

Instituto Nacional del Litio y Salares



Overview

The National Institute for Lithium and Salars (INLiSa), located in the city of Antofagasta, in the Antofagasta Region -in the extreme north of Chile-, is a Chilean public institution created to develop, coordinate, and strengthen scientific, technological, and territorial capacities related to lithium, salars, and their associated ecosystems. INLiSa operates as a national reference center for critical minerals, integrating interdisciplinary research, applied innovation, technological piloting, and evidence generation to inform public and private decision-making.

INLiSa’s mission is to reduce scientific uncertainty, improve the governance of salars, enable new clean technologies, and promote a sustainable lithium value chain, contributing to national development and to global clean energy challenges.

The Institute articulates national and international networks with universities, research centers, government agencies, and territorial stakeholders, positioning itself as a strategic partner for scientific and technological cooperation initiatives.



Research

INLiSa structures its scientific work around three strategic areas:

Hydrogeology and Salar Dynamics	Processing Technologies	Scientific Infrastructure and International Networks
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Water balance modeling● Long-term environmental monitoring● Interactions between extraction, recharge, and ecosystems● Open data platforms and remote sensing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Evaluation and piloting of direct lithium extraction (DLE) technologies● Concentration and purification processes● Development of advanced materials and value-added byproducts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● National Hydrogeological Platform for Salars● Network of laboratories and pilot sites in Atacama● Linkages with international agencies, universities, and laboratories● Territorial Information Systems



Infrastructure and Institutional Capacities

INLiSa offers applicants high-level infrastructure and institutional capacities for academic and scientific development. The Institute has offices and specialized teams in the Atacama and Antofagasta regions, as well as access to partner university laboratories.

INLiSa operates scientific and technological pilot facilities and advanced digital platforms for data management and monitoring. Its territorial coordination with public and private entities, together with ongoing programs in hydrology, geosciences, ecology, materials science, and processing, ensures a collaborative and multidisciplinary environment.

These capacities enable the hosting of international researchers, the articulation of high-level academic activities, and the facilitation of scientific collaborations.



Priority Thematic Areas for Fulbright Scholars

INLiSa values interdisciplinary profiles with a strong focus on innovation and applied, field-based research, particularly in:

- Hydrogeology, numerical modeling, and geosciences
- Remote sensing, satellite analysis, and sensor technologies
- Chemical processes, electrochemistry, and DLE technologies
- Materials science related to batteries and lithium

Institutional Contact



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