The Resilient Urban Latin America (RULA) International Research Experience for Students (IRES) project offers an opportunity for graduate students and advanced undergraduate students to conduct eight to ten weeks of onsite research in a Latin American or Caribbean urban community facing climate extremes. Participants will:

- Gain research collaboration experience with mentorship support
- Develop their skills in research design, data analysis and management
- Engage in cross-cultural learning through diverse social and political contexts
- Resilience to Extremes Sustainability Research Network (URExSRN), while also contributing to a reading group, blogs, and other social media discussions

We encourage students to integrate project outcomes within existing dissertation research (where applicable), while advancing themselves as part of a larger group of change agents confronting climate change and urbanization in the Anthropocene. For student testimonials and a presentation of the IRES experience click here.

Research emphases: We welcome applications from students from all disciplines and programs; however, we ask that applicants make clear how their work intersects with at least one of the ongoing research areas developed through the IRES partners. See below for various research axes and a more in-depth look at the goals, institutional framework, and context of activities in Bogotá:

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Eligibility: Graduate and undergraduate students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents in good academic standing, with research interests in line with the above emphases, are encouraged to apply. Preference will be given to students with some knowledge of the Spanish language. For graduate students, the quality of the proposal and its relevance to urban resilience research in the host city are key criteria; for undergraduate students, your interest in developing research skills, GPA, and letter of recommendation are key. All students must commit to the full period of the fellowship.

What is covered: Airfare or other transportation to and from the host city, housing, and board will be covered for the duration of the fellowship. Each fellow will receive a stipend of $500 per week, plus costs of research expenses.

RULA IRES Project Timeline

Valdivia, Chile / Universidad Austral de Chile

→ Application deadline October 2, 2017
→ RULA IRES ran eight weeks in January-February 2018 (Austral summer)

Hermosillo, México

→ Application deadline February 1, 2018
→ RULA IRES ran 10 weeks in April-July 2019

Bogotá, Colombia

→ Application deadline October 1, 2020
→ RULA IRES will run 8 to 10 weeks in May-Aug, 2021 (TBA)

Applicant Instructions For Bogotá

Graduate-student candidates complete the application and submit a short research proposal (2 pages maximum, excluding references and graphics) explaining how the IRES project will integrate with their dissertation research ideas or proposal, with ongoing research in the host city, and with the joint research interests of La Salle’s Landscape and Territory program and the URExSRN. Also submit a referral letter from your advisor.

Undergraduates submit a short essay (500 words) on why you are interested in working in Bogotá and how your research interests relate to those of La Salle’s Landscape and Territory program and the UREx SRN. Also submit a referral letter from your advisor with the application.

Instructions for referral letter: Advisors are asked to explain their relationship to the student, confirm the student’s good academic standing, verify that the student can spend time away from their institution during the fellowship period (TBD), and verify that they approve the proposal submitted by the student (if applicable). Note that slight changes to the dates can occur.
Contact and information

The call of proposals to the International Student Research (IRES) program, Resilient Urban Latin America (RULA) is under exclusive coordination of the URExSRN project, at the Arizona State University; further information about this opportunity can be requested from Tessa Martinez (tmmart12@asu.edu).

The present program of research is open to receive expressions of interest and questions for the specific technical requirements of the call for proposals from the URExSRN. For information on these aspects, please contact one of the program mentors:

Carlos Agudelo at La Salle University (cagudelo@lasalle.edu.co)
Duván López Meneses from UNESCOSOST (duvan.hernan.lopez@upc.edu)
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