

# El Puente Research Fellows Program 2017-2018

## What is El Puente Research Fellows Program?

El Centro de la Raza's El Puente Research Fellows Program 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 with a focus on providing the knowledge and tools to begin the research process, developing a research proposal and preparing 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!



Contact Alejandro Mendiaz-Rivera at El Centro de la Raza for more information at:

505-277-5020 or [amendiaz@unm.edu](mailto:amendiaz@unm.edu)

Deadline for completed applications to be submitted is:

**Monday, June 26, 2017**

# El Puente Research Fellows Program 2017-2018

## Program Benefits:

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

## Scholarship:

- \$2,000 award for completion of fellowship requirements
  - \$1,000 Fall and \$1,000 Spring

## Requirements:

With guidance and support, fellows are expected to complete the following capstone projects during the 2017-2018 fellowship:

- Develop a research proposal
- Complete a literature review
- Research Presentation
- Develop a Letter of Intent for graduate school
- Attend two hour bi-weekly seminars (every other Friday afternoon)
- Meet with their 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 2017 & Spring 2018*
- ❑ *Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better*
- ❑ *Undergraduate student with a minimum of 30 credit hours (completed or in progress at time of application)*
- ❑ *Able to commit to the program for one academic year (Fall and Spring)*
- ❑ *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 their immigration status*

# El Puente Research Fellows Program 2017-2018

## Application Checklist

We encourage you to take time and care in completing this application. Make sure that all information provides us with the best representation of your interest and goals. Finalists will be scheduled for an interview during the month of July.

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

These materials include:

- Completed and Signed Application Form (pages 4-5)**
- Transcripts (Unofficial transcripts from all colleges & universities attended)**
- 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)**
- Income Documentation - Copy 2017-2018 FAFSA *or* Fill out income form (see page 7)**

### Submit your completed application packet to

(with the exception of letter of recommendation):

El Centro de la Raza  
1148 Mesa Vista Hall, MSC06 3830  
1 University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM 87131



# El Puente Research Fellows Program 2017-2018

## Application Form

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Last First MI*

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Street City State Zip*

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Street City State Zip*

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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UNM ID # \_\_\_\_\_ Undergraduate Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Minor: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Month/Year)*

Fall Classification:  
 Sophomore  Junior  Senior GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Hours: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please select all categories that apply:

Asian  African American  Hispanic/Latino (a)  Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander  
 White  American Indian/Alaska Native  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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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



# El Puente Research Fellows Program 2017-2018

## Application Form

Did you complete a 2017-2018 FAFSA?  Yes  No

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

Are you Pell Grant eligible for the 2017-2018 academic year?  Yes  No

List extracurricular activities (organizations, work, etc. ) you will be involved in the 2017-2018 academic year.

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

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 the El Puente Research Fellows Program requirements.**

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

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

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# El Puente Research Fellows Program 2017-2018

## Letter of Recommendation Guidelines

Thank you for taking the time to nominate this student to be a part of the 2017-2018 El Puente Research Fellows Program. This is a competitive undergraduate research program hosted at the University of New Mexico El Centro de la Raza.

In a separate document please:

1. Describe your relationship with the student: whether you have taught this student in a lecture class, in independent study, in a laboratory course, through a research project, or have interacted with the student in some other manner.
2. Please also comment on the student's: motivation, how quickly s/he learns and ability to seek & take advice from others. Also, please address how you think s/he can benefit and contribute to an undergraduate research program.

***Submit your letter of recommendation and any questions directly to:***

Alejandro Mendiaz-Rivera at [amendez@unm.edu](mailto:amendez@unm.edu)  
Subject: EP Letter of Rec (Student's Name)  
Deadline to Submit is **Monday, June 26, 2017 by 5pm.**



**EL Puente Research Fellows Program**  
2017-2018 Application Financial Information  
Alternative Form

Please fill out form completely and to the best of your ability if you are not able to provide a copy of your FAFSA or Student Aid Report.

**Name (First, Last)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of individuals in household** \_\_\_\_\_

**Household Income** \_\_\_\_\_

**Estimated College Expenses for the  
2017-2018 Academic Year**

**Estimated Income for the  
2017-2018 Academic Year**

Tuition and Fees	\$ _____	Student's	\$ _____
Books and Supplies	\$ _____	Spouse's	\$ _____
Room and Board	\$ _____	Contribution	
Local	\$ _____	Parental	\$ _____
Transportation		Support	
Medical Insurance	\$ _____	Savings	\$ _____
Other expenses (list)		Other	\$ _____
\$ _____	\$ _____	Scholarships	
\$ _____	\$ _____	Grants (Pell, state etc.)	\$ _____
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$ _____	Student Loans	\$ _____
		Other	\$ _____
		<b>Total Income</b>	\$ _____

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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date