



# Transformar Fellowship Program Call for Applications 2019-2020

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## **WHAT IS THE TRANSFORMAR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM?**

Transformar Fellowship Program emerges as a unique program that encourages students to explore intercultural education, identity and social entrepreneurship issues through community-based approaches and interdisciplinary thinking. This program will help participating students to advance an idea or a personal and professional area of interest by providing analytical tools to guide students in their academic experience, and/or professional aspirations. It will also motivate students to pursue and understand the complexity of ideas and their intersection with the social, cultural, economic and political forces that affect and/or facilitate social entrepreneurship.

The program will include two semesters of instruction, and an opportunity to participate in a two-week long study abroad trip to Mexico.<sup>1</sup> This trip will take place at the end of the Spring 2020 and before Summer school starts. The Transformar Summer Leadership Institute is part of the program and students should factor it into their academic development plan.

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The US is going through a major demographic change. Hispanic students comprised almost half of the student's population at UNM, and the Hispanic population is poised to become the ethnic majority by the year 2050. Mexico, on the other hand, continues to be a strong partner for American manufacturing. Migrants in the US continue to maintain strong ties with their communities in Mexico creating a very interdependent relationship. The Transformar Fellowship Program emerges as a unique program that encourages students to look at their academic inquiry through the lens of social entrepreneurship and sustainability through intercultural and interdisciplinary thinking. This program will help participating students to advance their understanding of issues related to intercultural education, identity, and social entrepreneurship. It will also motivate students to pursue and understand the complexity of ideas and their intersection with the social, cultural, economic and political forces that affect and/or facilitate sustainable development. Transformar fellows will do this by participating in mandatory group sessions in which assigned readings will be discussed and ideas will be explored. Students will be required to choose topics of importance and develop a project that will explore and advance the understanding of local issues connected to global trends.

The participation in this program will include two semesters of instruction, a student exchange program, and the participation of selected students who will participate in a Student Educational Forum that will be organized by the Red de Investigación y Desarrollo Comunitario (RIDECO) in collaboration with the Institute de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades of Universidad Autonoma de Hidalgo, El Centro de la Raza, the Global Education Office, and the Center for Social Sustainable Systems. This event will take place in the Spring of 2020.

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<sup>1</sup> The trip will be up to two weeks long and the student needs to allot time to participate. Students will be responsible for getting their passports and applying to the trip through the Transformar Summer Leadership Institute (for more information see, <http://studyabroad.unm.edu/student-programs/transformar-summer-leadership-institute-mexico>)



### **OVERARCHING GOAL:**

The overarching goal of *Transformar* is to provide selected fellows with practical experience, skills, and analytical tools that would guide their research projects, personal ideas, and/or professional growth.

### **OBJECTIVES**

- Provide a platform for social entrepreneurship and collaboration between young emerging leaders from the United States and Mexico.
- Develop and manage a project to reinforce the student's own cultural self-determination and expression of social issues that are urgent to them
- Engage in discussions on social impact, power dynamics of social engagement, and learn how to develop practical strategies to manage and develop entrepreneurial ventures through the analysis of major world trends and the UN 2030 agenda.
- Participate in a study abroad program to Mexico to explore how the building of ancient cities represent a complex managerial problem that is tied to our identity and our sense of direction for the future

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. To provide special skills in research methods, critical thinking, and strategic planning
2. To bridge theory and praxis under the understanding of several theoretical frameworks
3. To expand understanding and importance of intercultural and entrepreneurial education to advance one's personal and professional projects

### **TRANSFORMAR BENEFITS:**

- Learn from experts in the fields of intercultural education, planning, and theory
- Engage with other committed fellows
- Gain meaningful professional and intellectual experiences
- Explore the implementation of theory into praxis for social and economic justice
- Develop critical thinking skills
- Explore ideas from the standpoint of complex systems, systems theory, chaos theory, planning and management
- Learn about the complex managerial feats from ancient cultures from Central Mexico



## **SCHOLARSHIP**

- Students who complete the program successfully<sup>2</sup> will receive a \$500 scholarship award. They will also receive travel support to participate in the Transformar Summer Leadership Institute in Mexico.

## **WITH GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT, THE PARTICIPANTS ARE EXPECTED TO:**

- Attend by-weekly sessions
- Define a clear idea or an area of professional interest. Among the projects that the student can propose are the following:
  - 1) A professional development plan
  - 2) A research project
  - 3) A proposed Management of a program or/a project
  - 4) A career or personal oriented professional reflection or journaling
  - 5) Proposed and research the feasibility of an innovative or creative idea
- Be independent and take initiative to complete personal project

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Students must meet the following criteria in order to be eligible for acceptance into this fellowship program:

- ❑ *You must be enrolled and able to participate in the program for Fall and Spring 2019-20*
- ❑ *Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better*
- ❑ *Attend 2 hour by-weekly sessions*
- ❑ *Be enrolled as a degree seeking undergraduate (senior) or graduate student*
- ❑ *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 qualifying student regardless of their immigration status*

For more information, please contact Jorge Garcia, Program Director at El Centro de la Raza / 505-277-5020 or by email at [mexicatl@unm.edu](mailto:mexicatl@unm.edu).

We encourage you to put time and care in completing this application. Make sure that all information provides us with the best representation of your interest and goals.

**Priority deadline for completed applications is Friday August 16, 2019**

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<sup>2</sup> Student will be expected to attend most of the session. Under special circumstances students will



## TRANSFORMAR APPLICATION CHECKLIST

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

These materials include:

- Completed Application Form**
  - Résumé**
  - Typed Personal Statement**
    - 1-2 pages in length, double spaced, 12 font, Times New Roman
- Please address the following points in your personal statement<sup>3</sup>:***
- Briefly discuss your personal background: Include socio-economic background, community, and educational history
  - Discuss your research interests, educational goals and career objectives
  - Describe the area of interest or idea you would like to expand on in your research under this program? Please be clear as to why you care about this idea or area of interest. In the description of your idea, please make sure to explain 1) the description of your idea and/or professional project and 2) the goals behind this idea. Please look at the list of projects listed above and **be clear to identify** what kind of project or activity you are proposing to do.
  - Explain what do you expect to gain and learn from your participation in this program?
- Unofficial transcript**
  - One Professional Letter of Recommendation** (see page 6)

## SUBMIT YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION PACKET TO:

El Centro de la Raza  
Attn: Jorge Garcia, Transformar Program Director  
1148 Mesa Vista Hall, MSC06 3830  
1 University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM 87131

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<sup>3</sup> Please note that your personal statement will be evaluated based on the areas outlined in this application and personal statements that don't follow the outline will no be considered.



**APPLICATION FORM**

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

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

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

UNM ID # \_\_\_\_\_ Area of Study \_\_\_\_\_

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

Class Level:  Senior  Master  Doctoral GPA: \_\_

**Describe Your Race or Ethnic Identity:** (Select all categories that apply)

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

**List the extracurricular activities, or courses you will be involved in the Fall 2018 and Spring 2019**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Briefly indicate your specific experience with the following:**

(The answer to these will not affect your eligibility)

Research Methods related to your discipline:

- Have you had research methods in your program?  Yes  No
- Library Research skills:  Yes  No
- Community involvement:  Yes  No



If you answered was yes to community involvement, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**\*If Available, please provide a copy of your Fall 2019 Class Schedule\***

By turning this application, I certify that I am aware of all the requirements and expectations of this fellowship.

**Letter of Recommendation Guidelines Form**

*Letters of recommendation must be written by a professional reference such as: faculty, staff or formal mentor that can answer the questions below. (Do not submit letters from high school teachers.) Please give this form to the individual writing your letter.*

Thank you for taking the time to nominate this student to be a part of the Transformar Fellowship Program. In an attached letter, please comment on the applicants’:

1. Ability to work in a group environment
2. Ability to be self-directed and to take personal initiative
3. Strengths and weaknesses

\*All letters must be signed and sealed in order to be accepted, or email directly to [mexicatl@unm.edu](mailto:mexicatl@unm.edu) with the subject “Transformar Rec Letter 2019.”

Please submit your letter of recommendation no later than **August 16, 2019 by 5pm.**

Letters of recommendation can be given to student applicants or submitted to:

El Centro de la Raza  
Transformar Fellowship  
Attn: Jorge Garcia, Program Director  
1153 Mesa Vista Hall, MSC06 3830  
1 University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM 87131

For any questions please contact:  
Jorge Garcia  
El Centro de la Raza  
Office: (505) 277-5020  
Email: [mexicatl@unm.edu](mailto:mexicatl@unm.edu)