Founded in 1967, the Princeton University Program in Latin American Studies (PLAS) is one of the nation’s first that is dedicated exclusively to Latin American area studies. At the program’s core is a mission to foster intellectual exchange among students and scholars, whether in the classroom or in the field. Given the depth and breadth of the region’s contributions and avenues for inquiry, PLAS welcomes a range of disciplinary perspectives, with special attention to culture, history, socioeconomics, politics, and society.

Centered on Scholarship
PLAS programming, hosted both on-and off-campus, connects Princeton to the Latin American world. From our graduate and undergraduate courses to travel experiences that span the region, the program takes pride in training the next generation of thinkers, while connecting them to those who are reshaping their respective fields today.

Fostering Engagement
Each year, PLAS sponsors and co-sponsors a broad array of programming, which serves to expand the conversation between students, faculty, and the public. Additionally, the program funds undergraduate, graduate, and faculty research; supports innovative study and travel via the competitive Paul E. Sigmund Scholars program and other awards; and facilitates undergraduate internships. PLAS also brings prominent scholars to Princeton through its Visiting Fellowship, whereby fellows are able to contribute to course offerings while advancing their own research.

ABOUT PLAS
Charlotte Williams ‘17: ART 468/LAS 468 Trip to Chiapas, Mexico
PLAS offers two tracks of study: Latin American studies and Brazilian studies.

Combined with a departmental concentration, the PLAS undergraduate certificate is designed to give undergraduates the opportunity and resources to do specialized work on the diversity of languages, histories, environments, politics, economies, and cultures of the Latin American region. Students may select from undergraduate and graduate courses and seminars in Architecture, African American Studies, American Studies, Anthropology, Art and Archaeology, Comparative Literature, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Economics, English, French and Italian, History, Latin American Studies, Latino Studies, Music, Politics, Religion, Sociology, Spanish and Portuguese, and the Woodrow Wilson School. Senior thesis work is supervised by a faculty adviser and is combined with a departmental concentration. PLAS provides substantial travel grants for doing research in Latin America. A PLAS certificate prepares students for careers and jobs in many fields, including the foreign service, international development, academic research, environmental work, education, journalism, global health, international and environmental law, tourism, and many other fields.
ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAM
Students from all departments are welcome. There are no pre-requisites to enroll. Interested students should contact the program coordinator.

CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS
Students must meet the following requirements to receive a certificate of proficiency in Latin American studies.

Department
Completion of the requirements of a departmental concentration.

Language Proficiency
Satisfactory completion of the language requirement in Spanish, Portuguese (for students pursuing the Brazilian track), or French (for students focusing on the Caribbean).

Courses
For students pursuing the Latin American Studies track:
• Completion of four courses across several disciplines
  > One humanities course cross-listed with LAS or with strong Latin American content;
  > Two courses from any field cross-listed with LAS or with strong Latin American content;
  > One seminar course with strong Latin American content.

For students pursuing the Brazilian Studies track:
• Completion of three courses across several disciplines
  > One humanities course cross-listed with LAS or with strong Brazilian content;
  > Two courses from any field cross-listed with LAS or with strong Brazilian content.

Herminio Rodríguez, Art Photographer, PLAS VISAPUR Fellow: Santiago Apostol (St. James) Procession, Loíza, Puerto Rico
Senior Thesis
A thesis on a Latin American or Brazilian topic depending on track, using primary materials from the region in the original language, written under the supervision of a faculty adviser and/or PLAS associated faculty, and combined with a departmental concentration.

Students whose departmental obligations preclude a thesis on a Latin American or Brazilian topic may complete the program requirements by writing a research paper of sufficient complexity and length to substitute for the thesis requirement (the topic should be determined in consultation with the director and relevant program faculty) or by taking an additional approved course.

STUDY ABROAD
PLAS strongly encourages students to travel to and explore Latin America and the Caribbean. Funds are available to support student travel to these regions for research purposes.

RESEARCH, TRAVEL, & INTERNSHIP SUPPORT
Undergraduate Opportunities
PLAS is committed to promoting student research, experience, and personal and professional growth in Latin America and the Caribbean. Through a combination of substantial travel grants and established institutional networks, PLAS supports undergraduates from a wide range of disciplines as they pursue summer field research and internships throughout the region.

Paul E. Sigmund Scholars Award
The Paul E. Sigmund Scholars Award is named in honor of the late professor of politics, Sigmund (1929-2014), who joined Princeton in 1963, and taught political theory and Latin American politics. The award is intended primarily to support freshman and sophomore summer projects and research-related travel.

Travel Support
PLAS offers funding for senior thesis research to juniors for summer fieldwork and to seniors to conduct research during winter break. PLAS also provides funding support for numerous summer internships in the region sponsored by the International Internship Program.

Postgraduate Opportunities
Graduating seniors seeking postgraduate support may wish to consider the Martin A. Dale ’53 Fellowship or the Henry Richardson Labouisse ’26 Prize. The Office of the Dean of the College publishes a complete list of postgraduate fellowship opportunities.

Seniors may also wish to consider a postgraduate internship through Princeton in Latin America (PiLA).
SENIOR THESIS PRIZES

STANLEY J. STEIN
Stanley J. Stein Thesis Prize in Latin American Studies
The Stanley J. Stein Prize is awarded to the best final written work on a Latin American or Caribbean topic in any field.

KENNETH MAXWELL
Kenneth Maxwell Senior Thesis Prize in Brazilian and Portuguese Studies
The Kenneth Maxwell Prize, provided on behalf of the Firestone Library, is awarded to the best final written work on a Brazilian topic in any field.

For a list of recent prize recipients, visit: plas.princeton.edu

Tseden Drolma Parra: Quinchana, Colombia
Introduced in 2012, the graduate certificate is designed to allow students who are taking seminars in the program, working closely with our faculty and writing dissertations on a Latin American topic to receive a formal credential in the field. Upon fulfilling the requirements listed below, a student will receive a certificate from the Program in Latin American Studies and is entitled to list the credential on his or her curriculum vitae.

The program is open to all Princeton University graduate students currently enrolled in any Ph.D. program in the humanities, social sciences, engineering, math or natural sciences. Students enrolled in the Master’s in Public Administration Degree Program at the Woodrow Wilson School may enroll in the certificate program if they write a research paper on a Latin American topic in consultation with the Program Director.

Certificate Requirements

- **Language:** Advanced proficiency in Spanish, Portuguese, or French (for students working on the Caribbean). Students can satisfy this requirement by completing a course taught in Spanish, Portuguese, or French.

- **Coursework:** Four full-term, approved graduate courses on a Latin American topic, or substitutes approved by the program director. At least one course should be outside of the student’s home department. In addition, the program director may approve other graduate courses, on a case-by-case basis, for which the student has written a final paper focusing on a Latin American topic.
• **Works-in-Progress:** Participation in the PLAS Graduate Works-in-Progress series at least once during the student’s course of study, during which the student presents research to an audience of faculty and graduate students and obtains feedback.

• **Dissertation:** A dissertation that includes significant research on a Latin American topic.

You may apply for the certificate program by visiting the PLAS website at [plas.princeton.edu](http://plas.princeton.edu) and completing the brief online registration form.

PLAS also offers substantial travel grants to graduate students for pre-dissertation and dissertation research in Latin America and the Caribbean. For more information about graduate funding, visit [plas.princeton.edu](http://plas.princeton.edu).

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**FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

For a complete list of fellowship opportunities and to see a list of current and past PLAS Fellows, visit: [plas.princeton.edu](http://plas.princeton.edu)

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**PROGRAM IN LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES**

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For the latest program, news and events information, visit: [plas.princeton.edu](http://plas.princeton.edu)

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*Sneha Iyer ’20: Pusunchás, Peru*