



2018 GRADUATE SUMMER SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Now in its sixth year, the UCLA Blum Center *Summer Scholars Program* supports training and field experience for graduate student research in **Latin America** on issues related to poverty and improved health outcomes.

Through this program, graduate students live and work in a region of Latin America and work with universities, international institutions and/or community organizations involved in activities focused on improving health and social conditions of local populations.

Each student will be mentored both by a faculty member from their respective university and a representative from the sponsoring host organization in Latin America.



2017 Summer Scholars with researchers at National Autonomous University of Nicaragua, in Leon, Nicaragua

PROJECT GUIDELINES AND SITE LOCATIONS

Graduate student scholars serve with organizations in Latin America working to address health equity and social determinants of health, strengthen access and delivery of health services, and develop multi-sectoral policy interventions. Up to six students will be selected for the 2018 research field experience.

Selected students are responsible for developing their own projects, for which there are two options:

1.) Develop a project with the UCLA Blum Center on Poverty and Health in Latin America and one of the Center's partner organizations.

A core element of the UCLA Blum Center's mission is to build collaborations with institutions throughout Latin America to jointly tackle health challenges. The UCLA Blum Center will work with selected students and partners to develop a collaborative project.

Potential 2018 Host Organizations include:

- Centro de Investigacion y Docencia Economicas, A.C. (CIDE)- Mexico City and Aguascalientes, Mexico
- Cayetano Heredia University – Lima, Peru
- FNE International – Leon, Nicaragua
- Project SEMILLA - Leon, Nicaragua
- Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Nicaragua - Leon, Nicaragua



2015 Summer Scholar at Institute of Mexican Social Security in Cuernavaca, México

2.) Develop a project with a reliable host institution in Latin America. In this instance, students may identify and propose potential host organizations and/or mentors, research questions, and project ideas.

RESEARCH TOPICS

Topics of past student research projects include:

- Technology innovation and its use in public health
- Chronic disease and quality of health
- Education and health care access
- Social justice and welfare reform



While priority will be given to projects developed with the UCLA Blum Center's partners, all applicants **must** work with the UCLA Blum Center and potential host organizations to design a proposal that aligns with the UCLA Blum Center's mission:

To improve the health and well-being of Latin American communities in need. The UCLA Blum Center on Poverty and Health in Latin America prioritizes innovative thinking and an inclusive approach to provide research that informs policy, programs, and training for the next generation of leaders.

FUNDING AVAILABLE

Students are eligible for a maximum award amount of \$4,000, which will serve as a stipend to help cover transportation costs (air and ground), lodging and meals. (Most sites can assist students find housing for their stay. In some cases, sites will arrange housing for an additional amount that would be covered by the stipend).

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Full-time graduate students at University of California schools and Departments including (but not limited to): Public Health, Medicine, Nursing, Public Affairs, Political Science, or Latin American Studies
- Citizen or resident of the United States with valid, current passport
- Strong proficiency or fluency in Spanish and/or Portuguese is required depending on proposed site
- Project must be related to health policy and social determinants of health

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Students selected for the Summer Scholars program will be required to:

- Serve in Latin America for the duration of the summer (minimum of 8 weeks) and participate in pre-departure and follow-up activities in the United States
- Work with the UCLA Blum Center and host organizations pre-departure to develop their research projects and coordinate logistics related to travel and lodging
- Complete a report on the project and participate in presentations as requested by the UCLA Blum Center and/or student's home department
- Conduct presentation on findings to site location staff in Latin America
- File ongoing posts from the field with UCLA Blum Center

APPLICATION PROCESS

Please submit this application, a cover letter and your CV by **Thursday, March 1, 2018**.

Combine all materials into one file and email your application and materials to blumcenter@ucla.edu and include "**Graduate Summer Scholars Program**" in the subject line.

Top candidates will be invited to interview. Final selection will be made and announced by **early April 2018**. Preparations for travel will begin shortly thereafter.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email Jessica Barnette at JBarnette@mednet.ucla.edu or call: 310-794-0394. Please visit blumcenter.ucla.edu to learn more about the UCLA Blum Center.