

Scholarship Call for Applications
Fungi in the Flow: Training Workshop on the Unexplored Aquatic Fungal Biodiversity in Colombia

Workshop dates: October 22–24, 2026

Venue: Universidad Industrial de Santander, Bucaramanga, Colombia

Organizers: Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Universidad de Antioquia, Colombian Mycological Association – III Colombian Congress of Mycology, University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI),

Participation: Scholarship-based

1. Introduction

Aquatic fungi play a fundamental role in the functioning of freshwater ecosystems, specifically for matter decomposition, nutrient cycling, and the maintenance of aquatic food webs. Despite their ecological importance, their diversity, ecology, and distribution remain poorly studied in Colombia and throughout much of Latin America, representing an important opportunity for the development of new research initiatives.

To strengthen research capacity in this field, the **III Colombian Congress of Mycology** invites undergraduate and graduate students, as well as early-career researchers, to apply for this international training workshop. Over the course of three days, participants will receive both theoretical and hands-on training in:

- Diversity and ecology of aquatic hyphomycetes
- Sampling strategies in freshwater ecosystems
- Morphological characterization of aquatic hyphomycete species
- Theoretical basis of isolation and culturing techniques for aquatic fungi
- Preservation and management of living fungal collections
- Current research perspectives and opportunities in aquatic mycology

The workshop will be taught by national and international researchers with extensive expertise in aquatic fungal biodiversity and ecology. The main language will be English.

A specialized training opportunity

The workshop combines lectures, hands-on field and laboratory sessions, and discussions with internationally recognized experts in aquatic mycology. Participants will benefit from a close interaction with the instructors and individualized guidance throughout the course.

2. Scholarships

A total of **nine (9) participants** will be selected through an open competitive call.

Selected participants will receive:

- Free registration to the workshop
- Laboratory materials

- Participation in the field excursion for sample collection
- Certificate of completion
- Accommodation during the workshop
- Coffee breaks and lunches throughout the course
- Round-trip travel support to Bucaramanga

3. Eligibility

Applications are open to:

- Undergraduate students (third year or above) in Biology, Microbiology, Environmental Sciences, or related disciplines
- Master's and Ph.D. students in these or related disciplines
- Early-career postdoctoral researchers (within two years of obtaining their Ph.D.)
- Applicants based in Colombia and other Latin American countries

Applicants should demonstrate an interest in fungal biodiversity, aquatic ecology, or closely related research areas.

4. Application Documents

Applicants must submit a **single PDF file** containing:

- A motivation letter (maximum one page) explaining: their interest in participating; how the workshop relates to their academic background or research project; the expected impact of the training on their academic and professional development.
- A short curriculum vitae (maximum two pages).
- Proof of current enrollment or institutional affiliation.
- A letter of support from their thesis advisor, supervisor, or principal investigator (when applicable).

5. Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated by the organizing committee according to the following criteria:

Criterion	Points
Quality of the motivation letter	30
Relevance of the applicant's academic or research activities to the workshop topic	20
Academic background and research potential	15
No previous formal training in aquatic fungi and lack of institutional financial support to attend the workshop	15
Geographic and institutional diversity	10
Balanced representation of institutions and Latin American countries	10
Total: 100 points	

In the event of a tie, priority will be given to applicants from institutions that have not previously been represented in similar training activities. IMPORTANT: only a few grants are available for people outside Colombia, and it is dependent on funds.

6. Timeline

Activity	Date
Call opens	August 11, 2026
Application deadline	August 30, 2026
Evaluation period	August 31 – Septiembre 08, 2026
Results announced	September 09, 2026
Confirmation of participation	September 15, 2026
Workshop	October 22–24, 2026

7. Application Submission

Applications must be sent by email to:
asocolombianademicologia@gmail.com

Subject line:

Application – Fungi in the Flow Workshop

9. Support

This workshop is funded by the Swiss Leading House Latin America



University of St.Gallen

Institute of Management in Latin America
Leading House Latin America