



Call for LAPOP Undergraduate Research Fellows

The Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP) at Vanderbilt University invites applications from Vanderbilt undergraduate students to serve as *LAPOP Undergraduate Research Fellows*. The objective of this program is to introduce undergraduate students to LAPOP and its principal project, the AmericasBarometer; help students to gain an understanding of the research processes involved in the design of scientifically valid survey research; and, allow opportunities for applied research to be conducted independently and in collaboration with LAPOP affiliated graduate students and faculty.

Those invited to participate as Fellows will register for a Directed Study (PSCI291a, b) with Professor Elizabeth Zechmeister, Associate Director of LAPOP. Each Fellow will select a topic of study in consultation with Professor Zechmeister, and undertake research on that topic during the course of the semester. The research may be conducted independently or in collaboration with a graduate student, depending on the interest and skill set of the Fellow. The principal intention of the program is to provide undergraduate students with an opportunity to participate in applied research on public opinion in Latin America under the supervision of a faculty member; it is expected that final research projects will be published on LAPOP's website and, when applicable, students will be encouraged to submit their research to calls for proposals from academic conferences.

Each Fellow's term will consist of one semester (currently no applications are being requested for summer months), though students may apply to extend their involvement beyond one semester. Fellows will meet on a regular basis with Professor Zechmeister to discuss progress on the research project. In addition, Fellows are invited to be active participants in LAPOP meetings. A limited amount of funds may be available for research materials.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Students should have a GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Students must have completed at least one year at Vanderbilt before applying
- Students should have a strong interest in research, as evidenced by a desire to pursue an advanced degree or a desire to seek work as a policy analyst, consultant, or researcher after graduation
- Students should have a substantive interests in public opinion and/or in the Americas, as evidenced through coursework, study abroad, and/or volunteer or work experience

Applications must consist of A) a letter of interest; B) the name of a Vanderbilt faculty member who can serve as a reference; and C) a Vanderbilt transcript. In the letter of interest, please indicate the reasons why you are interested in becoming a LAPOP Undergraduate Research

Fellow as well as what skills and prior research experience you may have acquired that reflect on your ability to serve in this position. The letter should be no longer than 4 pages in length.

Applications for the Fall semester are due by **August 1** and applications for the Winter semester are due by **December 1**, although early applications are encouraged and applications may be accepted after these deadlines if a slot remains available. Applications will be reviewed by the Director and Associate Director of LAPOP, and applicants will be notified by email with respect to the outcome of that process. Selected applicants will establish a plan of research for the semester with Professor Zechmeister; the extent of that plan will govern the number of hours to be credited to the Directed Study.

Applications should be sent by email to Dr. Elizabeth J. Zechmeister, liz.zechmeister@vanderbilt.edu. Please direct any questions to Professor Zechmeister by email, or by phone at 322-5016. Her office is 344 Commons (Department of Political Science).

Interested students are encouraged to visit LAPOP's website in order to find out more about the project (the nature of the survey data and the *Insights* series, for example) before applying. The website can be accessed at www.LapopSurveys.org.

