



university of
 groningen



UNAM
ALEMANIA

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

AI for Health: UG–UNAM Challenge Pilot 2026

Testing AI-enabled collaboration toward the 2027 celebration of 200 years of Netherlands–Mexico diplomatic relations

The University of Groningen in the Netherlands and the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) invite researchers and students from both universities to take part in a joint challenge on Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Health. You bring a research line; if needed we help you find a partner across the two universities; together you develop and present an early-stage idea for AI-enabled health collaboration. The pilot is a first step toward a larger 2027 flagship initiative marking 200 years of diplomatic relations between the Netherlands and Mexico.

Why take part?

- Meet and team up with researchers at the partner university working on AI and health.
- Develop a concrete, early-stage collaboration idea – not a finished project.
- Present it at the hybrid pilot event in Groningen in December 2026 (exact date to be confirmed).
- The winning pitch receives travel vouchers of €1,500 each for a collaboration-development visit.

Who can apply?

Applications are submitted by joint UG–UNAM student teams. Student teams – doctoral, master's or undergraduate – develop and present the pitch. Each team is supported by senior researchers at both universities, who are in contact with each other and provide oversight.

You do not need your team in place to start. Matchmaking runs from the call launch: we help students and senior researchers across UG and UNAM connect and form teams. If you already have contacts at the partner university, you can apply as a ready-formed team.

Focus: AI & Health

The pilot uses AI as an enabler for health challenges relevant to both Mexico and the Netherlands – for example diagnosis and clinical decision support, public health and disease prediction, health equity and telemedicine, drug discovery, nanomedicine and biosensors, infectious-disease monitoring, environmental and climate-related health risks, or responsible AI and health data governance. These examples are illustrative, not exhaustive – any AI-and-health topic relevant to both countries is welcome.

How it works

- 1. Form your team (Stage 1).** Matchmaking opens with the call and runs through the summer. Complete the short research-line profile – what you work on and what you are looking for – and we help connect students and senior researchers across UG and UNAM, including an optional online session. You are welcome to use AI tools to help find collaborators. Stage 1 form: [Stage 1 link](#).
- 2. Register your team (Stage 2).** Once your team is formed, register it via the registration form by 30 September 2026. Registration form: [Stage 2 link](#).
- 3. Submit your concept (Stage 3).** Registered teams submit a two-page concept note by 25 October 2026.



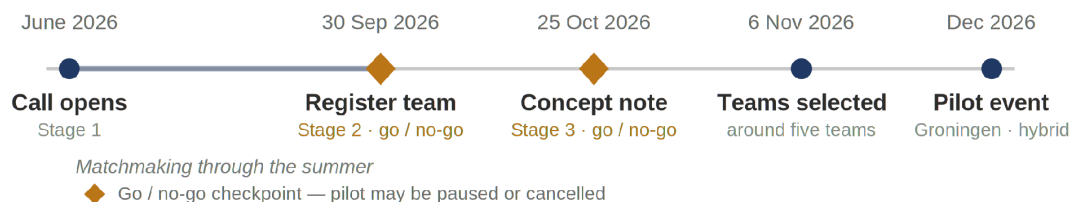
4. **Selection.** Around five teams are selected to present, with results announced by 6 November 2026.
5. **Pilot event.** Selected teams pitch their ideas at a live event in Groningen in the first half of December 2026; hybrid participation is possible. The full program for the day will be announced closer to the time.

Travel and participation

A limited number of UNAM-based participants can be supported to attend in person in Groningen. Remote and hybrid participation is also welcome.

Key dates

The pilot depends on sufficient interest and quality. UG and UNAM will review at each checkpoint — team registration (30 September) and concept submission (25 October) — and may decide at either point not to proceed. Selection decisions rest with the UG–UNAM organizing committee and are final, and program details may still be adjusted.



How to apply

Start by completing the Stage 1 research-line profile to enter matchmaking: [Stage 1 link](#). If you already have a team, go straight to the registration form: [Stage 2 link](#). Questions are welcome at latinamerica@rug.nl & gestion@alemania.unam.mx.