



### **About El Puente:**

El Puente Research Fellowship, a program 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, and gain the knowledge and tools necessary to begin the research process, develop a research proposal, and prepare for graduate school. This fellowship takes the educational experience to the next level and better prepares students for future opportunities in the academic and professional world.

El Puente Research 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.

### **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:**

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

### **Eligibility**

- Enrolled at UNM for Fall 2022 & Spring 2023 and able to commit for full academic year
- GPA of 3.0 or above preferred
- Undergraduate with a minimum of 30 credit hours completed or in progress
- 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

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

**Deadline for completed applications to be received is:**  
**Tuesday, May 31, 2022**



## 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. All application materials must be complete in order to have your application reviewed. Finalists will be scheduled for an interview during the month of June.

### Completed and Signed Application Form (pages 3-4)

#### Unofficial Transcript

1. Enter LoboWeb on my.unm.edu
2. Click "Registration and Records"
3. Click "Unofficial Advisement Transcript"
4. Click "Submit Request"
5. You will receive a PDF version of your transcript to your UNM email

#### Resume or CV

#### Typed Personal Statement

- 2-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

#### The recommender must address the following:

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

#### Recommenders must submit letter directly to:

Alejandro Mendiaz-Rivera, Program Director: [amendiaz@unm.edu](mailto:amendiaz@unm.edu)

Letter must be received by **Tuesday, May 31, 2022.**



## Application Form

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

Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_ UNM E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ UNM ID #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected Graduation Month/Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Major: \_\_\_\_\_ Minor: \_\_\_\_\_

**Fall 2022 Classification:**

Sophomore Junior Senior GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ 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/s?**

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 in the USA?** Yes No

**Did you complete a 2022-2023 FAFSA or State Aid Application?** Yes No

**Estimated household income:** \_\_\_\_\_

*(You + your parents if under 24 years of age)*

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**List extracurricular activities for 2022-2023 academic year:**

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



## Application Form

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

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**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 2022 and Spring 2023 semesters.
- Attend the orientation session in August.
- Attend 8 to 9 bi-weekly seminars each semester, which take place on Fridays from 2-4pm.
- Attend two Saturday sessions each semester.
- Work closely with assigned Graduate Research Fellow and a faculty mentor of your choice.
- Attend Experiential Learning Trip during Spring Break of 2023 (expenses covered).
- Complete all assigned projects culminating in a Research Proposal.
- Present Research Proposal at the UNM Undergraduate Opportunities Conference in April.
- Participate in events provided for El Puente Research Fellows.

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

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

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**Completed application packet must be received by **Tuesday, May 31, 2022****  
**via email in PDF format to Alejandro Mendiaz-Rivera - [amendiaz@unm.edu](mailto:amendiaz@unm.edu)**

**-or-**

**In person at El Centro de la Raza - 1148 Mesa Vista Hall**