

ABOUT

Now in its second year, the UCLA Blum Center on Poverty and Health in Latin America Summer Scholars Program is designed to support training and field experience for graduate students focused 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 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 the social determinants of health, strengthen access and delivery of health services, and develop multi-sectoral policy interventions. Interested students have two options for projects:

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 build collaborations with institutions throughout Latin America to jointly tackle health challenges. The UCLA Blum Center will work with potential students and partners to develop a collaborative project. One 2014 summer placement currently available is:

PARTNERS: FriendsNE and Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua

LOCATION: Northwest Nicaragua

PROJECT OBJECTIVES: The project will seek to 1) describe the current means of accessing emergency care employed by laypersons in Northwest Nicaragua living outside the immediate vicinity of a hospital; 2) explore knowledge of medical emergencies and decision making regarding the use of emergency medical care, and 3) describe barriers to access experienced by laypersons in rural communities in Northwest Nicaragua.

2) Develop a project with a credible host institution in Latin America. Examples of topics for student-proposed projects could include:

Assisting in community-based research and/or applied efforts and activities related to how poverty, migration/urbanization, maternal and child health issues impact local communities.

Examining the process by which multi-sectoral approaches to designing, implementing, and analyzing policies that improve the health of low-income communities are facilitated.

Priority will be given to projects developed with UCLA Blum Center partners and/or projects in Central America, the geographic focus of the UCLA Blum Center's current work. 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 UCLA Blum Center, in collaboration with Latin American institutions, brings poverty and other social determinants of health to the forefront of research and training on health in Latin America. Through the work of our Center, students and faculty across disciplines and borders study the causes of poverty and health inequalities. Together, we seek to identify and promote solutions in health policy and practice.

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, Dentistry, Nursing, Public Policy, Social Work, Urban Planning, or Latin American Studies.
- Citizen or resident of the United States with valid, current passport.
- 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 and participate in pre-departure and follow-up activities in the United States.
- 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

TWO-PART APPLICATION PROCESS

Monday February 24th: A cover letter, CV and two letters of reference will be due. The cover letter must describe the applicant's relevant background, interests and potential project ideas. Email blumcenter@ucla.edu and include "Graduate Summer Scholars Program" in the subject line.

Late March: Top applicants will be selected and asked to submit a 3-page project proposal to include:

- Background and significance of project
- Project goals, objectives and timeline
- A project implementation plan
- Summary of how project will be evaluated and assessed
- Identification of a field mentor, and a description of their role
- Information on other participating individuals (i.e., UCLA faculty) and/or agencies

Those applicants selected to develop a proposal will work with the UCLA Blum Center to do so. Students should also work with a faculty mentor to ensure their proposed work is coordinated with their current field of study and its requirements. Top applicants will be notified if their project proposal has been selected the **first week of April**.

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.

