

# AuthorAID on-line courses in Mexico and Latin America

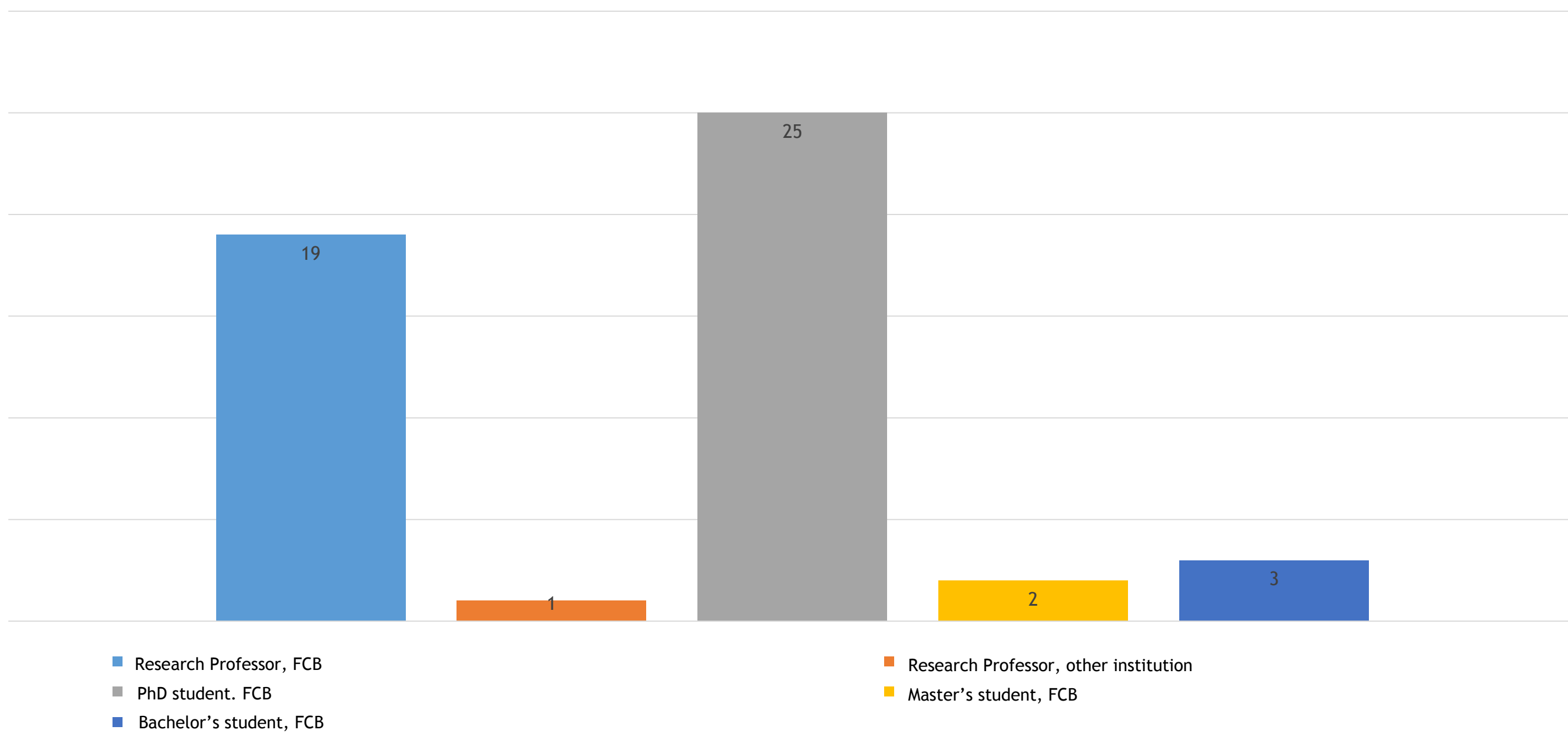
Alejandra E. Arreola Triana  
 Facultad de Ciencias Biológicas, UANL  
 alejandra.arreolatr@uanl.edu.mx  
 alex.arreola@gmail.com

## Introduction

The on-line AuthorAID Research Writing course was translated to Spanish to provide training for researchers in Latin America who may not be proficient in English.

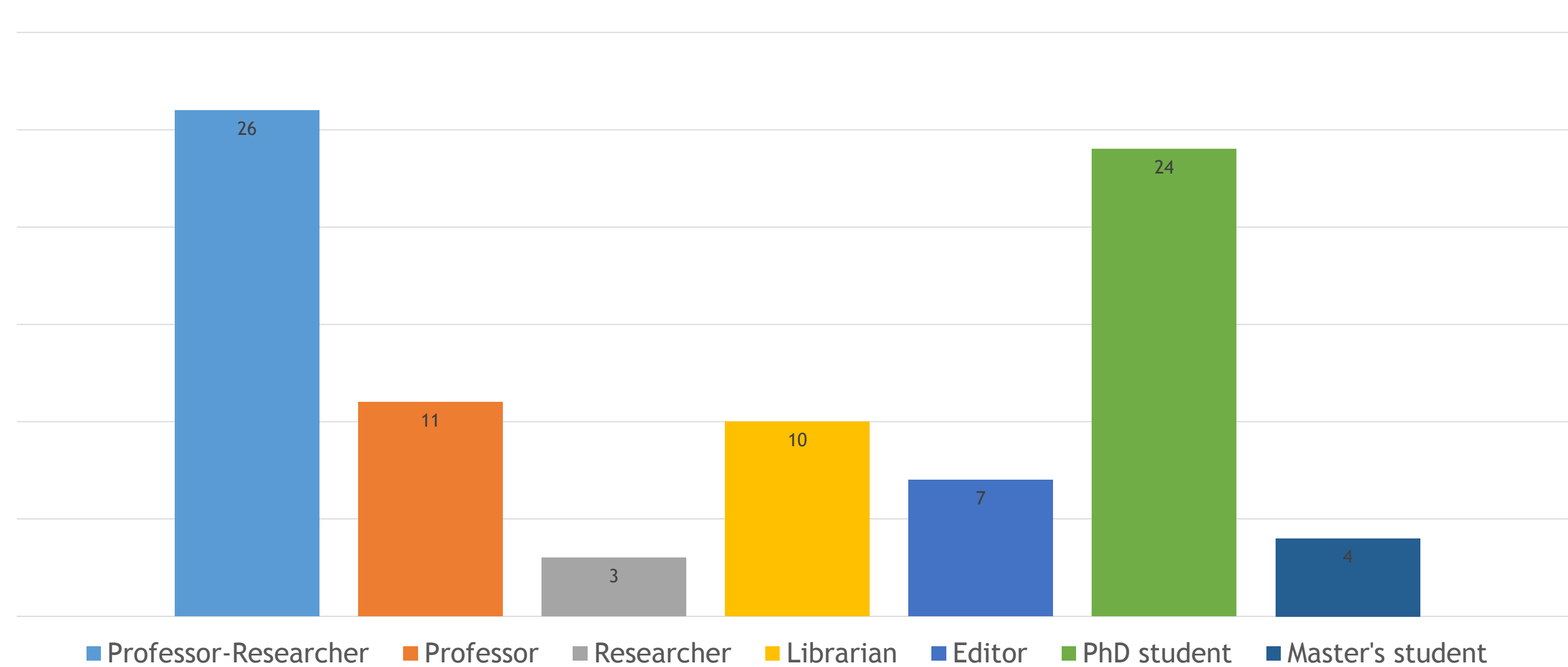
- The Pilot course ran in Oct-Nov. 2014, with participants from the College of Biological Sciences (FCB), UANL, Mexico

Pilot Course 2014  
 Position in the Institution



- The AuthorAID-Latindex course ran in June 2015 with participants from 15 countries in Latin America and Europe.

AuthorAID-Latindex 2015  
 Position in the institution



## Training outcomes

	Pilot	AuthorAID-Latindex
Participants	72	150
Completers	58	85
Pre-course test average	5.95	6.04
Post-course test average	8.2	8.47

## Key lessons learnt

- Research writing courses in Spanish are in great demand, especially among graduate students and early-career researchers.
- After the course, participants feel motivated to publish.
- Discussion forums and activities are considered useful and interesting.
- Completion of peer-evaluation activities causes anxiety among participants—instructions and expectations must be clear.
- Due dates and evaluation criteria must be clearly stated. Some flexibility can be applied, but enforcement should be consistent.
- Participants expect individual feedback from facilitators even though it is not feasible because of course constraints.
- There should be a way to inform organizers of publications derived from the course or other indicators of success.

## Future plans

- Acquire and set-up a Moodle server for the FCB
- Implement blended course as part of the graduate curriculum in the FCB
- Offer course in other colleges and institutions