COLORADO CHAPTER OF PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS

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

Call for Applications — Northbound Participant Exchange

Open to university students and early-career professionals from Latin America and the Caribbean

April 10–20, 2027

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Colorado Chapter of Partners of the Americas invites applications from university students and early-career professionals from Latin America and the Caribbean for an exchange in the Northbound Participant Exchange of the STEAM Education Alliance of the Americas: Bridging Hemispheres Through the Rockies, supported by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, through Partners of the Americas, and implemented by the Colorado Chapter of Partners of the Americas. Six participants will travel to the United States from April 10 to 20, 2027: three hosted by Colorado State University (Fort Collins, CO) and three by the University of Wyoming (Laramie, WY).

Participation extends well beyond the travel period. From February 1 to April 8, 2027, participants complete 40 hours of pre-arrival academic preparation, which includes a minimum of 15 hours of structured virtual mentorship with the faculty fellow assigned to them at the host institution, during which the collaborative project begins. In the United States, participants work in university laboratories, attend seminars and workshops, engage with entrepreneurship and intellectual property programming, and present their final project at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C. From April to July 2027, they continue virtual mentorship with the faculty fellow and complete an applied product. This program is modeled on best practices in international academic exchange.

Program at a Glance

Program	**STEAM Education Alliance of the Americas: Bridging Hemispheres Through the Rockies** Northbound Participant Exchange
Host Institutions	Colorado State University (Fort Collins, CO) University of Wyoming (Laramie, WY)
Eligible Applicants	University students with 50% or more of their curriculum approved, and early-career professionals within five years of graduation, ages 21–30, who are citizens of a Latin American or Caribbean country and reside in the same country
Positions Available	Six (6) — three per host institution, assigned by the selection committee according to disciplinary alignment
Fields of Focus	Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Geosciences, Environmental Science, Natural Resources, and allied STEAM disciplines
Travel Period	April 10–20, 2027 (10 nights, 11 days) Fort Collins, CO; Laramie, WY; Denver, CO; and Washington, DC
REQUIRED AVAILABILITY	Visa application and consular interview: February 1, 2027 – March 31, 2027 Virtual pre-exchange program: February 1 – April 8, 2027 Travel to the United States: April 10–20, 2027 Virtual post-exchange engagement and final product: April – July 2027 Program evaluation interview: May 1 – May 31, 2027 Graduation ceremony: May 2027

Passport Requirement	A valid passport, or a passport application in process, at the time of application. The passport must be issued in time for the visa process (February 1, 2027 – March 31, 2027) and remain valid for at least six months beyond April 20, 2027.
Costs Covered	International airfare, visa and passport costs (if required for travel), accident and travel insurance, per diem, host family lodging, local transportation and meals, travel and lodging in Washington, DC, pre-arrival academic and business English program, and certificates of participation
Application Period	November 1 – December 10, 2026. Selected candidates will be notified after the close of the application period.

Before You Apply: Mandatory Dates and Documents

- Application window: November 1 – December 10, 2026
- Finalists interviews: January, 2027
- Awards notifications: January, 2027
- Valid passport, or passport application in process, at the time of application; passport in hand for the visa process, valid for at least six months beyond April 20, 2027
- Visa application and consular interview in your country of residence: February 1, 2027 – March 31, 2027
- Virtual pre-exchange program (40 hours, including 15 hours of mentorship): February 1 – April 8, 2027
- Travel to the United States, full participation required: April 10–20, 2027
- Program evaluation interview: May 1 – May 31, 2027
- Graduation ceremonies: May – June 2027

Applicants who cannot commit to all of these dates will not be considered.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

- Be a citizen of a Latin American or Caribbean country and reside in that country at the time of application and travel
- Be between 21 and 30 years of age at the start of the program
- Be a university student with 50% or more of the degree program's curriculum approved, or an early-career professional within five years of graduation
- Be pursuing or hold a degree in a STEAM field: Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Geosciences, Environmental Science, Natural Resources, or allied STEAM disciplines
- Hold a valid passport, or a passport application in process, at the time of application, and obtain it in time for the visa process, valid for at least six months beyond April 20, 2027
- Demonstrate English proficiency to be able to participate and engage in academic and research activities conducted in the language (no certificate is required; proficiency will be assessed in an interview during the selection process)
- Be fully available for all program phases, including travel to the United States on April 10–20, 2027
- Commit to fulfilling all exchange deliverables outlined
- Be free of any conflicts of interest with the host institutions or the faculty fellows
- Not be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States

PARTICIPANT DELIVERABLES BY PHASE

Selected participants complete different products across three phases of engagement, reflecting the program's commitment to sustained, high-impact academic exchange.

Phase 1 — Before Travel (December 2026–March 2027)

- Complete the U.S. visa process, including the consular interview in your country of residence, between February 1, 2027 and March 31, 2027.
- Complete 40 hours of pre-arrival academic preparation: orientation and syllabus review, mentor introduction
- Complete 25 hours of Academic and Business English for STEAM program delivered by Language Thread, LLC.
- Within that preparation, complete a minimum of 15 hours of structured virtual mentorship with your faculty fellow, including orientation to the host institution's research culture and initiation of the collaborative project.

Phase 2 — During the Exchange (April 10–20, 2027)

- Take part in the full program, including arrival in Denver, CO (April 10) and the host family day (April 11).
- Complete the university program at Colorado State University or the University of Wyoming (April 12–16), as described in the Scope of Academic Activities below.
- Participate in the workshops in Denver, CO (April 17) and travel to Washington, D.C. (April 18).
- Present your final project in Washington, DC, (April 19) and take part in the closing program before international departure (April 20).
- Develop and present an initial version or project proposal of one applied product by April 19, 2027 (to be finalized post-exchange):
  a. A group research proposal
  b. A mobile application or digital tool
  c. A business plan or economic development project connecting STEAM and entrepreneurship

Phase 3 — After the Exchange (May 2027)

- Submit your per diem request to Partners of the Americas no later than thirty (30) days after completing the exchange (May 20, 2027).
- Submit a written reflection (minimum 500 words) on learning outcomes, skills developed, and linkages established.
- Take part in an online program evaluation interview (1 hour) and in the graduation ceremony.
- Join the Partners of the Americas and U.S. Department of State alumni networks.

SCOPE OF ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES

Activities are tailored to each participant's academic profile and to the assigned laboratory's research priorities, and may include:

- Laboratory and research facilities work under faculty mentorship at Colorado State University or the University of Wyoming, and discipline-specific seminars and workshops at the undergraduate or graduate level.
- Applied research in Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Geosciences, Environmental Science, Natural Resources, or allied STEAM disciplines.
- Development of the collaborative project and of the applied product.
- Entrepreneurship and intellectual property programming connecting scientific and technical knowledge with innovation and economic opportunity.
- Engagement with the U.S. Department of State on STEAM opportunities, and visits to the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Institution.

The specific activity plan is agreed upon by each participant and their faculty mentor prior to travel.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

Applicants must submit items 1 to 4 below as a single PDF document, in this order, together with the application form:

1. **Curriculum Vitae (maximum 2 pages):** educational background, current standing or position, research or professional experience, and publications, if any.

2. **Academic Record:** transcript or certificate of academic progress showing 50% or more of the curriculum approved; professionals submit a copy of their degree.
3. **Preliminary Project Concept (maximum 1 page):** a brief description of the applied product you propose to develop, framed within one of the three product types listed in Phase 2.
4. **Passport:** copy of the biographic page of your passport, or proof that the passport application is in process.
5. **Statement of Purpose (maximum 500 words):** your background, your interest in the host institutions' research areas, and the expected impact on your home institution and community. The Statement of Purpose is entered directly in Section E of the application form; do not include it in the PDF.

PROGRAM SUPPORT AND BENEFITS

Selected participants receive the following support through Partners of the Americas and the Colorado Chapter:

- Round-trip international airfare to the United States and domestic airfare to Washington, D.C.
- U.S. visa costs, passport costs if required for travel, international accident and travel insurance, and per diem in accordance with the approved program budget
- Host family lodging in Fort Collins, CO or Laramie, WY, local transportation, and meals
- Domestic travel and hotel lodging in Washington, D.C.
- Pre-arrival Academic and Business English for STEAM (Language Thread, LLC) and faculty mentorship for the exchange
- Certificate of participation and alumni network membership

HOW TO APPLY

Applications must be submitted electronically via the designated submission platform on the Partners of the Americas' website. Only complete applications received by the deadline will be reviewed. Applications may be submitted in English or Spanish.

Submission Contact:

STEAM Education and Culture Program, Partners of the Americas

Email: edculture@partners.net and steam@colorado-partners.net | Website: steamalliance.colorado-partners.net

For inquiries, 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, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and Partners of the Americas.