow and the host counterpart before travel, based on the Specialist Activity Plan submitted in Phase one.

Section VII

How applications are evaluated

Disciplinary expertise and alignment with Yachay Tech's academic needs	**30%**
Evidence of research activity and academic impact — publications, grants, graduate supervision, student engagement	**30%**
Quality and specificity of the proposed activities and deliverables	**20%**
Commitment to a long-term institutional partnership and to mentoring the selected northbound cohort	**20%**

Section VIII

What to submit

Submit the following as a single PDF:

- **Curriculum vitae.** Current position, education, publications from the past five years, current or recent grant activity, graduate students supervised, and evidence of international engagement
- **Statement of purpose** (maximum 500 words). Your academic background, the specific activities you propose to undertake at Yachay Tech, how your expertise meets the institution's needs, and how the exchange aligns with your longer-term research or teaching agenda
- **Preliminary activity concept** (maximum one page). The lectures, workshops, or collaborative activities you propose to deliver, including formats and materials
- **Language declaration.** Your level of Spanish proficiency, if any. Spanish proficiency is valued but not required. Activities will be conducted in English or in a bilingual format, as appropriate.

Section IX

What the program provides

Support is provided through Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) funding from the U.S. Department of State, administered by Partners of the Americas and implemented by its Colorado Chapter:

- Round-trip international airfare from the fellow's U.S. city of origin to Ecuador
- International accident and sickness insurance for the entire duration of travel
- A daily per diem rate for the host country, plus an incidentals stipend for program-related expenses
- Lodging arranged by Yachay Tech for the in-country visit
- Meals and local transportation are coordinated by the host institution as part of the program schedule
- Optional participation in the Washington, D.C., closing component on April 18–20, 2027, with domestic travel and up to two nights' lodging covered for attendees
- A Certificate of Participation from the Colorado Chapter of Partners of the Americas, Partners of the Americas, and the U.S. Department of State

- Membership in the Partners of the Americas Alumni Network and the U.S. Department of State Alumni Network

Section X

How to apply

> Submit applications electronically via the designated platform on the Partners of the Americas website. Applications must arrive by **November 15, 2026**. Only complete applications received by the deadline are reviewed. Applications may be submitted in English or Spanish.

STEAM Education and Culture Program, Partners of the Americas
edculture@partners.net and steam@colorado-partners.net

For questions about Yachay Tech, its academic programs, or the northbound cohort, contact the Exchange Coordinators: Ana Prieto, Ph.D. (c.), M.S. (ana.prieto@colorado-partners.net) and Nicolás Arízaga, M.A., M.P.P., M.S. (nicolas.arizaga@colorado-partners.net). All submissions are treated as confidential.

This Call is issued under the STEAM Education Alliance of the Americas Program, implemented by the Colorado Chapter of Partners of the Americas and sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and Partners of the Americas.