

Graduate science students from Mexico to be enrolled at UCSD under joint fellowship program

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As many as 10 graduate students from Mexico, majoring in the natural or physical sciences, could be accepted each year at the University of California, San Diego under a new fellowship program established with the Mexican National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT).

Under their agreement with UCSD, the Mexican government will share roughly one-half the costs of educating the students-- approximately \$20,000 per student per year--until they receive their degrees. Research stipends will be paid by the individual laboratories in which the students work. The maximum amount of time allowed to obtain a degree is five years.

Admission requirements into the CONACYT-UCSD Graduate Fellowship Program, and the course of study in the program, will be the same as any other graduate student admitted to UCSD in the division of natural sciences--which encompasses mathematics, chemistry, physics and biology.

"This condition was set by the Mexican government," said Ivan Schuller, professor of physics and coordinator of the new program at UCSD.

"They wanted to be certain that their people did not get any special privileges."

The new fellowship program is part of a national effort by the Mexican government to offer some of their country's brightest young scientific minds an opportunity to learn at some of the best research institutions in the United States.

Toward that end, the Mexican government targeted approximately 10 universities in the United States for the new fellowship program.

"They want to educate people in the best places where research is done," said Schuller. "They want to educate students in the hard sciences, and they want to give their students the best possible education. That's why they targeted these institutions."

Schuller said he will begin recruiting students in Mexico for the program over the next few months, with the first students expected to arrive on campus some time in 1995.

About 210 undergraduate and graduate students from Mexico are registered at UCSD, with 23 of those on student visas.

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