

# INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECT INFORMATION

Each student develops a qualitative research project on a specific chosen topic. In the design, development and evaluation of the research, students should put into practice all of the elements discussed in the seminar.

First, students will prepare a written draft of their ISP to present to their ISP tutor two weeks before the seminar ends. With the comments they receive, students must prepare a final paper and submit a printed version and electronic version. The length of the written version is 30 pages that should be accompanied by the bibliography, photos, drawings, maps and other graphic material that complement the written text. The final version will need to be reviewed by a Spanish speaker to avoid linguistical errors.

In order to avoid students leaving the ISP to the last moment, they will present a written report of their progress half way through the semester. This report will be graded and calculated in their final ISP grade.

## Research Plan

**The research plan must consider the following elements:**

1. Topic
2. Research focus: narrative-biographic study, qualitative study, ethnographic, etc.
3. Justification: Why do I want to research this topic?
4. Research question(s): What am I going to research?
5. Objectives: For what reason am I going to research? What am I going to achieve at the end of my research?
6. Research techniques: What techniques am I going to utilize for the collection of information (interviews, observation, focus groups, other)? In the case where interviews or focus groups are used, it is necessary to be precise about who will be interviewed and who will be part of the focus groups.
7. Ethical aspects: Which ethical considerations must I keep in mind when doing fieldwork?
8. Schedule: How am I going to organize my time for the development of my research?
9. Bibliography: What materials am I going to use? For example: books, articles, journals, newspapers, etc.

## Presentation of Research

The final version of the research project must contain the following parts

1. Cover page:
  - Name of the seminar
  - Title of the research project
  - Author
  - Date
2. Index

3. Abstract: Written in English and following the specifications of Pitzer College: “Abstracts should include the following: 1) Title of project 2) Type of project (internship, research study, apprenticeship, etc.), 3) Field of study for which the project should receive credit (religious studies, sociology, anthropology, music, women’s studies, etc.) 4) A short summary of the project including the following: Here is what I did (including the key research questions I asked). Here is how I did it (methods). Here is what I learned. Overall, the abstract can be very short as long as all of the above is covered”
4. Introduction
5. Chapters and subchapters
6. Conclusions
7. Bibliography: All sources used for the research: books, journals, newspapers, interviews, informal conversations, television programs, lectures, etc.
8. Appendix (optional)

The ISP must be submitted in printed and digital copy. The printed version must be ring bound.

## Evaluation

The evaluation of the ISP will be calculated in the following way:

- Research Plan                    20
- Field Work                        30
- Final Paper                        40
- Oral Presentation                10

Total                                    100

## SOURCES

### Social Sciences Libraries

Biblioteca de la Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO)

Dirección: La Pradera E7-174 y Av. Diego de Almagro

Biblioteca virtual: [www.flacso.org](http://www.flacso.org)

Biblioteca de la Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar (UASB)

Dirección: Toledo N22-80 (Plaza Brasilia)

Catálogo electrónico: [www.uasb.edu.ec](http://www.uasb.edu.ec)

### Social Science Journals

- *Iconos*. Revista de Ciencias Sociales de la Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales
- *Ecuador Debate*. Revista de Ciencias Sociales de Centro Andino de Acción Popular

Ambas revistas pueden ser encontradas en el repositorio digital FLACSO Andes, [www.flacsoandes.edu.ec](http://www.flacsoandes.edu.ec)

### **Newspapers**

- El Comercio: [elcomercio.com](http://elcomercio.com)
- El Universo: [eluniverso.com](http://eluniverso.com)
- El Telégrafo: [telegrafo.com.ec](http://telegrafo.com.ec)

### **Databases**

- Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos: [inec.gov.ec](http://inec.gov.ec)
- Banco Central del Ecuador: [bce.fin.ec](http://bce.fin.ec)

### **Links for critical thinking resources**

- La línea de fuego. Pensamiento crítico. <https://lalineadefuego.info/>
- Plan V. <https://www.planv.com.ec/>