



MITACS CANADA: INNOVATION THROUGH RESEARCH COLLABORATION

Asistencia técnica de Estados Unidos para que Colombia pueda superar los obstáculos comerciales y mejorar sus normas

GENERAL INFORMATION

Experience: Mitacs: innovation through research collaboration

Country: Canada

Coordinating Institution: Mitacs

Duration of the experience: 1999–Present

Webpage: www.mitacs.ca

Social networks: @mitacsCanada <https://www.facebook.com/Mitacs/>

Area of the successful experience: Involvement of the private sector

DETAILED INFORMATION

1) Description



Mitacs is a national, not-for-profit organization that has designed and delivered research and training programs in Canada for 16 years. Collaborating with our partners, we drive innovation across all sectors and disciplines by training a highly educated workforce, attracting and retaining skilled talent, and fostering research and development (R&D) in Canada.

Mitacs' flagship program, Accelerate, provides interns (graduate students and postdoctoral fellows) at over 50 universities with opportunities to apply their specialized expertise to business-related research challenges. Armed with the very latest tools, techniques, and innovations, the interns bring new perspectives to problems faced by industry partners.



Mitacs believes that investment in a highly educated and skilled workforce, linked with the innovation-based growth of more Canadian companies, can help boost Canada’s productivity and enhance overall business competitiveness, leading to increased wealth and more high-paying jobs.

2) Beneficiaries



benefit to all Canadians.

Our programs enable both interns and faculty members to broaden their research impact by connecting with organizations in the private and non-profit sectors, and applying their skills to new challenges. Industry gains access to specialized knowledge, with research costs matched through Mitacs funding. More broadly, by promoting R&D and innovation — key drivers of productivity — Mitacs programs support economic growth of

3) Implementation



Through our team of specialists with offices across the country, Mitacs actively forges connections with businesses and universities across Canada. Working with supervising professors, Mitacs matches businesses facing research challenges with interns who have specialized knowledge that can be applied.

Mitacs and the intern’s university manage all administrative and financial issues. Each four-month internship project receives \$15,000 in direct funding, with the partner organization and Mitacs each providing \$7,500. The intern receives a stipend of \$10,000, with remaining funds used to support research relating to the internship.

All applications are externally reviewed by subject-matter experts to ensure that research projects are of high quality.

4) Accomplishments and Results

Mitacs conduct surveys to gauge the satisfaction of participants and to understand the outcomes. Findings show that 74 percent of participating firms saw increased value for R&D and innovation, 37 percent launched new R&D projects as a result of their experience, 36 percent developed a new or enhanced product through the project, and 66 percent said the project results had been or would be commercialized. Further, 31 percent of businesses saw market expansion.



5) Offers of cooperation with the region to exchange practices

Sharing of information via e-mail

Teleconferences
Videoconferences
Workshops

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The collection of experiences showcasing successful projects implemented by stakeholders in countries of the Americas is one of the most important tasks of the Inter-American Competitiveness Network (RIAC). There are more than 200 experiences available in the Signs of Competitiveness in the Americas Reports 2012 -2015: www.riacreport.org.

The Organization of American States (OAS) serves as the RIAC Technical Secretariat to facilitate the knowledge sharing between countries, multilateral and academic institutions. The experiences and intellectual contributions presented by RIAC members for the 2015 Signs of Competitiveness in the Americas Report will provide valuable input for the RIAC Annual Meetings and the panel discussions during the IX Americas Competitiveness Forum (ACF) to be held in Guatemala City, on November 16-18, 2015.

For the latest information about the RIAC and the 2015 Signs Report follow us on Twitter @riacnet.org #RIACreport