

INNOVATION ACADEMY FOR WOMEN OF THE AMERICAS



WOMEN, CLIMATE & POWER

June 14th – July 9th, 2021
Virtual Study Abroad

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATHEMATICS
theacademy.unm.edu

INNOVATION ACADEMY FOR WOMEN OF THE AMERICAS

DESCRIPTION

The **2021 Edition of the Innovation Academy for Women in the Americas (“The Academy”)** adapts to the current times and goes virtual with a four-week **online educational program** for female undergraduate students, who reside in the Americas and are currently enrolled, in a STEM+A* fields of study.

The Academy is a high-impact education and professionalization initiative designed to provide more women in the innovation fields the knowledge, skills, abilities, and support to ascend to higher education and leadership levels within their communities and countries. It is a comprehensive program designed to facilitate the academic and career advancement of underrepresented/minority women – including indigenous women – and consists of global exposure through education abroad, focused academic research, professional skills development, and on-going mentorship and support.

The Academy supports the capacity of these emerging female leaders by providing them with an opportunity to develop a sustainable project within their field of study and in collaboration with their peers and the industry. As a culminating activity, all Academy participants will formally present their project proposal to their international colleagues, as well as to the industrial sector.

This edition's theme is “Women, Climate, & Power” and will introduce multiple analytical lenses to better understand the social-ecological system, examine the human-environment connection, and explore power and the place of gender as a factor in the nature-society relationship. Participants will engage in compassionate knowledge-building, complex critical thinking, and creative problem solving under the broader framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to propose living solutions to real-world problems and generate new perspectives for prosperity inclusive of all people - and all life - on the planet.

The Academy 2021 edition, the fourth iteration, is a joint collaboration project between The University of New Mexico in the United States, the Universidad Politécnica de Santa Rosa Jáuregui (UPSRJ) in Querétaro, México, and the Instituto Tecnológico Metropolitano in Medellín Colombia. The Academy was initially supported by a grant

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from the 100K Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund Initiative and is now directly sponsored by the partner institutions listed above.

All instruction will be provided **in English** by UNM, UPSRJ and ITM faculty.

The academic program is 50 hours, **30 hours of instruction and 20 hours of independent and team work.**

OBJECTIVES:

It is the aim of The Academy to provide balanced academic and practical skills, exposure to new paradigm cross-disciplinary thinking and collaborative communication, access to productive networking and mentoring, and facilitate the development of improved confidence and leadership skills among its participants..

The 50 STEM students involved in the program will acquire the ability to design their own projects in teams, guide qualitative investigations, propose critical solutions to world issues, and be able to engage with the industry in an efficient and proactive manner.

As part of this program, participants will:

- Gain experience working in cross-disciplinary and intercultural teams
- Improve intercultural and collaborative communications and teamwork skills
- Practice and further develop confidence in English-language skills in academic and professional settings
- Understand and explain the essential elements of the United Nations framework for the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Apply multiple analytical lenses to identify and explain the ways in which women, climate, and power intersect with social, economic, and political processes
- Develop and demonstrate skills in preliminary research inquiry, preparation, and presentation of concrete, innovative, and research-informed proposals for adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, including to the industrial sector
- Engage in leadership-building activities, such as visioning, to imagine a better future and explore how to galvanize others to promote social and ecological transformation

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- Acknowledge and integrate diverse types and forms of knowledge, including indigenous and traditional knowledge systems, as well as new paradigms of thinking (ex: interdisciplinary thinking, systems thinking, and integrative thinking, for example).

WHEN:

Monday, June 14, 2021 to Wednesday July 9th, 2021

WHERE:

Virtual Seminars and Workshops - Zoom and Google Classrooms Platform

WHO:

Female undergraduates in good academic standing, who are enrolled in STEM+A fields and who reside in any country within the Americas. The STEM +A fields includes any area of study within the following fields: Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics or Architecture.

WHAT:

A four-week virtual academic and cultural exchange program, where students will learn how to develop competences, research and innovation skills, in order to solve challenges proposed by the industrial sector, in the fields of Women, Climate Change and Power.

Non-credit certificate

*Students who successfully complete the full program will earn a non-credit certificate of completion from UNM, ITM and UPSRJ. Students who are interested in receiving credit are advised to consult with their home institution to explore such options as prior learning credit, independent study, etc. prior to enrolling in the Academy.

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ACTIVITIES AND PROVISIONS

As part of the program, students partake in a number of virtual academic and cultural activities and workshops, that foster the exchange and integration, and therefore are entitled to a number of provisions as described below:

1. Training in research, innovation, leadership, design thinking and project management and development by keynote speakers.
2. Addressing global issues such as climate change, gender equality, women and empowerment, with the involvement of international professionals.
3. Workshops to apply your investigation knowledge and expand your abilities with international colleagues.
4. Engaging with international students in the problem solving of a project from a company.
5. Engaging and interacting with international companies that provide mentorship during the development of solutions for real-life scenario cases.
6. Cultural agenda / activities from the 3 countries involved (Colombia, United States and México).

REWARDS

All participants will be able to obtain a **Certificate of Participation**. Also, participants may compete for the following additional rewards:

1. The University of New Mexico (U.S.A.) will award (5) prestigious graduate study "Amigo Scholarships" to the top 5 participants in the program. The Amigo Scholarship is a highly competitive scholarship granted to graduate applicants who demonstrate high academic qualifications. The scholarship value is over \$12,000 USD per year. To receive the scholarship, awardees must meet UNM's regular graduate program requirements. For more information visit: international.unm.edu. Academic admissions counseling will be made available to awardees.
2. Certificate of recognition to each of the members of the most outstanding project.

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FEES & SCHOLARSHIP

Students that are enrolled in a University in the Americas, and are competitively admitted to the program, will receive a 100% scholarship by:

- University of New Mexico (UNM)
- Instituto Tecnológico Metropolitano de Medellín (ITM)
- Universidad Politécnica de Santa Rosa Jáuregui (UPSRJ)

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Below is the list of requirements for all program participants.

- A **Nomination Letter** issued by the International Relations Office, Faculty Member, or Academic Support Services Office is required in order to obtain a spot in the program. Make sure the letter includes:
 - o Your name,
 - o GPA,
 - o Percentage of completion, if they will grant credit for your participation,
 - o Level of english proficiency and,
 - o The commitment to allow you to share the experience in as many forums possible within the academic community.
- **Current enrollment at a college or university in the Americas**, and with a good academic standing. Good academic standing is defined as the following:
 - o Students attending Latin American institutions must have a minimum of an 8 out of a 0-10 scale, or equivalent.
 - o Students attending an institution in the United States must have a minimum cumulative GPA of a 3.0 or equivalent
- **Have an advanced standing in your current studies:**
 - o Students attending four year institutions should have completed two years of study or the equivalent
 - o Students enrolled in a US Community College (or other two-year institution) must have completed no fewer than 30 semester hours or the equivalent

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- Demonstrate the necessary maturity and responsibility to be able to participate actively in an intensive virtual international academic program
- Have English proficiency of at least B1 level.
- Be receptive and able to engage virtually with a diverse body of faculty and students in a cross-cultural environment.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants must submit the following documents:

1. Completed **Application Form**: <https://forms.gle/jso2pEaS61FfyWDDA>
2. **Nomination Letter** issued by the International Relations Office or Academic Support Services Office is required in order to obtain a spot in the program. .
3. A **personal statement or Letter of Motivation** written in English in which the applicant describes her interest to participate in the Academy (500-word limit)
4. Be enrolled in any area with the following disciplines: Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics or Architecture.
5. A **letter of recommendation from a faculty member, administrator or researcher from the home institution** (in English or Spanish) in support of the applicant's participation in the Academy
6. An official **copy of the applicant's transcripts** showing that the applicant is academically qualified.
7. For non native speakers of English who are not enrolled at a US institution, show evidence (letter from institution or test score) of having **English proficiency of B1** or above, in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).
8. Scan the above documents into 5 single PDF documents in the order listed below, not exceeding 10 MB total.
9. Name your documents as follows:
 - a. "LASTNAME_FIRSTNAME_NOMINATION_THEACADEMY2021"
 - b. "LASTNAME_FIRSTNAME_MOTIVATION_THEACADEMY2021"
 - c. "LASTNAME_FIRSTNAME_RECOMMENDATION_THEACADEMY2021"
 - d. "LASTNAME_FIRSTNAME_TRANSCRIPT_THEACADEMY2021"

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e. "LASTNAME_FIRSTNAME_ENGLISHLEVEL_THEACADEMY2021"

and send only **ONE EMAIL**, with all documents, no later than 2nd of May 2021 at 12:00 pm to Nadine Arredondo Castro at narredondo@upsri.edu.mx.

Note: If the documents are not properly named as stated above, your application will not proceed.

10. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance by the 14th of May 2021.

For more information regarding the Academy, please contact:

Email: theacademy@unm.edu

or visit our website at

theacademy.unm.edu