

International Research Experience for Students Ecuador – Summer 2022

The Ohio State University
Dr. Barbara Piperata

Program Information

Two undergraduate students and **One Graduate** student from Ohio State will be selected to participate in a year-long mentored research process through the NSF funded International Research Experience for Students (IRES) program. Students will be mentored by Dr. Barbara Piperata, and join a cohort of additional undergraduate and graduate students from Texas State and Tulane University as part of an interdisciplinary team of 8 total students that will form your cohort. This team of 8 students will be led by Dr. Piperata, one faculty member each from Texas State and Tulane University, and by conservation professionals with the Non-Governmental Organization in Ecuador called Fundación para la Conservación de los Andes Tropicales (known as FCAT) that is housed at the FCAT Biological Field Station and Forest Reserve (<https://fcatecuador.org>). Together, students will design and conduct interdisciplinary research on conservation projects that promote the wellbeing of the people, plants, and wildlife living in this lowland rain forested region in the foothills of Andes Mountains in Ecuador.

Students will spend the **Spring 2022 semester** on campus at Ohio State and meet regularly with Dr. Piperata and the IRES student cohort via webinars to develop a field research project proposal, develop personal and professional skills, and to prepare for the summer trip to Ecuador. Students then travel to Ecuador in the **summer of 2022** and live at the FCAT Biological Station from 1 June to 20 July 2022 (7 weeks total) where they will conduct their independent research project under the mentorship of Dr. Piperata, the additional collaborating faculty, and FCAT professionals at the station. Students will then return to Ohio State for the **Fall 2022 semester** and analyze their data, write a scientific research manuscript, and create science communication projects under the guidance of Dr. Piperata and with continued support from the IRES team. Research from this project can be used to support honor's theses and manuscripts for potential publication in scientific journals.

Students may enroll for an Independent Study hours at Ohio State during the spring and / or fall semester of 2022 to earn academic credit for their involvement in the IRES program (although this is not required).

Beyond the research, students will also engage in other program aspects, such as science communication projects, community-based volunteer and outreach events, attend professional training workshops, and collaborate with the FCAT Non-Governmental Organization based at the FCAT Biological Station.

All expenses (flights, room, board) are covered and each student will earn a stipend of \$3150 for the summer research.

For questions, please contact Dr. Piperata (piperata.1@osu.edu).

Requirements for Participation:

1. US Citizenship or Permanent Resident
2. Enrollment in classes in Spring 2022 and Fall 2022
3. Minimum GPA of 3.2
4. Intermediate to Advanced proficiency in the Spanish language (speaking and reading)
5. You must be fully vaccinated against COVID by 1 January 2022 and be able to submit your vaccination card for program records.
6. Strong interest in conducting medical anthropology / human ecology research in an international research setting!
7. A high degree of self-motivation, ability to work independently and as part of a team, strong organizational and time management skills, dependability, and ability to adapt to new living situations and groups of people.

Application Process

Applications are **DUE** by the end of the day on **8 October 2021**; incomplete or late applications will not be reviewed. Top candidates will be interviewed and will be notified by **15 November 2021** if you are selected.

Application Materials Required

1. **Student Application questions document** (label file as *YOUR LAST NAME Application*) see details below
2. **Curriculum Vitae** (label file as *YOUR LAST NAME CV*)
3. **Unofficial transcript** (label file as *YOUR LAST NAME Transcript*)

Ensure all files are properly named and email them as **PDFs** to Dr. Piperata (piperata.1@osu.edu)

Student Application Questions

Please answer the following questions.

Part I: Basic Questions (*place answers to these 11 questions on one page*):

1. Your full name
2. OSU Email address
3. Are you a U.S. citizen or permanent resident? (yes or no)
4. With what gender do you identify?
5. With what ethnicity do you identify?
6. What is your current academic standing? (Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, or Senior)
7. Will you be enrolled in courses at Ohio State in Fall 2022? (yes or no)
8. What is your expected graduation date? (month and year, i.e., May 2023)
9. What is your major field of study?
10. What is your GPA? (using a 4.0 scale)
11. List the name, title, institution, email, and phone number of your 2 reference letter writers.
IMPORTANT: the letter writers should be capable of speaking about your specific qualifications

for this opportunity (especially items #4, #6 and #7 listed above under requirements for participation).

- a. The **first** reference letter writer must be a professor in the social sciences.
- b. The **second** reference letter writer must be a professor *or* another professional who has supervised you in the social or biological sciences.

Part II: Short essays (max of 250 words per short essay).

1. Describe your spoken and reading proficiency with the Spanish language.
2. Describe your previous research, field, or volunteer experience in anthropological studies and how these experiences have prepared you for field research in Ecuador.
3. Describe any experience you have living, traveling, or studying in a foreign country (if applicable) and your desire to explore other countries and cultures.
4. Describe how you hope to advance yourself **personally** in this program.
5. Describe how you hope to advance yourself **professionally** in this program, including thoughts on your career goals and whether you plan to pursue graduate studies at some point.
6. Please let us know if you have any final thoughts we should consider in considering your candidacy and in regards to why you would like to join this program.