GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS: “Co-Creating Capacities to Understand, Visualize and Mitigate Climate-Change Impact Cascades and Inequities in Central Mexico”

**Background:** In 2022, “Co-Creating Capacities to Understand, Visualize and Mitigate Climate-Change Impact Cascades and Inequities in Central Mexico” was awarded a $1.5M grant from the National Science Foundation Program Partnerships for International Research & Education (PIRE, Award # 2230723). It involves nine Clark faculty from International Development, Community & Environment (IDCE), Graduate School of Geography, and Becker School of Design & Technology (BSDT). Our partners in Mexico include faculty from the National Autonomous University of Mexico’s (UNAM) Laboratory for Sustainability Sciences (LANCIS), Institute of Atmospheric Sciences & Climate Change (ICAyCC), and Program for Climate Change Research (PINCC) – as well as the Mexico City government and local communities. The project co-creates and integrates four components: 1) a regional climate-change atlas using web-based GIS to map and spatially analyze climate, water, food/agriculture, ecosystem, health and livelihood conditions; 2) a system dynamics model (SDM) to represent interactions among these sectors, impact cascades (one sector’s impacts propagate through others), the unevenness of impacts across populations/landscapes, and the simulation of alternative futures; 3) an eXtended Reality (XR) platform that allows stakeholders to inhabit those futures virtually with the aim of charting sustainable, socially just, climate-resilient pathways; and 4) a research/practice-based suite of courses that Clark and UNAM students take together – including field research with local community partners. Interdisciplinary stakeholder co-creation is central to the work: cohorts of Clark students spend 6 months in the field living and working with community partners and UNAM peers. The project is a transformative team-based experience.

**Who we seek:** Fluent Spanish speakers, including Latinx students for whom Spanish is a first language, as well as others with significant experience working in Spanish-speaking countries or communities (e.g., Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, Americorps*VISTA or Teach-for-America alumni).

**OUR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS – Join a closely-knit interdisciplinary graduate student team to pursue:**

- **MS in Environmental Science & Policy:** Co-create the knowledge and decision-making capacities of the research team (Clark + UNAM), our community partners, and partners in Mexico City government.
- **MS in Geographic Information Science:** Develop and pilot a regional climate-change atlas, co-created and co-owned by our community and government partners.
- **MA in International Development:** Be part of a social-technical enterprise that represents a new co-creation paradigm for sustainable development work.

Field visit to rainwater harvesting project in Mexico City neighborhood.

OUR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS, CON’T'D

• **MA in Community Development & Planning**: Build relationships with communities impacted by climate change by working alongside them to build collective capacity to understand and respond.

• **MFA in Interactive Media**: Help us develop an exciting eXtended Reality (XR) platform that allows diverse groups to visualize and interact with alternative climate/development futures.

Fellowships MS/MA/MFA

Tuition award of at least 60% (more on a needs basis, one award at 100%); stipend of $800/month for 12 months, plus fieldwork stipend of $1100/month for 6 months, plus travel to/from Mexico.

Times to Degree

• **12-course MS or MA in IDCE**: Enter Fall 2023 (at Clark), Fieldwork Spring/Summer 2024 in Mexico, Fall 2024 (at Clark).

• **15-course MFA in BSDT**: Enter Fall 2023 (at Clark), Fieldwork Spring/Summer 2024 in Mexico, Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 (at Clark).

**Application Process**: Please consult the webpages below for more information on programs and the application process. Deadlines: June 1 for Fall, November 1 for Spring. Contact Prof. Tim Downs (TDowns@clarku.edu) for more information and to arrange a Zoom meeting.

**For More Information about the Application Process**:

• MS and MA Programs in Dept. of International Development, Community & Environment (IDCE): www.clarku.edu/schools/idce/

• MFA Program in Becker School of Design & Technology (BSDT): www.clarku.edu/schools/becker-school-of-design-and-technology/

• For more on the research project and fellowship opportunities: Prof. Tim Downs (TDowns@clarku.edu)

The Clark Team at UNAM in 2019, in front of the iconic mural-covered Central Library.

Project publications to date with "student co-authors:
