

El Puente Research Fellowship 2021-2022

What is El Puente Research Fellowship?

El Puente Research Fellowship under El Centro de la Raza supports and promotes undergraduate research in multiple academic areas. It offers undergraduates the opportunity to prepare for graduate level education over the course of two semesters. El Puente Fellows work closely with graduate mentors and faculty as they increase their understanding and experience of academic research. This fellowship takes the educational experience to the next level and better prepares students for future opportunities in the academic and professional world.



Fellows engage in a research project of their interest with the guidance of our Instructional Team during the fall and spring semesters. During the program, El Puente Fellows participate in mandatory seminars which provide them the knowledge and tools necessary to begin the research process, develop a research proposal, and prepare for graduate school.

El Puente Fellows also have the opportunity to grow as a community of scholars with the other fellows. As research projects develop, fellows have a space to rely on their peers and mentors for input, guidance and critiques. Most importantly, all the fellows are on similar journeys toward professional development and/or a graduate degree. It is important to note that prior research experience is not required as this program meets the students at their level.

We look forward to having you join the legacy of El Centro scholars!



For more information contact the Program Director:
Alejandro Mendiaz-Rivera
505-277-5020 or amendiaz@unm.edu

Deadline for completed applications to be received is:
May 31, 2021

El Puente Research Fellowship

2021-2022

Program Benefits:

- Experience academic research first-hand
- Engage and create mentoring relationships with faculty
- Work closely with a graduate mentor
- Engage with a prestigious community of scholars
- Graduate school exploration, preparation and site visits during spring break
- Develop excellent research writing, critical thinking and reading skills
- Understand and connect critical issues in your community to your field of study

Scholarship:

- \$1,800 award for completion of fellowship requirements
 - \$900 Fall and \$900 Spring

Requirements:

With guidance and support, fellows are expected to complete the following capstone projects during the 2021-2022 fellowship:

- Create an original Research Question
- Complete a Literature Review
- Develop a Research Proposal
- Present Research Proposal
- Develop a Letter of Intent for graduate/professional school
- Attend two-hour bi-weekly seminars (every other Friday, 2-4pm)
- Meet with assigned research group for 1 hour a week

Eligibility

You must meet the following criteria in order to be eligible for acceptance into the fellowship:

- ❑ Enrolled at UNM for Fall 2021 & Spring 2022 and able to commit for full academic year
- ❑ GPA of 3.0 or above preferred
- ❑ Undergraduate student with a minimum of 30 credit hours (completed or in progress at time of application/Rising Sophomore)
- ❑ Must meet 1 of 3 of the following criteria:
 - Member of an underrepresented ethnic group in higher education
 - First generation college student
 - Qualify as low-income
- ❑ Please note that this program is open to any student regardless of immigration status

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Application Checklist

Make sure that all information provides us with the best representation of your interest and goals. We encourage you to take time and care in completing this application. Please take advantage of the fillable PDF feature and avoid stapling the application packet. Finalists will be scheduled for an interview during the month of June.

All application materials MUST be complete in order to have your application reviewed.

Completed and Signed Application Form (Fillable PDF, pages 4-5)

Transcript

1. Enter LoboWeb on my.unm.edu
2. Click on Registration and Records
3. Click on Advisement Transcript - UNM



4. Once submitted, you will be emailed a PDF version of your transcript to your UNM email

Resume

Typed Personal Statement

- 3-page maximum, double-spaced.

Please address the following in your personal statement letter:

1. Briefly discuss your personal background: Include family history, socio- economic background, community and educational history.
2. Discuss your research interests, educational goals and career objectives.
3. What do you expect to gain and learn from this fellowship?
4. Why is this opportunity important to you?

1 Professional Letter of Recommendation (see page 6)

Award Overview for 2021-2022 -or- Financial Information Form (page 7)

To access Award Overview:

1. Enter Lobo Web on my.unm.edu
2. Click the Financial Aid tab.
3. Click on Award Info Menu then select Award Package for Aid Year
4. Select 2021-2022
5. Select Award Overview Tab and Print

Submit your completed application packet to

(with the exception of letter of recommendation):

Alejandro Mendiaz-Rivera - amendiaz@unm.edu

Subject Line: El Puente 21-22



El Puente Research Fellowship 2021-2022

Application Form

Name: _____
Last First MI

Permanent Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Mailing Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Telephone #: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

UNM ID #: _____ Expected Graduation Month/Year: _____

Major: _____ Minor: _____

Fall 2021 Classification:

Sophomore Junior Senior GPA: _____ Completed Credit Hours: _____

Please select all categories that apply:

Asian African American Hispanic/Latina/o Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
White American Indian/Alaska Native Other: _____

What is the highest level of education completed by your parent/s and/or guardian?

Parent 1: Elementary Middle School High School College
Parent 2: Elementary Middle School High School College

Are you the first in your immediate family to attend college? Yes No

Did you complete a 2021-2022 FAFSA? Yes No

Estimated household income: _____
(You and your parents if under 24 years of age)



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Application Form

List extracurricular activities for 2021-2022 academic year:

Any student or community organizations, work, etc. you will be involved in.

Please select an answer that best describes your experience with the following:
(Your answers will not affect interview selection)

Have you thought about applying to graduate school? Yes No Unsure

Degree Objective: Bachelors Masters Doctoral Professional Unsure

Prior Research Assistant experience? Yes No

Can you Speak/Read/Write in a language other than English? Yes No

If yes, which one/s: _____

Please read and acknowledge El Puente Research Fellowship requirements.

If you are chosen as a Fellow, you will be required to:

- Commit to the program for Fall and Spring semesters.
- Attend the orientation session in August.
- Attend 8 to 9 bi-weekly seminars each semester, which take place on Fridays from 2-4pm.
- Work closely with assigned Graduate Research Fellow and a faculty mentor of your choice.
- Complete all Capstone Projects (Research Proposal, Lit. Review, Letter of Intent etc.)
- Present capstone project at the end of the program in April.
- Participate in events provided for El Puente Fellows (Saturday workshops, site visits, etc.)

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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Letter of Recommendation Guidelines

Thank you for taking the time to nominate this student to be a part of the 2021-2022 El Puente Research Fellowship. This is a competitive undergraduate research program hosted by El Centro de la Raza at the University of New Mexico.

In a separate document please:

1. Describe your relationship with the student:
Please state whether you have taught this student in a class, in a laboratory course, through a research project, or if you have interacted with the student in some other manner.
2. Please also comment and provides examples of the following:
 - Student's motivation
 - How quickly they learn
 - Their ability to seek & take advice from others
3. Finally, please address how you think the student can benefit from and contribute to an undergraduate research program.

Submit your letter of recommendation and any questions via email directly to:

Alejandro Mendiaz-Rivera at amendiaz@unm.edu

Subject: EP Letter of Rec (Student's Name)

Deadline to Submit is:

May 31, 2021



El Puente Research Fellowship 2021-2022 Financial Information Form

Please fill out form completely and to the best of your ability if you are **not** able to provide a copy of your Financial Aid Award Overview for 2021-2022.

Number of individuals in household: _____

Number of individuals who will be attending college in 2021-2022: _____

Household Income: \$_____

Estimated College Expenses for the 2021-2022 Academic Year

Estimated Income for the 2021-2022 Academic Year

Tuition and Fees \$_____

Student's \$_____

Books and Supplies \$_____

Parent's \$_____

Room and Board \$_____

-or-
Spouse's \$_____

Transportation \$_____

Savings \$_____

Other Expenses:
_____ \$_____

Other Income: (Scholarships, grants, etc.)
_____ \$_____

_____ \$_____

_____ \$_____

_____ \$_____

_____ \$_____

Total Expenses \$_____

Total Income \$_____

By attaching this form to my application, I certify that the income information provided is true to my knowledge. I understand that this information may be used for data collection purposes and reports created by El Centro de la Raza, but my identity will be kept confidential.