

## The Melvin A. Halpern and Maria Cristina Alfonzo Halpern Fund

The **Halpern Fund** recognizes excellence in undergraduate work by students engaged in academic research or study or charitable development work in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and/or Uruguay. The award is designed to offset expenses incurred by students. Students may use the award for UNC-Chapel Hill approved study abroad or exchange programs; unpaid internships or volunteer opportunities that will yield a specific academic outcome (e.g., essay, report, artistic project); or an independent program of research or study supervised by a member of the faculty community.

**Priority:** Strong preference will be given to students whose research and travel program is focused on Argentina.

### Eligibility:

- Applicant must be enrolled at UNC-CH as a rising sophomore, junior or senior *who will be returning to campus as an undergraduate after completion of their program abroad for at least one semester before graduation.*
- Strong working knowledge of Spanish or Portuguese (as applicable).
- Demonstrate a strong academic record and a minimum GPA of 3.2

**Competition:** The competition is merit-based. Latin American Studies majors or other students who can demonstrate compelling interest in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and/or Uruguay are encouraged to apply. Awards will be made on the basis of: (1) overall quality and originality of the proposal, (2) demonstrated usefulness of the proposed activity to the student's academic career, (3) likelihood of successful completion, (4) strength of letter of recommendation, (5) overall qualifications and (6) an assessment of the degree to which the funds sought are necessary for completion of the project.

**Funding:** The number and amount of the awards will be determined by the number of meritorious applications received and the availability of funds. We expect to make at least two awards of \$1250 each. Funds may be requested *only* to cover or partially cover expenses directly related to the proposed project and may be spent only for the purpose for which the funds have been awarded. Any changes must be approved by the ILAS in advance of expenditure of award funds.

**Reporting:** A brief final written report is required after completion of the trip. To submit a final report in another format (e.g., film, photography, art, etc.) please consult the Associate Director of the Institute for the Study of the America (ISA). For projects that may demonstrate results beyond the award period, ISA may contact awardees for periodic updates. Awardees are also expected to share their experiences with other students, faculty, and, when possible, the donors, in fora organized in coordination with ISA.

### How to Apply:

Step 1: Meet with the ISA Associate Director to discuss your plans.

Step 2: Complete the Application online through the ISA website: <http://isa.unc.edu/funding/undergraduate-funding/>

### CHECKLIST

- \_\_\_ Application Form (complete)
- \_\_\_ Abstract (100 words)
- \_\_\_ Essay (500 words) outlining the proposed activity, expected outcomes, and relevance to academic objectives.
- \_\_\_ UNC-CH transcript or printout from Connect Carolina of all courses taken
- \_\_\_ Resume or C.V.
- \_\_\_ Itemized budget and list of other sources of support solicited
- \_\_\_ Proof of language proficiency (e.g., letter for a qualified language instructor)
- \_\_\_ Letter of recommendation. The letter should be sent by your recommender directly to: [riefkohl@email.unc.edu](mailto:riefkohl@email.unc.edu) or to Institute for the Study of the Americas, UNC Chapel Hill, 3200 FedEx Global Education Center, CB 3205.

\_\_\_ Additional materials: For **study**: UNC-CH Study Abroad Office description of the proposed program, and proof of application or acceptance into the program. For **research**: proof of institutional affiliations to carry out the proposed research (if applicable) and Institutional Review Board approval or exemption (as applicable). For **internship** or **volunteer programs**: proof of institutional affiliations, a description of the organization's missions and a statement that explains the charitable development work to be performed.

Step 3: A committee of ISA-affiliated faculty will rank the applications.

Step 4: Notifications will be sent to applicants.

Step 5: The award will be presented at the annual Latin American Studies Ceremony held on the Saturday before May graduation.

*Please be aware that any research involving human or animal subjects must be approved by the Institutional Review Board. No funds can be paid for this award until documentation of proper IRB training and project approval or exemption.*

**Contact:** Beatriz Riefkohl Muñiz, ([riefkohl@email.unc.edu](mailto:riefkohl@email.unc.edu))  
Institute for the Study of the Americas,  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
3200 FedEx Global Education Center, CB 3205  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3205