

Latin American Linkages

2020

This guide is meant to provide the Latin American participants in the Yale Latin American Linkage Program with details regarding the program's structure and goals as well as useful information to prepare for the visit.

Guide to the
Yale Law
School leg of
the program

Guide to the Yale Law School side of the 2020 Linkages Program

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Preparations

Program Dates

The United States leg of the 2019 Linkages Program will run from Thursday, January 16 through Thursday, February 6. Many participants choose to travel to the United States earlier or leave later in order to combine the program with sightseeing in other parts of the country, such as New York or Washington DC, but while we can offer advice such travel is solely the responsibility of the student. Participants who are coming directly to Yale upon arriving in New York will be picked up at the airport. Participants who come to the U.S. early in order to do some sightseeing will be picked up from the train station in New Haven. Participants should plan on coming to New Haven no later than Wednesday, January 15.

Travel Insurance

Buying travel insurance that covers emergency medical expenses is extremely important. Each year there have been incidents during the Linkage Program that, while very minor, such as a stomachaches, have required medical attention. It can cost hundreds of dollars just to have a doctor look at you. When you purchase the insurance, please look at the conditions for coverage. Many insurers require that you contact them **before** seeking medical attention. If that is the case for your insurance, make sure to keep the appropriate telephone number and insurance policy numbers with you at all times.

Getting to and from New Haven

In general, the best way to get to and from New Haven from South America is by flying into JFK airport in New York City (flights that stop in Dallas or Atlanta often land in Newark or LaGuardia airports, which is not a problem). There are several methods available for traveling from the New York area airports to New Haven. We will organize ground transportation to and from the airport for people who are coming directly to Yale or going directly home after the program. For those who are either coming early to the United States or staying later, we will arrange ground transportation to and from the train station in New Haven (the [Metro-North](#) train line runs from Grand Central Terminal in New York City to New Haven). Do not hesitate to ask questions if you are unsure about your itinerary and the arrangements for transportation between your point of entry and the law school.

Living Conditions

Climate

Sub-zero temperatures are not uncommon in January and February in New Haven, so remember to bring warm clothes: a thick winter hat or something else to keep your ears warm; a thick scarf; warm gloves or mittens; shoes or boots appropriate for walking in dry or wet snow; and a good, preferably water resistant, winter coat. Lip balm is also recommended for people unaccustomed to such cold weather.

Housing

The participants in the Linkages Program normally live with Yale law students in New Haven. Three weeks is a very short time but staying with students gives participants an opportunity to experience first-hand how their American counterparts approach their studies and cope with all the challenges. Please inform the program coordinator of restrictions that should be considered when pairing participants with hosts, such as allergies to animals (many students have pets) and dietary or other restrictions.

Food

For breakfast and lunch, participants are allocated a certain amount of money per day to spend at the law school dining hall and, for dinner, they go to a dining hall at one of the undergraduate residences very close to the law school. Participants must buy their own food on weekends.

Academic Activities

As with any exchange, what participants take from the Linkage Program is proportional to what they put into it, so preparing for the trip is highly recommended. The best place to start is [the Yale Law School webpage](#).

Presentations

We reserve one night a week during the program for presentations from the Latin American participants. The subject is usually a current development in the presenter's home country or something they have already researched. The presentation is meant to be a conversation starter and so must be very short – 10 minutes being the ideal length.

Meeting professors

Another opportunity for discussion arises from meetings of the Latin American students with Yale faculty members. These meetings also usually last between 40 minutes and an hour and vary in format according to the professor in question. We ask [professors](#) to take a little time out of their schedules to meet with the Latin American students based on the interest that is expressed (i.e., the ones you tell the coordinator that you want to meet). Usually you must read an excerpt from the professor's recent scholarship prior to the meeting. Please inform the program coordinator if there is a particular professor you are especially interested in meeting.

Attending classes

Most of your time during the day will be spent sitting in on classes. Here are brief descriptions of the [classes](#) (select spring 2020 term to see the courses that will take place while you are here). If you are interested in other disciplines, we can also arrange it so you can sit in on classes in those subjects in other departments. Professors must be asked permission before attending their class. Not all classes are open to Linkages students. For some, such as clinics, there are confidentiality and legal restrictions. For others, such as advanced seminars, there is an application process and a limited number of seats. The program coordinator and hosts can help students find classes related to their interests.

Meeting students from journals and clinics

There will also be opportunities to meet with students who work in the student-run [journals and organizations](#) and the legal service and policy [clinics](#). Please let me know if any interest you in particular.

Centers and guest lectures

Besides classes, there are also special events nearly every day at lunchtime and in the evening. These include guest lectures, panel discussions, and conferences, and are usually sponsored by student organizations or one of the law school's [centers](#). Refer to the [news](#) and [events](#) pages for details.

Research facilities

You will have access to the [law school library](#). You cannot take books home or access the electronic holdings from your personal laptops, but there are terminals that give you access to an enormous electronic collection and we will help you get any book you want to consult. Unfortunately access to the books and resources at the [main library](#) is even more restricted, but again, we can get any book you wish to see.

Other Activities

Sports & Exercise

You can have unlimited access during the program to the athletic facilities (the Payne-Whitney Gym) for a fee of around \$30. You have to go to the gym office during their business hours with photo identification and explain that you are with the law school's Linkage Program to purchase the pass card.

Outings

The Linkage students from Yale will also organize social activities for evenings, nights, and weekends. The sorts of events generally depend on the tastes of the students hosting you as well as your own. Those who enjoy cooking will prepare large meals for the entire group. In the past, students have gone shopping, hiking, sledding and to church services together, although the most common activity seems to be going to bars and small parties.

Excursions

On the last Thursday of the program, we take a trip to New York to visit the Second Circuit Federal Court of Appeals, one of the large New York firms (in 2019 it was Cleary Gottlieb), and a major international human rights NGO (such as Human Rights Watch).

Trips to other cities such as Boston or Washington on the weekends or outside the program dates are not covered by the law school, but we are always happy to make suggestions and connect people with former Linkages participants in those cities.