

Paid Research Experience for Undergraduates – Summer 2018

Locations: El Paso, Texas and Las Cruces, New Mexico

Time of program: May 21-July 28, 2018 (students must be present for the entire 10 weeks)

This program will continue in the summers of 2019 and 2020

Application Deadline for the Summer 2018 program: March 1, 2018.

Decision on successful applications will be made by March 31, 2018.

The Immigration and Border Community – Research Experience for Undergraduates, is a unique opportunity to learn social science research methods while collaborating with local organizations to conduct in-depth research about the unique challenges faced by border communities in the Paso del Norte region of southern New Mexico, El Paso and Ciudad Juárez. This is a collaborative program between researchers at New Mexico State University (NMSU) and the University of Texas-El Paso (UTEP), fully funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Participants can be from other US colleges and universities besides NMSU and UTEP and must be enrolled as undergraduates at the time when the program is being held. This program will also continue in Summer 2019 and Summer 2020. Students who travel from outside the region will be provided accommodation on the campus of New Mexico State University in Las Cruces in 2-bedroom apartments with kitchen and living area. See Vista del Monte apartments for photos and details. These arrangements will be made by the program directors following selection of student participants.

<https://housing.nmsu.edu/visadelmonte-apts/>

Full costs of accommodation will be covered by the NSF grant, including meals, for the full 10-week period.

The project is an excellent opportunity for students interested in pursuing a graduate degree or a variety of career paths. By collaborating closely with organizations already involved in advocacy for civil and human rights, such as the American Civil Liberties Union and the Border Network for Human Rights, your work will have a greater impact. Sample topics include:

- The impacts of repealing Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)
- Alleged abuse and mistreatment of migrants and community members by law enforcement
- Asylum seekers in the borderlands: Access to due process and basic human rights
- “Know Your Rights” campaigns
- The history of community organizing and leadership development in the borderlands

Successful applicants will spend 10 weeks in the El Paso/Las Cruces/Ciudad Juárez region during the summer (May 21-July 28, 2018). Positions are fully funded by the NSF. Students will receive a stipend of \$5000 and meal expenses. In addition, students traveling from outside the region will receive accommodation and \$500 towards their travel expenses. We will also have several excursions, including a one-week intensive field-trip through the Arizona/Sonora borderlands.

Requirements: At least sophomore standing in a social science discipline (Sociology, Anthropology, Political Science, Geography) or related field, GPA of at least 3.0, statement of interest indicating preparation and motivation for participating in this project, two reference letters, one of which must be from a student’s professor. Spanish language skills are preferred but not required. Students must still be undergraduates at the time that the program is being held.

Due to federal regulations students must be U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals or Permanent Residents.

International travel is required. Students must have valid passports.

To apply, go to his link: <https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/bordercommunity/apply/index.html>

Send your application form and supporting materials to reuborder@nmsu.edu by March 1, 2018.

In addition, please ask your two references to send their letters of recommendation directly to reuborder@nmsu.edu by **March 1, 2018**.

For more information please contact Dr. Neil Harvey, Dept of Government, New Mexico State University (575) 646-3220, nharvey@nmsu.edu or Dr. Jeremy Slack, Dept of Sociology & Anthropology, University of Texas-El Paso, (915) 747-6530 jmslack@utep.edu