Mexican Antarctic Research Expedition (CAMEX-2)

Call for Proposals 2026/27

In partnership with the National Antarctic Scientific Centre (NASC) of Ukraine.

Introduction

The **Mexican Antarctic Research Expedition CAMEX-2** is a groundbreaking opportunity for Mexican science to conduct high-impact research in Antarctica. CAMEX-2 Scientific Mexican Expedition to the icy continent is made possible through a 5-year cooperation between the Mexican Agency for Antarctic Studies (Agencia Mexicana de Estudios Antárticos, **AMEA**) and the National Antarctic Scientific Center (NASC) of Ukraine. Accepted projects will receive logistical support from NASC, including research time aboard Ukraine's icebreaking research vessel **Noosfera** or at the **Akademik Vernadsky Research Base**, tentatively scheduled for January–February 2027. Participants in CAMEX-2 will spend approximately three weeks in Antarctica, undertaking fieldwork in one of Earth's most remote and scientifically important regions. Projects not selected in this round may be refined and resubmitted for subsequent annual CAMEX expeditions.

Note: This opportunity has developed rapidly, through the collaboration of the Polar Scientific Community of México. At present, neither the Mexican Agency for Antarctic Studies (**AMEA**) nor other entities can provide additional funding beyond in-kind logistical and admin support. Teams must be prepared to secure their own funding for equipment, travel to the city of Punta Arenas, Chile, sample transportation, and other expenses of scientific work as needed. Despite these constraints, CAMEX 2 represents a unique chance to advance knowledge and showcase Mexican innovation on the world stage. Special thanks to the Embassy of Ukraine for making this possible.

Objectives and Scope

The goal of CAMEX-2 is to catalyse world-class Antarctic research led by Mexican scientists, fostering international collaboration and positioning Mexico at the forefront of polar science and Climate change science. We seek research projects of the highest caliber – ambitious, novel, and potentially transformative. Proposals should tackle significant scientific questions with global impact, ideally of a scope and innovation level that could be considered “Nobel Prize” worthy and alike. At the same time, we encourage projects that build long-term research capacity for Mexico in polar science as well as strengthening the national science networks with other global collaborators, establishing foundations for continuous Antarctic presence over the potential 5-year cooperation period with Ukraine.

Key objectives of this call include:

- **Scientific Excellence:** Advance understanding in priority research areas (detailed below) through rigorous methodology and innovative approaches. Projects should strive for breakthrough findings publishable in top-tier journals within the first 2-3 years.
- **International Collaboration:** Leverage the Mexico–Ukraine partnership and linkages with other leading national programs. Joint research that aligns with NASC expertise and ongoing international efforts is strongly encouraged (e.g. co-designing studies with Ukrainian scientists or integrating with European Union Antarctic programs).
- **Capacity Building:** Involve and mentor emerging Mexican researchers (PhD students, postdocs) to develop the next generation of polar scientists. Each project should outline how it will provide training opportunities and career development for early-career researchers.
- **Strategic Impact:** Generate outcomes beyond academia – such as patents, technological innovations, datasets for public policy, educational resources, and public outreach. Proposals should have clear plans for dissemination of results, science communication, and potential applications for societal benefit.

By prioritizing excellence and collaboration, CAMEX-2 aims to produce research that not only addresses scientific frontiers but also elevates Mexico’s profile in Antarctic affairs, in line with international standards and peaceful scientific cooperation.

Collaboration and Support (Mexico–Ukraine Partnership)

CAMEX-2 is conducted in collaboration with Ukraine's National Antarctic Scientific Center, under an agreement of scientific cooperation signed in August 2025. This partnership gives Mexican researchers access to world-class Antarctic infrastructure:

- **R/V Noosfera:** A 100-m class icebreaker research vessel (former **RRS James Clark Ross**) operated now by NASC. Noosfera can accommodate up to 46 scientists and offers laboratories and equipment for oceanographic, atmospheric, and biological research. The ship will transport the expedition from the port of **Punta Arenas, Chile** to Vernadsky Station and serve as a platform for oceanographic/ship-based research in the Southern Ocean.

- **Akademik Vernadsky Station:** Ukraine's permanent Antarctic research base on Galindez Island (65°15′S, 64°16′W), with facilities for meteorology, geology, ecology, and more. Vernadsky (formerly British "Faraday" Station) hasernized labs and living qu modarters for researchers, and it sits in a region rich with marine and terrestrial wildlife (penguin colonies, marine mammals) and unique geology.

- **Field Operations:** Ukrainian logistical support includes zodiac boats for near shore work, field huts, snowmobiles or small boats if needed for sampling, and a network of automated instruments around the station. NASC staff will be on hand to coordinate field-work activities and ensure safety protocols.

NASC Support: The Ukrainian program will provide critical on-site support **in-kind**, similar to support offered by other national Antarctic programs field visits, following international regulations (SCAR, CCMLAR, ATS, etc.). This includes: transportation to/from Antarctica (passage on the Noosfera for personnel and reasonable cargo), lodging and meals on board the ship and at Vernadsky Station, as per the expedition schedule, and basic field supplies (food, fuel, tents, etc. for any away-from-base excursions).

Responsibilities of Participants: Participants (and their institutions) are expected to cover or arrange fo: travel and lodging (accommodation and meals during transit) in Punta Arenas, Chile. (Note: weather delays are common and should be anticipated in travel plans) and shipment of any scientific equipment or samples from Mexico to the port of departure and back. Pre-deployment medical exams (including any required tests, see Health & Safety section) must be arranged and

paid for by each participant. If a project requires special resources (e.g., large instruments, specialized lab chemicals, drones), the team must either provide these or secure funding – and coordinate closely with logistics staff in advance to ensure feasibility. Heavy or oversized cargo may need to be shipped by sea well ahead of time. AMEA may advise budgeting for possible freight and customs costs coordination and special permits.

Financial Note: AMEA currently does not have funding to financially support research activities or equipment purchase. While AMEA will facilitate contacts, letters of support, and sponsor outreach, ultimately each project lead is responsible for securing necessary funding (grants, institutional support, sponsorships) for their project's execution. Be prepared to justify costs and suggest potential funding sources in your proposal. If certain equipment or resources are not yet funded, include cost estimates to explore funding jointly if the project is selected. Despite limited direct funding, AMEA will do their best at facilitating sponsorship opportunities as much as possible.

By combining Mexican scientific talent with Ukrainian polar capacity, we can achieve high-impact results. All participants must be willing to work in a team spirit alongside Ukrainian personnel and possibly other international researchers (the 2026–27 NASC season is highly international, potentially including collaborations with the USA, Poland, Spain, Czech Republic, etc.). This unique environment of cooperation is at the heart of CAMEX-2. Cultural sensitivity to current affairs and scientific diplomacy is advised and will be training-provided.

Research Themes and Priorities

We invite proposals across a broad range of disciplines aligned with Mexican strengths and mutual interests of the Mexican and Ukrainian Antarctic programs. The following priority themes are of particular interest (examples are illustrative but not exhaustive):

- **Climate and Atmospheric Sciences:** Studies of polar climate change and its global impacts. e.g. **Atmospheric rivers** affecting Antarctic Peninsula weather, ozone depletion recovery, aerosol and greenhouse gas measurements, meteorology of the Drake Passage. Projects examining ice–ocean–atmosphere interactions or sea-level rise drivers are especially encouraged.

- **Oceanography and Marine Ecosystems:** Investigations of the Southern Ocean's physical, chemical, or biological processes. This can include ocean circulation around the Antarctic Peninsula, marine biogeochemistry, plankton ecology, marine mammals (seals, whales) and seabirds (penguins, skuas), or fisheries and food-web studies. For example,

deploying oceanographic buoys or conducting transects from Noosfera to study ocean heat content and its effect on ice shelves would be highly relevant.

- **Glaciology and Geology:** Research on ice dynamics, glacial history, and solid earth processes. e.g. glacier monitoring, ice core drilling (if feasible), geomorphology of the Antarctic Peninsula, tectonics and volcanism in West Antarctica. Proposals could aim to install automated weather stations or GPS units on glaciers to track changes, or study geological samples for paleoclimate insights.

- **Biology and Life Sciences:** Antarctic biodiversity and adaptation. e.g. microbial life in extreme environments (snow, ice, permafrost), extremophile genetics (with potential biotech or agricultural applications for resilience), mosses and lichens as indicators of climate, or physiology of Antarctic fauna. One could, for instance, test cultivation of hardy plants/microgreens in a small polar greenhouse module to draw lessons for agriculture in extreme conditions.

- **Environmental Technology and Sustainability:** Development or testing of instruments and systems for polar research. e.g. modular sensor networks for continuous environmental monitoring (atmospheric, seismic, oceanographic sensors), renewable energy solutions for remote stations, remote-operated or autonomous vehicles (AUVs, ROVs, drones) to extend research reach. If you have a prototype automated station or sensor, Antarctica offers a rigorous testing ground. Ensure any equipment is robust, field-tested, calibrated, and comes with manuals for operation in remote conditions.

- **Social Sciences and Humanities: At least one project in social sciences or arts** will be selected each year, recognizing the human dimension of Antarctic endeavours. This could include studies in Antarctic geopolitics, history of polar exploration, psychology of isolation and team dynamics, or even art and multimedia projects inspired by Antarctica (e.g. photography, documentary filmmaking with a scientific message). Such proposals must still demonstrate scholarly merit and clear outputs (e.g. publications, exhibits, educational materials). Interdisciplinary approaches bridging science and society are welcome – for example, a project that engages local communities or students in Mexico with Antarctic science through art, or an ethnographic study of international collaboration at Vernadsky Station.

Projects that integrate multiple themes (multidisciplinary) are encouraged, as

are those that compare Antarctic observations with Mexican ecosystems or global processes (drawing connections between polar and tropical science). When formulating your project, consider the common interests shared with NASC's expertise – Ukraine has strong programs in areas like climate monitoring, ecology, geophysics, and engineering. A collaborative project might, for instance, pair a Mexican atmospheric scientist with Ukrainian meteorologists to study climate phenomena, or involve a joint Mexico-Ukraine oceanography survey.

Finally, ambition and feasibility must be balanced. Aim high with your scientific question, but design a project that can realistically be executed without fieldwork or including 3-4 week Antarctic field work, with perhaps additional analysis time back in Mexico). If your project envisions continuing over multiple years, outline the long-term plan but also what milestones the 2026/27 season will achieve. Remember that a safety first and environmentally responsible approach is mandatory for any Antarctic activity – projects should minimize environmental impact and adhere to all regulations.

Eligibility and Team Composition

This call is open to teams led by researchers affiliated to Mexican institutions. The Principal Investigator (PI) must be a Mexican citizen or legal resident, and ideally an active researcher (for example, member of the National System of Researchers (SNI) levels I, II, or III, or equivalent track record). While the lead must be related to Mexican institutions, international collaboration is welcomed and even encouraged – e.g. co investigators or advisors from leading international programs (Europe, US, etc.) can be included to strengthen the project, provided the proposal clearly remains a Mexican led initiative.

Team Size: Due to logistical planning, there are no fixed places available at the moment for CAMEX-2 participants. We anticipate the selection of around 4 – 6 projects, with typically 1 participant from each project traveling to Antarctica (depending on project scope and logistics). Teams may be larger in terms of researchers at home, but field deployment is limited. In your application, list all team members, and identify two who would possibly go to Antarctica if selected (e.g. 1 PI and 1 student). Final decisions on the roster may involve adjusting participant numbers per project. Priority for deployment will be given to those directly necessary for the field work, and we seek a balance of experienced scientists and promising early-career researchers.

Career Stages: We strongly encourage involvement of PhD students and postdoctoral researchers at every stage of the project. This expedition should provide a career building experience for early-stage scientists, under mentorship of

senior experts. However, given the high standards of this call, all participants must demonstrate the skills, training, and maturity required for Antarctic fieldwork (if required). Undergraduate students, including Master students are generally ***not*** eligible to deploy unless they have exceptional qualifications and are crucial to the project (such cases must be very well-justified).

Institutional Backing: The PI's institution must endorse the project and agree to sign a collaboration agreement (e.g., MOU) with AMEA if selected. This ensures institutional support in aspects like leave time for researchers, use of laboratory facilities for analysis, and coverage of any insurance or liability for their personnel. PI´s affiliated to Mexican institutions are eligible.

Multiple Submissions: An individual may be PI for at most one proposal in this call, but may be a co-investigator on other proposals. We advise focusing efforts on one strong idea to maximize resources. Similarly, each institution can be involved in multiple proposals, but must be prepared to support each if they are selected.

In summary, we seek the best of the best minds in Mexico for this pioneering initiative, while also building a diverse team across career stages and disciplines. The selection will be based on proposals, but we will also ensure a diverse cohort of participants (across genders, institutions, and disciplines, as well as including at least one social science/arts project) to maximize the overall program success.

Health and Safety Requirements

Working in Antarctica is physically and mentally demanding. All participants must meet strict medical and psychological fitness criteria to ensure their safety and the safety of the group. Prior to final acceptance for deployment, each selected team member should provide evidence of a comprehensive and satisfactory medical screening, similar to those for other national Antarctic programs. This Physical Qualification (PQ) process checks for any physical or psychological conditions that could pose a risk in the harsh, isolated Antarctic environment – remembering that medical facilities at Vernadsky/Noosfera are very limited. Conditions that cannot be managed on the ice (e.g. certain chronic illnesses or required medications, serious dental issues, psychiatric conditions) may disqualify a participant. All medical information will be reviewed by independent medicine experts and kept confidential.

Required Exams: Each participant must complete a thorough medical and dental examination (typically at their own expense, see Logistics) by an accredited physician, including blood tests, ECG, and other tests as specified by NASC's medical protocol, depending on the applicant's health condition. Participants must also disclose full medical history; nondisclosure of a relevant condition can result in disqualification. In some cases (especially for overwinter expeditions, though

CAMEX-2 is summer-only) a psychological evaluation or behavioral health questionnaire might be required to assess mental readiness for polar isolation. While CAMEX-2's duration is short (~1 month), we still require mental resilience and the ability to work in a confined team setting under stressful conditions.

Physical and Mental Fitness: There is no specific athletic requirement, but participants should be in good physical and mental shape, able to walk on uneven icy terrain with a backpack, ride on small boats, and handle cold and wind. Fieldwork might involve long days and potentially camping on snow/ice for short periods. If your project involves strenuous activity (e.g. glacier hiking, diving, heavy instrument deployment), please mention training/experience and ensure team members are fit for those tasks.

Training: All selected participants will attend a pre-expedition training program (see Timeline). This will likely include: Antarctic field safety, first aid, environmental protocols, use of survival gear, shipboard safety (possibly a basic sea survival course or ship safety briefing), and team-building exercises. These training sessions are mandatory. Additional specialized training will be arranged as needed (for example, crevasse rescue for glaciologists, or small boat handling if required). Failure to attend training sessions without valid reason may result in replacement by an alternate.

Mental Health and Team Dynamics: Expedition teams live and work in close quarters. We expect professionalism, cultural sensitivity (given the international setting), and a cooperative attitude from everyone. The selection committee will favor candidates who have demonstrated the ability to thrive in team environments and handle stress. We encourage PIs to consider team members' interpersonal skills as well as technical skills. Support systems will be in place: NASC and AMEA will designate contacts for any personal issues that arise during the expedition, and confidential counseling can be made available if needed. Each participant will be required to sign a code of conduct related to safety, respect, and compliance with rules (to be provided in the orientation).

Media and Public Communications

To protect the integrity of the expedition and ensure consistent messaging, direct postings to social media or media outlets from Antarctica are prohibited without prior approval from both AMEA and NASC. All content (photos, videos, statements, or live transmissions) must first be reviewed by the designated communications officers of AMEA and NASC. This protocol safeguards the expedition's public image, prevents misinformation, and ensures compliance with environmental and diplomatic sensitivities. Participants are encouraged to document their experience for later use, but public release will follow official guidelines. Unauthorized postings may be subject to disciplinary measures.

Participants of selected projects should make sure that explicit acknowledgments to AMEA, México and NASC, Ukraine are expressed in written documents, press and live interviews and media. Written documents of results, including scientific reports, science communication, and articles should include: We acknowledge AMEA (Agencia Mexicana de Estudios Antárticos) and National Antarctic Center of Ukraine for logistics and infrastructure.

Language and Communication Skills

Given the joint nature of the expedition, basic Ukrainian language knowledge will be expected from Mexican participants, and reciprocal English proficiency from Ukrainian colleagues. All participants must demonstrate strong English skills (spoken and written), as English will serve as the primary working language for safety, science, and coordination. Language limitations that compromise safety or communication may be grounds for reconsideration of participation. Cultural exchange is encouraged, and participants are expected to be patient and supportive with colleagues learning their language.

Cultural Exchange and Community Life

Expeditions are as much about collaboration as science. Each participant, from every project and country, typically contributes to community activities: cooking, cleaning, maintenance, and shared duties as assigned on a rotating basis. Everyone is expected to participate equally, regardless of rank or role, to sustain group morale and fairness. Cultural sharing—such as preparing national meals, organizing small educational or cultural presentations, or informal music nights—is encouraged, provided these activities respect the mission's schedule and safety priorities.

In summary, safety is paramount. We will not send anyone to Antarctica who is not fully prepared for the rigors involved. By applying, the team members acknowledge these requirements and commit to undergo the necessary evaluations and training. If a participant does not pass the medical clearance, their project may have to send an alternate or in worst case be deferred – so plan teams accordingly (having at least one backup member if possible).

Equipment and Logistics

Successful Antarctic research depends on having the right equipment ready to perform in extreme conditions. Proposals must include a detailed description of the equipment and logistical support needed. Key points to address:

- **Equipment Description and Readiness:** List the major scientific instruments, tools, or technology your project requires. For each, note whether it is already available to your team or if it must be acquired. Ideally, equipment should be already in hand, tested, and calibrated before deployment. Provide evidence of previous field use if applicable. For example: *"We will deploy a modular automatic weather station (Davis Instruments model XYZ) with satellite telemetry. This station was tested in Sierra Nevada winter conditions last year and has an operation manual for remote use."* If you need to build or buy something new, justify why and how you'll manage it in time.

- **Power and Data:** Many projects will rely on electricity (for instruments, laptops, etc.) and data connectivity. Vernadsky Station has limited power (generator-based) and internet connectivity; Noosfera has ship power and possibly internet but constrained bandwidth. If your equipment needs significant power or continuous internet, discuss how you will handle this (e.g., batteries, solar panels, local data logging). For remote deployments (like an automated weather station left in the field), include plans for power (solar, wind, battery) and data retrieval.

- **Transportation of Equipment:** Indicate the weight and volume of gear you plan to bring. Can it be transported by commercial airline to Chile? Will it fit in the ship's cargo hold or require special handling (e.g., dangerous goods permits for chemicals or lithium batteries)? As a rule, equipment should be consolidated into standard shipping containers or crates. If you foresee needing a large container from Mexico to Punta Arenas, flag this early – the project lead will be responsible for coordinating shipment (AMEA can advise and help find sponsors for shipping). Note that any equipment or samples must also be transported back; outline that plan as well (especially for frozen biological samples, etc.).

- **Laboratory Needs:** If your research requires lab facilities (wet lab, fume hood, microscope, freezers, etc.), verify that Vernadsky Station can accommodate it. Vernadsky has basic labs for biology, geology, chemistry, and a weather office. Shipboard labs on Noosfera include oceanography and meteorology labs.
  Describe what spaces or setups you'll need. If you require something very specialized (e.g., an incubation chamber, mass spectrometer), you may need to bring it or arrange access elsewhere – include such details.

- **Field Work Logistics:** Detail any field excursions away from the station. For instance, if you plan to sample on nearby islands or deploy an instrument on a

glacier 10 km from the station, explain how to get there (e.g., small boat, skis/sled, helicopter (unlikely available), etc.) and any camping gear needed. NASC can support small boating operations and has field gear like tents, but these must be planned. If collaborating with station personnel for such trips, note it. All field activities will require an environmental impact assessment (at least a preliminary one in your plan) and contingency plans for weather delays.

- **Environmental and Permitting:** Antarctica is highly regulated. If your work involves interacting with wildlife (taking samples, tagging animals), disturbing the environment (drilling ice, minor excavations, installing instruments), or entering protected areas, you must identify this. Permits under the Antarctic Treaty may be needed (through Ukraine's authority or jointly). For now, describe how you will minimize environmental impact and any permit needs (e.g., "will collect up to 30 soil samples of 100g each; no flora/fauna harmed. The transportation of the samples should consider freezing conditions"). Compliance with the Protocol on Environmental Protection is mandatory – for example, all equipment must be cleaned to prevent non-native species introduction, and all waste must be removed. Also, collaborating with AMEA on the measurements of the CO_2 footprint of the scientific activity developed at Antarctic at the end of the trip is expected.

In essence, treat this section as demonstrating that you have a viable plan to execute your science in Antarctica's context. Projects that appear logistically unfeasible will not be approved. The review panel will consult with NASC logistics experts to assess each proposal's requirements. We strongly advise applicants to be conservative and realistic – focus on the critical equipment and tasks needed to answer your research question, and avoid overly complex setups that might fail in Antarctic conditions. Redundancy and simplicity can be virtues in polar expeditions.

Sample written agreements

Sample agreements regarding property and sharing policies should be signed by AMEA and the PIs, and PI´s institutions.Agreements will vary depending on the project and samples. CAMEX-2 samples may be used and shared under signed agreements amongst institutions. Approved project´s PIs should manage the signing of these documents within no more than six months after the fieldwork in Antarctica.

Application Format and Submission

All proposals must be submitted via the official **Google Forms** (link will be

provided on the AMEA website and social media).

https://antartidamexico.org/camex/

The form will prompt for concise inputs in English. We recommend preparing your responses offline first, then pasting into the form to avoid any loss of data. Additionally, you may upload a PDF of your full proposal (highly recommended for formatting complex answers, figures, etc.), *however the Google Form fields must still be filled out* for uniform evaluation. Please keep responses succinct and clear. Use plain language where possible, avoiding excessive jargon so that reviewers from different disciplines (including NASC panelists) can understand. Adhere to word limits; overly long answers may be truncated for evaluation. All responses must be in English. The form allows saving a draft – do not wait until the last minute to submit. After submission, you will receive a confirmation email.
Along with the form, you can upload a single PDF (max 10 pages, 10 MB) if you want to include figures, diagrams, or letters of support. Ensure the PDF is clearly labelled with your project title and PI name. This PDF is supplemental; the core evaluation will focus on the structured answers in the form.

Selection Process and Criteria

All proposals will undergo a **peer review and panel selection process**. The review panel ("jury" or Selection committee) for this stage consists of:

- **AMEA** – International SCAR scientists and logistics experts, Mexican and from other countries, who have prior Antarctic research experience (e.g., alumni of foreign Antarctic programs or related polar research) across various disciplines.
- **NASC** – experienced Antarctic researchers and program managers from the National Antarctic Scientific Center of Ukraine.
- **Advisors (if needed)** – the panel may consult external experts in specific fields if a proposal is highly specialized, though these advisors will not have a vote in the final decision.

Each proposal will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- **Scientific Merit and Innovation** – Significance of the research question, originality of the approach, and potential to advance knowledge. High-risk, high-reward ideas that could be groundbreaking are welcome, but must show sound scientific reasoning.

- **Feasibility and Logistics** – Appropriateness of the methodology for the Antarctic environment and the likelihood that the project can be successfully completed within the given timeframe and logistic constraints. This includes evaluation of equipment readiness and safety considerations. A brilliant idea that is logistically unworkable will not be selected.

- **Investigator/Team Excellence** – Qualifications and track record of the team to deliver results. The panel will consider the PI's experience, productivity (publications, etc.), and the complementary strengths of team members. In line with the "best of the best" goal, we expect PIs to have demonstrated capability in their field. Early-career talent is valued too – a strong mentorship plan or involvement of top young researchers can enhance this score.

- **Strategic Alignment** –. Projects should deeply commit with questions such as: Does the project build a new capability for Mexico? Does it leverage the Mexico-Ukraine partnership (e.g., utilize NASC infrastructure or datasets effectively, foster longer-term cooperation)? Are the themes in line with global Antarctic research directions (climate change, ecosystem health, etc.)? Priority will be given to proposals addressing topics of mutual interest to Mexico and Ukraine or global significance.

- **Outcomes and Impact** – The expected outputs (scientific and beyond) and their value. Proposals should articulate clear outcomes: high-impact publications, potential for patents or technology, contributions to student training, public outreach, etc. We are looking for projects that will maximize the return on this opportunity through knowledge generation, visibility for Mexican science, and tangible benefits. A plan for continuous work (beyond the 2026 season) can be a plus, showing that the expedition is not a one-off but part of a growing program.

All decisions by the selection committee are final and not subject to appeal. The panel's deliberations are confidential, and scores or individual reviews will not be released. However, applicants will receive a brief summary of the decision and may receive high-level feedback or recommendations for improvement (especially for those encouraged to reapply in future).

We emphasize that this is a highly competitive call. Only proposals that fully meet the criteria and spirit of CAMEX-2 will be selected. If none (or not enough) proposals are deemed suitable, the committee reserves the right to select fewer projects or even cancel the campaign – but we certainly hope and expect to find excellent projects to help to fund. Put your best effort into the proposal to

showcase why your idea deserves this unique opportunity.

CAMEX-2 Timeline (2026–2027)

August 28, 2026 – Call for Proposals Opens

The official call is published with a Google Form link. From this date, teams may review guidelines, prepare questions, and begin drafting their proposals. The expectation is that PIs will circulate the call among their networks and assemble complete applications with clear objectives, methods, and logistical requirements.

September 20, 2026 – Proposal Submission Deadline

All proposals must be submitted online by 23:59 GMT-6. Submissions after this date will not be considered. Teams are encouraged to complete their forms early and ensure every required section is included—missing information will automatically disqualify the project.

October 12, 2026 – Results Announcement

Results will be communicated directly by email to all applicants and posted on AMEA's website. Approved projects will receive an official confirmation and first instructions for the next phase. Unsuccessful applicants will also be informed and are encouraged to refine their ideas for future CAMEX calls.

October 12 to 27, 2026 – Onboarding Week

A series of introductory video meetings will be held with each approved project group. These sessions are designed to introduce Mexican and Ukrainian counterparts, review logistics, clarify responsibilities, and establish the foundations of the expedition community. Participants will have the opportunity to meet other selected teams and ask detailed questions about planning.

October 12- November 1, 2026 – Institutional Agreements Meetings

During this period, AMEA will work with the PIs of selected teams and their home institutions to formalize collaboration through Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs). These agreements define the roles of researchers, confirm institutional backing, and ensure that universities or research centers acknowledge and support the participation of their staff. PIs are responsible for facilitating contact with their administration or legal office.

October–December 2026 – Bi-Weekly Virtual Meetings

A structured training and orientation series will be held every two weeks. Topics include: *Antarctic Introduction, Health and Safety Protocols* (Oct 15), *Culture and Station Life* (Oct 30), *Vessel Operations and Fieldwork* (Nov 15), *Science Synchronization* (Dec 1), and *Logistics and Gear* (Dec 15). These sessions are

mandatory, practical, and interactive; for example, the “Culture and Station Life” session will address shared responsibilities such as cooking, cleaning rotations, and community conduct at Vernadsky & Noosphera alike.

October 15–31, 2026 – Medical Checks
All selected participants must undergo comprehensive medical and dental evaluations, including blood tests, ECG, chest X-ray, and psychological assessment, to confirm fitness for Antarctic deployment. These evaluations must be completed by the end of October to allow sufficient time for clearance and insurance documentation.

December 2026 – Documentation and Cargo Preparation
By mid-December, all required paperwork must be finalized: medical certificates, passports valid at least six months beyond the expedition, insurance documents, and any permits for samples or restricted materials. Scientific equipment and group cargo will be consolidated, packed, and shipped if necessary—some items may need to depart by sea before the end of the year. A final all-team briefing will also be conducted to ensure readiness.

2027

Late December – Punta Arenas Briefing
All participants will travel to Chile, typically in the last week of January, to gather in Punta Arenas. Here, the team will complete pre-departure briefings, customs and cargo clearance, and induction sessions provided by the Chilean Antarctic Institute (INACH). This stage is also the final opportunity to purchase fresh provisions, adjust gear, and meet face-to-face before embarkation.

January–February – Antarctic Expedition
The CAMEX-2 team will embark on the Ukrainian research vessel *Noosfera* and spend approximately four weeks at Akademik Vernadsky Station and surrounding field sites. Work will include data collection, sampling, cultural exchange, and field operations. Activities will be highly dependent on weather and sea conditions, and schedules may change with little notice. Flexibility, teamwork, and strict adherence to safety and environmental protocols are expected.

March–April – Post-Expedition Reporting
Within two months of return, each team must submit a short report summarizing activities, preliminary findings, and challenges encountered. Over 2026–2027, participants are expected to present results at conferences and prepare publications, acknowledging CAMEX and NASC in all outputs. AMEA will coordinate dissemination of highlights to institutions, sponsors, and the public.

Expected Outcomes and Obligations

All selected projects must commit to delivering high-quality results and actively contributing to the broader impact goals of CAMEX-2. The expectations include:

- **Scientific Publications:** Each project should aim to produce multiple peer reviewed publications in high-impact international journals. Ideally, results from CAMEX-2 lead to publications in top disciplinary journals (or even cross disciplinary ones if the findings are of broad significance). We understand publication takes time, but a plan for at least one paper within 1–2 years of the expedition is expected, with others to follow. When publishing, acknowledge AMEA and NASC support and any sponsors.

- **Student Theses and Training:** We strongly encourage that data collected feed into graduate theses (PhD/Master's) for team students. Projects that involve

students should have clear educational outcomes – e.g., a student obtaining their degree based on this research. Similarly, postdocs or early-career scientists should gain significant expertise that advances their career. These human-capacity outcomes are as important as papers.

- **Intellectual Property and Innovation:** If your project has technology components or may result in new inventions (e.g., a new sensor, new materials, biotech discoveries), the expectation is to pursue patents or technology transfer where appropriate. Any patents or licenses arising should appropriately credit the researchers and supporting institutions. (Specific sample use and sharing agreements will be signed between institutions and AMEA).

- **Outreach and Education:** Each project is required to engage in science communication focusing the universal access to science in the Mexican society. At minimum, teams will provide material for AMEA's outreach (photos, videos, interviews) during and after the expedition. Participants might be asked to speak at public events or with media upon return. We encourage production of educational content (e.g., a short YouTube series, blog posts, school visits). For the arts/humanities project, a tangible output like an exhibition, documentary, or published work is expected. AMEA plans to collaborate with a documentary film crew for CAMEX – by participating, you agree to allow filming of certain activities and the use of recorded material for non-commercial, educational documentary purposes (with attribution).

- **Sponsors and Partnerships:** AMEA will coordinate any official sponsor arrangements.

- **Follow-on Collaboration:** CAMEX-2 is just the beginning. Projects that succeed will naturally position themselves for continued Antarctic research, whether in subsequent CAMEX expeditions or through integration into larger programs (e.g., an EU Horizon Europe project, or a co-proposal with NASC to another body). While not a formal obligation, we encourage teams to view this as the start of a long-term Mexico Antarctic research presence. We expect a cooperative ethos, where CAMEX participants become alumni who help mentor future expeditions, share data, and grow the Antarctic science community in México. The organizing committee (AMEA-NASC) will be responsible for resolving any issues not described in this document.

By achieving these outcomes, CAMEX-2 will demonstrate the value of Mexican Antarctic research and help secure future opportunities. AMEA will request periodic updates from project leaders for up to 2 years after the expedition to track outputs (publications, talks, student graduations, etc.). This is to fulfill reporting to stakeholders and justify the program's continuation. Cooperation in providing these updates is a condition of participation.

Terms and Conditions

The following Terms and Conditions apply to this Call for Proposals and the subsequent expedition. By submitting an application, you (and your institution) agree to these terms:

- **Language and Clarity:** All proposal responses must be in clear, concise English. Every section/rubric in the application form should be addressed succinctly and directly. Failure to follow the format or answer all required questions is grounds for disqualification. The proposal should be free of unnecessary jargon, and acronyms should be explained.

Original Work: The proposal must be the original work of the applicants. Plagiarism or unauthorized use of intellectual property will result in disqualification. If you build on prior proposals or use text from your own previous submissions, disclose it and ensure no conflicts of interest.

- **Eligibility Compliance:** The lead PI must meet the eligibility criteria previously described and the proposal should truthfully represent the team composition. Any misrepresentation (e.g., falsely claiming a collaborator or facility) will lead to rejection or, if discovered later, revocation of the project.

- **No Financial Liability:** While AMEA and NASC will provide significant in-kind logistical support, they accept no liability for direct costs of research. All funding arrangements for equipment, travel, and other expenses not explicitly covered must be borne by the project team or their institutions. If a team fails to secure necessary funds or resources to actually conduct their research, the project may be canceled. AMEA will make efforts to assist, but provides no guarantees of financial support.

- **Medical and Safety Compliance:** All selected participants must complete the required medical (and possibly psychological) examinations and be **deemed fit for Antarctic deployment by independent medical reviewers**. Any participant who is Not Physically Qualified (NPQ) will not be allowed to deploy. The medical screening decisions are final and confidential.. If a PI is disqualified medically, the project might proceed with an alternate leader or be canceled at AMEA's discretion. Participants must also attend all mandatory training and follow all safety protocols during the expedition. Violations of safety rules or conduct that endangers the team or environment can result in immediate expulsion from the expedition and potential liability for any damage caused.

- **Environmental Protection:** All activities must comply with the Antarctic Treaty's Protocol on Environmental Protection, and with Ukrainian Antarctic program policies. Do not disturb wildlife, remove or damage any artifacts, or leave any waste. Whatever you bring in, you must plan to bring out (except reasonable organic waste handled by the station). If your project requires a permit (e.g., for sampling flora/fauna or entering an Antarctic Specially Protected Area), it will be coordinated through NASC. You must provide all information needed for permit applications in a timely manner. Non compliance with environmental rules is taken very seriously and can result in project termination and legal consequences.
- **Data and Publications:** Data collected under CAMEX-2 should be shared with the CAMEX/NASC Data program per agreed timelines. Publications resulting from this expedition must acknowledge AMEA and NASC (specific wording will be provided). We encourage open access publishing if feasible. The intellectual property of scientific results belongs to the researchers, but **AMEA/NASC reserve the right to use data and images for non-commercial educational and reporting purposes**, with credit to the project. Any potential disputes over data ownership should be addressed in the institutional agreements stage.

- **Image/Media Release:** By participating, you consent that photos, videos, and audio recordings of the expedition (which may include you and your work)

can be collected by the official documentary team or outreach personnel. These materials might be used in documentaries, news, social media, and reports to showcase the program. Participants will have to sign a separate media release form. You will **retain rights to your own photographs and personal writings**, but AMEA/NASC may request copies of interesting media you capture to share with permission. We will respect reasonable restrictions (for instance, if your research involves proprietary processes you don't want filmed, you can discuss that in advance). Permission will be required before posting anything on your social media while being in Antarctica.

- **Code of Conduct:** All expedition members must adhere to a code of conduct ensuring respectful, professional behavior. Harassment, discrimination, or misconduct of any kind will not be tolerated. The expedition will be an inclusive environment welcoming diversity. Any serious violations may result in immediate removal from the expedition and potential further action.

- **Final Authority:** The selection committee's decisions on proposal approval are final and not open to appeal. NASC, as the host Antarctic program, has final authority on all operational decisions, including the right to cancel or modify expedition plans (for safety, weather, or other reasons). In extreme cases (e.g., political, safety, pandemic, or logistical issues), CAMEX-2 could be postponed or canceled; neither NASC nor AMEA is liable for any costs applicants incur in preparing proposals or equipment in such events. We will, of course, endeavor to avoid such situations and/or find alternatives.

- **No Employment Relationship:** Participation in CAMEX-2 does not constitute employment by AMEA or NASC. It is a voluntary, collaborative research endeavor. As such, participants are not entitled to financial compensation or insurance from AMEA/NASC beyond what is explicitly provided (e.g., emergency medical evacuation insurance may be provided during the expedition). Participants should have their own health and travel insurance. Each participant (and their home institution via the MoU) will likely be asked to sign a waiver of liability acknowledging the inherent risks of Antarctic travel.

- **Future Use of Results:** AMEA and NASC may refer to the outcomes of your project in reports or proposals to continue funding Antarctic activities. By participating, you agree to reasonably cooperate in these broader efforts (for example, providing summaries or participating in meetings to plan future campaigns). This is to ensure the longevity of the Mexican Antarctic initiative.

- **Unforeseen Issues:** Any matter not explicitly covered in this call document

will be resolved by the organizers (AMEA in consultation with NASC) as needed. We are committed to fairness and transparency; if questions or conflicts arise, they will be addressed in good faith, and clarifications or addenda may be issued. Participants are encouraged to communicate any concerns or needs proactively.

By submitting your proposal, you acknowledge that you have read and accepted all the above terms and conditions. We thank you for your interest and ambition in pushing the frontiers of science. This expedition is not just a research trip – it is a pioneering venture for Mexico. We look forward to reviewing your creative and impactful ideas for CAMEX-2.

For any inquiries, contact: presidencia@antartidamexico.org (for questions about the call or form) or : direccion@antartidamexico.org (for specific logistics queries).

Good luck to all applicants, and we hope to see you on the White Continent in 2027!