

VIRTUAL RESEARCH INTERNSHIPS PROGRAM (VRI)

Call for Students - 2026

The **Hemispheric University Consortium (HUC)** invites undergraduate and graduate students from participating member universities to apply for virtual research internships and collaborate with international faculty and research teams across the Americas.

About the program

The HUC Virtual Research Internships (VRI) Program is an initiative of the Hemispheric University Consortium (HUC), a network of universities across the Americas that promotes collaboration in research, education, and innovation.

Through this program, students can gain international research experience, strengthen their research and professional skills, and engage with diverse academic and cultural environments without the need for physical mobility.

Virtual Internships are open to undergraduate and graduate students from all disciplines. The program runs during the second semester of the year, starting in September, with an expected duration of 8–12 weeks.

Through the program:

- Students receive mentorship from faculty members and collaborate with research teams from across the Americas, expanding their academic networks and intercultural competencies.
- Participants contribute to ongoing research through specific tasks and deliverables, gaining hands-on experience in an international and interdisciplinary environment.

Eligibility Criteria

- Be currently enrolled as an active undergraduate, master's, or doctoral student during both the application and the internship period at a HUC member university participating in the VRI program.
 - o Undergraduate students must have completed at least their second semester (first year).
- Have no active disciplinary sanctions at the time of application or participation.
- Demonstrate proficiency in the language required by the project, either through an official language certificate or through assessment by the host professor when applicable.
- Have sufficient time availability to actively participate in the internship alongside their regular academic commitments.

Application Process

Students are encouraged to review the available research opportunities in the [Project Gallery](#) and identify the projects that best align with their academic background, research interests, skills, and professional goals.

Students must submit their applications through the online application form: [Submit your application here](#). Incomplete applications may not be considered.

- In the application form, applicants will be asked to:
 - o **Personal information.** Name, home university, study level, academic program, etc.
 - o **Academic Background.** Research experience, relevant coursework, and CV.

- **Project application.** Selection of the research project the student wishes to apply for.
 - a) Applicants should explain how their academic background, motivation, interests, and career goals align with each selected project.
 - b) Students must submit an institutional endorsement letter issued by their home institution. This document confirms institutional support for their participation in the VRI program and is a required component of the application.
 - **Language proficiency.** Level of proficiency in the languages available in the program (English, Spanish, and Portuguese).
 - **Required documentation:**
 - Transcript of Records from the most recent academic term completed. If your previous academic period was evaluated using the letter grading system, please upload both the transcript from that term with the alphabetical grade and the certificate from the immediately preceding term that includes the numerical grades.
 - Curriculum Vitae (CV) in the language required by the project, submitted in PDF format.
 - Institutional endorsement letter issued by the coordination of your academic program. This letter must certify:
 - The semester in which the student is currently enrolled (according to the requirements for undergraduate and graduate students).
 - The student has availability of time to participate in the project.
 - The student has no disciplinary sanctions at the time of starting the internship.
 - The student is not under academic probation at the time of starting the internship.
- *Please note that host professors may invite shortlisted candidates to participate in a virtual interview as part of the selection process. Not all projects will require interviews.*
- *Participants may be asked to complete onboarding requirements, submit any outstanding documentation, and acknowledge the program's terms, expectations, and responsibilities.*

Responsibilities

Selected students are expected to:

- Complete a Commitment Letter, which will be provided in the acceptance of notification for the internship in the project to which they have been selected. This document formalizes the students' intention to participate in the VRI program and confirms their commitment to fulfilling the academic, administrative, and ethical responsibilities associated with the internship.
- Actively participate in all internship activities and adhere to the work plan, deadlines, and milestones established by the host professor and the VRI program. Failure to fulfill these commitments or to make satisfactory progress in the internship may result in the cancellation of the placement.
- Maintain regular communication with the host professor and research team. If a student fails to respond to official communications from the VRI coordinator or professor, the internship may be considered abandoned and consequently terminated.

- If personal, medical, or academic situations affect a student's ability to continue participating in the internship, the student should communicate the situation as soon as possible to the host professor and the VRI coordinators.
- Students should interact respectfully with peers, faculty members, and institutional representatives from diverse cultural and academic backgrounds.
- Students are responsible for carefully reading and understanding the program's Terms and Conditions, application guidelines, eligibility requirements, timelines, and participation policies before applying and throughout the internship period.
- Students agree to support the follow-up of communications, surveys, or requests information related to their internship experience after its completion. This information may be used by the HUC team to measure impact and evaluate program outcomes.

Timeline

- **Call for students:** July 23 – August 19, 2026. [Application Form](#).
- **Informative session:** August 5, 2026. [Info Session - VRI Call for Students](#) Access code: +1#FvE1F
- **Student selection:** August 20 to 27, 2026.
- **Notification of results:** August 29, 2026.
- **Student onboarding:** early September 2026 (formal registration and administrative procedures).
- **Research internships:** starting in September 2026 (with flexible duration and schedule).

Contact

- For more information, please contact the VRI coordinator of your university:

University	Name VRI Coordinator	Mail
Universidad Austral (Argentina)	Laura Salinas	LSalinas@austral.edu.ar
UNICAMP (Brazil)	Rafael Dias	rbdias@unicamp.br
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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Is the internship paid?** No. The VRI program is a non-remunerated academic and research experience.
- **Can I apply to multiple projects?** Yes. Students may apply to up to three (3) projects and must submit a separate application for each project. Applications exceeding this limit will not be considered. If selected for more than one project, students must choose only one internship.
- **Will I receive academic credit?** No. Students who complete the internship requirements will receive a digital certificate issued by HUC. To be eligible for certification, participants must fulfil the academic requirements of their research project and complete all forms throughout the internship period. Failure to complete any of the required forms may result in the certificate not being issued.
- **Can I do my virtual internship while I am enrolled in curricular courses?** Yes, you may undertake a virtual internship if you have sufficient time availability.
- **Who should issue the Institutional Support Letter?** The academic unit at your university that can certify your current semester, the number of credits you are enrolled in, that you have no disciplinary sanctions, and that you are not under academic probation at the time of starting the internship.
- **Can I apply if I have no previous research experience?** Yes, you may apply. This program is designed to help students develop those skills. In the application form, you may highlight experiences such as teamwork, inquiry-based activities in your courses, or other relevant academic experiences.
- **Can I apply to projects at my own university?** No. Students must apply to projects offered by universities other than their home institution.
- **What happens if I withdraw from the internship?** Students must formally notify the host professor and VRI coordinators. Withdrawal may affect eligibility for future editions of the program.
- **What value does the program add for students and professors?** The VRI strengthens research, creative, and innovative capacities in young researchers, who support projects that require additional hands. At the same time, it serves as a platform for scouting and building scientific networks, showcasing our research, creation, and innovation capacities across the consortium.