

# The Graduate Archer Fellowship Program at The University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley

## ABOUT THE ARCHER CENTER

Founded in 2001 by Congressman Bill Archer as he retired from 30 years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives, the Archer Center serves as the Washington, D.C., campus of The University of Texas System. The Archer Center seeks to educate the next generation of leaders from Texas and instill in them a love of public service. More than 1,800 alumni have graduated from the Archer Center's programs and are now making a difference in communities around the world.

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW: LIVE, LEARN, AND INTERN IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Graduate Archer Fellowship Program provides graduate students from across The University of Texas System institutions with a unique opportunity to live, learn, and intern in our nation's capital during the summer. Home to many government, media, research, and cultural institutions, Washington, D.C., offers unparalleled opportunities for career development and cultural enrichment. While in D.C., students earn in-residence UT Rio Grande Valley credit for their coursework and gain hands-on work experience in an internship. Through a shared cohort experience, Archer Fellows build lasting friendships and professional connections with each other. The Graduate Archer Fellowship Program is tailored to students' own personal and intellectual interests, which allows them to connect their developing expertise to policy and public service.

## ELIGIBILITY

The Graduate Archer Fellowship Program is available to graduate students of all areas of study, and we welcome a diverse array of student interests and backgrounds. Federal policy touches many aspects of peoples' lives in the U.S. and around the world. For this reason, the Archer Center believes it is important for students from any discipline to understand the policy process and how to be an effective policy advocate.

Students must meet the following eligibility requirements in order to apply:

- Applicant must be pursuing a graduate degree (masters, Ph.D., M.D.) at The University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley
- GPA of 3.0 or greater at The University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley (first year students must meet this requirement by the end of the fall 2023 semester)
- Previous professional or internship experience
- Experience serving and/or providing leadership to campus or community

If selected for the Graduate Archer Fellowship Program, students must meet the following requirements by the beginning of the summer they will be in Washington, D.C.:

- Nine hours of in-residence credit completed at The University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley
- GPA of 3.0 or greater

## COURSES

UT Rio Grande Valley Archer Fellows take courses housed in Public Affairs, which are taught by faculty from UT Dallas and policy experts from the Washington, D.C., community. Students earn nine hours of graduate-level credit:

**PAFF 6344-01:** Federal Policymaking

**PAFF 6371-01:** Independent Study: Public Administration

**PAFF 6645-01:** Internship–Archer Program

Students are strongly encouraged to consult their academic advisors to learn how these in-residence classes will fit into their degree plans.

## POLICY WORKING GROUPS

As part of the coursework, Archer Fellows will participate in a specialized working group in one of several topic areas: General Domestic Policy, Education Policy, Health Policy, and National Security and Global Affairs Policy. These working groups enable Archer Fellows to connect with policy leaders in their field through policy roundtables and tailored academic research projects. In addition, these working groups foster research and policy collaboration between Archer Fellows.

## INTERNSHIP

All Archer Fellows participate in a full-time internship that aligns with their academic and professional goals. Archer Fellows are responsible for researching and applying for internships, while Archer Center staff provide guidance and assistance throughout the process. The Archer Center has a vast network of connections in a variety of fields in the nation's capital, and Archer Fellows have developed a fantastic reputation as high quality interns.

While many internships in Washington, D.C., offer financial compensation (e.g., stipends, hourly pay, etc.), some opportunities remain unpaid.

For that reason, students should not expect to earn an income while in D.C. Visit [archercenter.org/internships.html](http://archercenter.org/internships.html) for a non-exhaustive list of potential internship sites.

## PROGRAM COST AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Archer Fellows pay a program fee in place of UT Rio Grande Valley tuition. The current Graduate Archer Fellowship Program fee is \$3,900 and is subject to change in future years. Students typically fund their fellowship through existing financial aid, designated campus funding, Archer Center need- and merit-based scholarships, and personal resources. Thanks to generous funding, the program is more affordable than ever. Students are encouraged to visit [archercenter.org/funding-your-fellowship.html](http://archercenter.org/funding-your-fellowship.html) for more information on program expenses.

**The Archer Center and our supporters are committed to making the Graduate Archer Fellowship Program affordable** by removing financial barriers that may prohibit a fellow from achieving their educational goals. The Archer Center's need- and merit-based scholarship provides up to \$8,000. With a variety of scholarships and funding resources, many Archer Fellows receive comprehensive funding for their fellowship. Please reach out to the Archer Center if you'd like to discuss your individual financial circumstance.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Mark Andersen**

Dean of Honors College, UT Rio Grande Valley  
Graduate Archer Fellowship Program Campus Coordinator  
[mark.andersen@utrgv.edu](mailto:mark.andersen@utrgv.edu)

**Archer Center Admissions**

[archeradmissions@utsystem.edu](mailto:archeradmissions@utsystem.edu)



# ARCHER FELLOW SPOTLIGHT

## Luis Leal, Summer 2018 Archer Fellow

**DEGREE:** Master in Business Administration

**D.C. INTERNSHIP:** Hispanic Heritage Foundation

**CURRENT JOB:** Associate Vice President for Development, UT Rio Grande Valley

*"Spending a summer in Washington, D.C., was an eye-opening experience. The internship and policy courses allowed me to enhance my professional career opportunities and network with influential leaders. The Archer Center provides Archer Fellows and alumni with the necessary resources to succeed in achieving our professional goals."*

