



## Presidential International Scholar



Wofford College's 38th Presidential International Scholar will spend the 2021-2022 academic year studying the relationship between public health and culture in Argentina and South Africa.

Hector Ortiz '22, a triple major from Saluda, South Carolina, studying biology, philosophy and Spanish, was selected for the independent research abroad experience.

"Hector has an undeniable passion for service and has served the Wofford campus and the greater Spartanburg community since he arrived at the college," says Dr. Nayef Samhat, Wofford's president. "His curiosity, thoughtfulness and carefully crafted research proposal should lead to meaningful work and discussion that will benefit our entire community."

Ortiz's research will focus specifically on how Argentina and South Africa manage tuberculosis and Type 2 diabetes. Dr. Jeremy Morris, assistant professor of biology, will serve as his faculty mentor.

"A better understanding of this relationship between public health and culture is vital to improving health outcomes of patients in all societies and will play a critical role in addressing inequities in health care that have become all too clear during the COVID-19 pandemic,"

says Ortiz, whose concentration is in medicine and the liberal arts.

Ortiz has honed his data collection and analysis skills over the past three years at Wofford. He's worked on four different community engagement projects with collaborative teams consisting of faculty and students and has partnered with community organizations in Spartanburg.

The **Presidential International Scholarship** annually goes to "the student most likely to make a difference in the future" to conduct independent research in a non-traditional location. The scholar, selected by the president of the college, is a student with exceptional potential to benefit humankind, a passion for service learning and a globally-minded intellectual curiosity.

**Read more.**

**See the list of past Presidential International Scholars and what each researched.**

## Global Fellow



A Wofford College sophomore was selected for a fellowship announced by Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs, the country's prime minister and U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris on St. Patrick's Day.

Isaiah Franco, a Spanish and international affairs major from Newtown, Pennsylvania, will spend four weeks in Dublin for a fully-funded study abroad experience as a Frederick Douglass Global Fellowship fellow. The fellowship is sponsored by the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) and Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs.

"I am so grateful for this opportunity to go abroad fully funded and learn in a place that was so formative for Frederick Douglass nearly 170 years ago," says Franco. "I am also honored to be on the receiving end of the efforts of the Irish government. Most importantly though, I cannot wait to learn from the 13 other fellows. I am certain they are

incredible folks who will push me to grow so much during our time together in Dublin. I cannot wait to explore the city and country and connect the past liberation struggles of the Irish to the ongoing fight against racism in the United States. I hope to bring back knowledge that will help me continue to fight for justice here.”

Franco is one of 14 fellows in the United States selected for the highly selective fellowship, which had more than 500 applicants – a program record.

[Read more.](#)

## JEDI Preliminary Data

The Wofford College Board of Trustees has given its support to moving forward on the initial recommendations presented by the Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) steering committee.

The JEDI Committee presented preliminary data from its listening sessions, surveys and research to the Board of Trustees in February, and to the larger Wofford community during a March 11 town hall.

[Read about the five initial recommendations and watch a recording of the town hall.](#)

### Office of Marketing and Communications

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