

Guidelines for Students Applying to the School of Materials Engineering While Also Applying for the CONACYT Fellowship

The School of Materials Engineering at Purdue University and CONACYT have forged a valuable research partnership. The purpose of this document is to help those prospective graduate students through the process of applying for admission to the School of Materials Engineering with important dates and knowledge regarding this process. The document does not address any of the CONACYT application deadlines.

Overview of the Process:

- a) The first point of contact is Linda Higbee, who administers the program at Purdue. Her email address is: lhigbee@purdue.edu. This contact should occur in November for students wishing to begin in August of the following year. Linda will notify the graduate admission chair and graduate admission administrator of your interest. At this stage you should not contact faculty in the School of Materials Engineering.
- b) Next, it is important to apply to the School of Materials Engineering at <https://gradapply.purdue.edu/apply/> . The deadline for full consideration by the graduate admissions committee for entry into the School of Materials Engineering is December 15. Applications received after that may not be considered fully and we strongly encourage all applicants to meet this date. Some helpful guidelines for applying can be found below. Your application will be considered by this committee, and if they believe you can be successful in our program, you will be given an offer letter from the School of Materials Engineering that is *conditional* on receiving the CONACYT Fellowship.
- c) Upon receiving this admission letter you can *now contact* faculty members in the School of Materials Engineering to find a potential research advisor. We recommend that you visit faculty websites, investigate their recent publications, etc. to locate faculty of interest. Not all faculty will be able to support you. We recommend that you make a list of 3-5 faculty members, send each an email indicating your interest, and communicate that you have been given conditional admittance into the School of Materials Engineering and that you are in the process of applying for the CONACYT fellowship.
- d) At Purdue your application package will also be shared with the faculty. Thus, faculty may also contact you before you contact them. Faculty are encouraged to have a skype interview with you if there is mutual interest.
- e) Once you and a faculty member have agreed to work together, please send an email to the following:
 - a. Graduate Admissions Administrator, Rosemary Son, son39@purdue.edu
 - b. Graduate Admissions Committee Chair, Prof. Rod Trice, rtrice@purdue.edu
 - c. PU-CONACYT Fellowship Program Coordinator, Linda Higbee, lhigbee@purdue.edu
 - d. Agreed upon research professor

The email should state, "Prof. X has agreed to let me join his/her research group contingent upon my receiving the CONACYT Fellowship." Please note that if you cannot

find a research advisor, even if you are awarded the CONACYT, you will not be able to attend the School of Materials Engineering.

- f) At this point, we all wait for the CONACYT decision. Please send an email to the same personnel listed above stating the outcome of your CONACYT application as soon as you know.

Advice and Rules Governing Applying to Purdue

- a. Each candidate has to take the GRE within 5 years of the admitted date.
- b. The Purdue Graduate School must have transcripts and diplomas in both Spanish and English.
- c. The Graduate School requires each candidate have TOEFL or IELTS scores within 2 years of the admitted date. We strongly encourage you to take the internet based (iBT) TOEFL as the Purdue Graduate School will at some point no longer accept the paper-based TOEFL. The TOEFL scores required by the Graduate School are— Writing 18, Speaking 18, Listening 14, Reading 19. You must also meet a total score of 80. (The overall band score for the less utilized IELTS test is 6.5).
- d. You will likely have to provide your admission letter from the Graduate School at Purdue for your CONACYT application. Please contact gradadm@purdue.edu to request this letter.
- e. Graduate School deadlines for international students having all their application materials, forms, visa interview, etc. are:
 - a. Fall semester—July 15
 - b. Spring semester—Nov 15
 - c. Summer semester—April 15

In other words, the Purdue Graduate School (and the School of Materials Engineering) has to know by July 15 whether you will attend in the fall. This means that the CONACYT decision has to be known before that date. We have no leverage with the Graduate School if you miss these deadlines. We highly recommend that items should be in at least a month before these deadlines to ensure the visa paperwork can be completed before the deadlines above.