

Researcher Reflections

URAF
Fall 2023

Harvard College Research Program with Kilbert Baez-Arias, '24 Standard and Dominican Spanish in the Dominican Republic

Project Overview

During Summer 2023, Kilbert researched the relationships between variations of Spanish spoken in the Dominican Republic, and interviewed people in the DR to understand their perceptions of the dialect dynamic. This research, supported by the classes he has taken in Sociology and Linguistics, will shape his senior thesis project.

"... I was able to bridge the connection between language and human interaction, something that truly I enjoy."

Courses Shaping Connections

Kilbert reflected that a class called Pursuing Truth and Justice taught by Professor Flavia Perea has shaped his research in the DR. He shared that the class encouraged analysis of researcher positionality and ethical research completion, and that he continued to carefully consider researcher language, biases, and privilege develop and execute his project in an equitable manner.



Application Advice

Kilbert encourages students to create a solid understanding of project objective before applying for research grants. He observed that reaching out to recommenders and working out specific details early in the process aided his planning. Kilbert noted that applications varied in complexity, but that the process is "also completely possible when you use the resources around you."

scan the QR code to read the full interview transcript
and learn about the Harvard College Research Program

