NIST-SIM Engagement Opportunity

2019 – 2020

The NIST-SIM Engagement Opportunity provides support to Active Members*, National Metrology Institutes (NMIs) or Designated institutes (DIs), of the Interamerican Metrology System (SIM). NIST supports SIM efforts to promote an integrated metrology infrastructure throughout the Americas.

Applications

Applications must have approval by NMI or DI Management. Applicants must specify what type of activity is being sought, the level of support required, and the project plan. Applicants requesting Guest Researcher appointments must meet language proficiency requirements.

Evaluation Criteria

Efforts will be taken to ensure support is provided to as many NMIs as possible. New activities/partnerships will be given priority. Applications must clearly identify project objectives. Applicants should contact NIST hosts/ collaborators prior to submitting an application.

NIST Contact Information

For more information regarding this opportunity and to answer any questions you might have regarding the application process, please contact Andrew Conn at andrew.conn@nist.gov.

*Participating SIM NMI or DI must possess an Active Membership type with SIM to receive support.

Activity Types

Application Timeline

FOREIGN GUEST RESEARCHER APPOINTMENTS
GUEST RESEARCHER EXCHANGES, RUNNING FROM 3-MONTHS TO 1-YEAR, BRING NIST LABAROTORY STAFF TOGETHER WITH SIM AFFILIATED METROLOGISTS TO ADVANCE KEY MEASUREMENT SCIENCE OBJECTIVES.

CALIBRATION SERVICES
NIST OFFERS CALIBRATIONS IN A WIDE ARRAY OF MEASUREMENT FIELDS. THROUGH THIS OPPORTUNITY, NIST MAY BE ABLE TO SUPPORT PARTICULAR CALIBRATION NEEDS. VISIT www.nist.gov/calibrations FOR MORE INFORMATION.

STANDARD REFERENCE MATERIALS
SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE TO SECURE SRMS FOR SIM PARTNERS – VISIT www.nist.gov/srm FOR MORE INFORMATION ON NIST PRODUCE SRMS.

LEGAL METROLOGY
THE NIST OFFICE OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES PROVIDES TRAINING TO METROLOGISTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR – VISIT www.nist.gov/pml/weights-and-measures/about-owm/calendar-events FOR MORE INFO.

Deadline to Apply

11 October 2019

Application Review

14 October – 1 November 2019

Applicants Notified of Final Decision

4 November 2019

NIST-SIM Engagement Opportunity / 2019 – 2020

Please complete this application and return to Andrew Conn (andrew.conn@nist.gov)	
Applicant's Name:	
NMI/DI:	
Applicant's Email:	
Activity Type (Please specify the type of support being requested; see page 1 for more details) Guest Researcher SRMs Calibrations Metrology Training Course (OWM)	
Metrology Area:	
Name of NIST Host/Point of Contact (Required):	
Expected Start Date & End Date:	
SRM Number or Calibration service (if applicable):	
Training Course Title (if applicable):	

Project Summary:
Explain what type of research, training, or measurement activity will be supported through this project.

Objectives and Measures of Success:
What achievements will be reached through this exchange? What would define a successful collaboration?

Benefits to SIM, Participating NMI, and NIST:
How will all parties involved benefit from this proposal? Will new or existing services be developed or improved?

Management Approval	Name and Title	Signature

Guidance on Language Proficiency Verification

Effective January 5, 2015, the U.S. Department of State is requiring all prospective exchange visitors coming to the U.S. in J-1 visa status demonstrate sufficient English proficiency. The burden for documenting English proficiency rests with the host institution. Therefore, before the International and Academic Affairs Office (IAAO) may issue the DS-2019 *(Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor J-1 Status)*, documentation must be provided by the NIST host of the potential FGR's English language proficiency. It is **recommended** that the English proficiency verification be completed **prior to extending the invitation to participate in NIST's Exchange Program.**

The Department of State released the following guidance to illustrate the level of proficiency that will be required:

 "The Department believes that not only is an exchange visitor's success in his or her particular program dependent upon sufficient English language capability, but good English communication skills are essential to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of exchange visitors. Moreover, the Department continues to find that too many exchange visitors lack sufficient English proficiency to perform their jobs or complete their exchange programs; to navigate daily life in the United States; to read and comprehend program materials; to understand fully their responsibilities, rights, and protections; and to know how to obtain assistance, if necessary. Accordingly the Department adopts a modified version of the regulatory language governing the Trainee and Intern categories as the program-wide standard for determining the English language proficiency of exchange visitors. The Department reminds sponsors to retain evidence of how they measured applicants' English language proficiency so that it may be made available to the Department upon request."

Any of the following methods established by the Department of State for determining English language proficiency will suffice:

1. **English Language Proficiency Test:** IAAO will accept results of either the IELTS (International English Language Testing System) or TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) as they are the most widely utilized tests in higher education and are available throughout the world:
    *   IELTS overall score of 5.5 or higher
    *   TOEFL (internet based) overall score of 65 or higher, or computer based score of 183 or higher, or paper based score of 513 or higher.

2. **Signed Documentation from an Academic Institution or English Language School:** IAAO will accept a transcript with enrollment and grades from a post-secondary academic institution where English is the primary language of instruction.

3. **Documented Interview Conducted by the NIST Sponsor in-person, by videoconference, or by web camera (NOTE: a telephone interview is acceptable only if the scholar is personally known to the Sponsor):** IAAO will accept documentation of a video interview conducted by the NIST sponsor, unless the scholar is personally known to the host, in which case a telephone interview will suffice.

For all incoming J1 Exchange Scholars, the NIST sponsor must complete and sign the English Proficiency Verification Form and forward it to IAAO either as an attachment to the NAIS Process, as an email attachment or in hard copy (Building 101/Room A207, Mailstop 1090). The interviewer need not be an expert in English language testing.

Note: NIST is required to retain the English Proficiency Verification Forms confirming the method used to determine English proficiency, and including any applicable proof. Verification documents must be received before a DS-2019 may be issued. **Failure to do so may result in NIST losing Department of State certification to host J-1 exchange visitors**.