

ABOUT

Now in its third year, the UCLA Blum Center on Poverty and Health in Latin America Summer Scholars Program supports training and field experience for graduate student research on issues related to poverty and improved health outcomes in Latin America. 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 UCLA faculty member and a representative from the sponsoring host organization in Latin America.

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

1) Develop a project with the UCLA Blum Center 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. Previous host organizations include:

- 📍 Cayetano Heredia University – Lima, Peru
- 📍 Friends New England International – León, Nicaragua
- 📍 Institute for Mexican Social Security - Cuernavaca, Mexico
- 📍 Pan American Health Organization – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 📍 Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua - León, Nicaragua
- 📍 Inter-American Development Bank - Panama City, Panama

2) Develop a project with a credible host institution in Latin America. In this instance, students may identify and propose potential host organizations and/or mentors, research questions, and project ideas. Examples of past student research projects include:

- 📍 Study of risk factors in the development of liver disease over time for Mexican health care workers
- 📍 Exploration of the decision making process for seeking emergency services and emergency care options in Northwest Nicaragua
- 📍 Study of the socioeconomic and political barriers for Peruvians receiving reparations following civil war and transition to democracy
- 📍 Evaluation of gaps in services for women who have experienced intimate partner violence in León, Nicaragua
- 📍 Assessment of factors to increase uptake of testing for syphilis and HIV in men who have sex with men and transgender women in Lima, Peru
- 📍 Multi-criteria-based risk ranking of foodborne parasites in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

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 Center's mission:

The mission of the UCLA Blum Center is to improve the health and well-being of Latin American communities in need. The Center 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 will be supported by a maximum award amount of \$3,500 which will serve as a stipend to help cover their transportation costs (air and ground), lodging and meals.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Full-time graduate students at UCLA 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 policy and social determinants of health

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Students selected for the Summer Scholar 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 project and coordinate logistics related to travel and lodgings
- 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

APPLICATION PROCESS

Please submit a cover letter and CV by **Monday February 23rd**. The cover letter must describe the applicant's research interests, relevant background skills and experience, and how the applicant's interests and goals align with those of the UCLA Blum Center's mission. Email jbinstock@conet.ucla.edu and include "Graduate Summer Scholars Program" in the subject line. Top candidates will be invited to an interview, and will be selected by **mid-March**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email Jenny Binstock, Center Coordinator at jbinstock@conet.ucla.edu. Visit blumcenter.ucla.edu to learn more about the UCLA Blum Center and to sign up for our email newsletter.

