

Unearthing Futures

Empowering students to bridge education and the practice of sustainable construction

January 13 - 24, 2025 | UNAM | Mexico City

Introduction

The Holcim Foundation wishes to grow and support its global community of change accelerators of all ages by creating educational opportunities that foster a systemic enquiry approach for built environment students, educators and practitioners alike.

The Holcim Foundation Fellowship aims to create unique moments for students, educators and practices in all regions of the world to learn together from recently built projects and to challenge existing modes of practice. This in-person intensive two-week course at Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), **facilitated by Gabriela Carrillo and José Gabriel Amozurrutia Cortés**, seeks to foster a curiosity and solutions-driven mindset through a series of actions - open dialogue, consultation, exploration, and reflection - and to create a dynamic feedback loop that leads to transferable and scalable outcomes.

The UNAM School of Architecture will host the second cohort of the Holcim Foundation Fellowship in January 2025, open to candidates based in Latin America. Students will come to the campus of UNAM to work with instructors and practitioners, observe, analyze, question, propose and design interdisciplinary strategies for transforming the mechanisms that afflict the socio-environmental state of Latin American cities. Fellows will also visit case study projects in Mexico City to meet practicing professionals and learn from presentations about the innovative leadership work of their firms. They will produce final projects that will be documented in a digital publication that will become a reference for future students and professionals worldwide. Upon completion of the program, selected Fellows will be chosen to take part in the next step of the journey - the Holcim Foundation Emerging ChangeMakers.





Fellowship Objectives

Expose current final year or recently graduated students of a professional degree program (including Master's students) within the built environment to realities of practice on building sites and the end-user's experience – bridging the gaps between academia, the profession and society.

Foster the adoption of a humble posture of learning among professionals and students as a way to close the knowledge and execution gap.

Empower students by equipping them with the skills required to succeed as catalysts for industry transformation in their studies and future careers.

Support career development, continued learning, mentorship, and collaboration through future participation in Holcim Foundation international programs, events and networking opportunities.

Fellowship Format and Program

20 candidates from across Latin America will be selected as Holcim Foundation Fellows to take part in this unique program - from January 13th to the 24th 2025 - at UNAM in Mexico City.

Participants will engage in focused lectures, discussions and talks on relevant themes, led by the UNAM School of Architecture's faculty and other guest interdisciplinary experts, lecturers and building industry practitioners.

Site visits of real projects will provide an immersive experience, exploring user needs, planning requirements and innovative construction methodologies, in collaboration with JSa, Locus, Riparia and Taller Capital.

Learnings will be shared in discussions with professionals aligned with Holcim Foundation's goals and principles.

Selected participants will embark on the next phase of the journey as a Holcim Foundation Emerging ChangeMaker and open the door to a transformative experience that could shape their future and contribute to the transformation of the industry.

Application and Selection

Applications are open to current final year or recently graduated students of a professional degree program (including Master's students) in the fields of Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Urban Design, Urban Planning, Historic Preservation, Structural/Civil/Construction Engineering and Real Estate Development - at any university in Latin America.

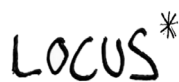
- Students are selected using the following academic/merit and interpersonal criteria (in English or Spanish):
 - A 2-minute video
 - * Introduce yourself, your motivations and why you would like to take part in the Holcim Foundation Fellowship.
 - * Be as creative, artistic, serious or oratorical as you wish, but make sure your face is visible while you speak for at least half of the video.
- A 800-word reflection paper covering the following themes:
 - The reasons for self-leadership and collaboration within future careers.
 - Value of contextual learning for reaching Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and advancing the construction industry.
- Student portfolio - no longer than 4 slides/pages. The applicant's academic program relevance will be taken into consideration.
- Two letters of recommendation: One academic and one academic or professional. Both letters to be submitted by the referees.

Program aspires to appoint a cohort of Fellows from a variety of backgrounds.

20 students will be selected from across Latin America by the UNAM School of Architecture.

Deadline for application is July 7, 2024

Partnering Firms



Useful Links

[UNAM Application](#) ➔

[Holcim Foundation Fellowship](#) ➔

[About the Holcim Foundation](#) ➔



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