

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships (FLAS) for Summer 2009 and Academic Year 09-10

ILAS administers the United States Department of Education **Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS)** fellowships for Latin America. Applications are obtained from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Office of Financial Aid (107 Low Memorial Library) or on the web at: <http://www.sipa.columbia.edu/prog/fellowship/AYFLASapplication.pdf>

The FLAS fellowship program is predicated on the belief that the well-being of the United States, its economy, and its long-range security depend on proper education and training of Americans in international and foreign language studies. FLAS fellowships strengthen the nation's ability to compete effectively in the modern world by promoting foreign language competence and area and international knowledge and by ensuring the continuation of area expertise in a variety of fields.

The FLAS fellowship competition is open to graduate students of Columbia University who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents and are concentrating in world area studies. The FLAS award offers fellowship assistance to students undergoing beginning, intermediate, or advanced training in modern foreign languages and related international or area studies. **The award provides payment of tuition and fees and a stipend of \$15,000 for the academic year.**

In 2009, ILAS is offering four academic year FLAS awards for the study of Spanish and Portuguese and three summer FLAS fellowships for language study in Portuguese, Spanish and Indigenous (Amerindian) languages.

- The summer FLAS provides payment of tuition and mandatory program fees, plus a stipend.
- The academic year FLAS fellowship provides payment of partial tuition, health service fees, and medical insurance fees (basic coverage only), plus a stipend.
- Applications for Spanish Language study are for students at the intermediate level and above.
- Applications for Portuguese Language study are for students at the beginning level and above. However, awards for beginners are not applicable for programs abroad.
- Applications for Indigenous Language study are available at all levels.
- In reviewing the applications, ILAS will give priority to applicants wishing to incorporate Portuguese or Amerindian languages in their program of studies.
- Applications for advanced study of Spanish will be considered once priority applications have been evaluated.

Eligibility Requirements

- Citizen, national, or permanent resident of the United States
- Currently enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a graduate degree program at Columbia University that combines foreign language training with Latin American area studies
- Focus on Latin America as an area of study
- Non-native speaker of the language proposed for study

Application Requirements

- Completed FLAS Application
- 1-2 page statement identifying the language proposed for study and describing your language background and how the proposed language study will relate to your educational and career goals.
- Information on any plans, even tentative, for language study abroad at any time during the award period. Provide details of the study program.
- Transcript of all university work (unofficial transcript acceptable)
- Two current academic letters of recommendation
- Evaluation of language proficiency (letter, test scores, etc.)

Selection Criteria

Applicants are ranked by merit, discipline, and language competence.

High priority is given to:

- Students pursuing language competence in Brazilian Portuguese or any of the Amerindian languages of the Americas.
- PhD students in the disciplines/professions or talented MA students who are likely to pursue government service
- MA students in the professions and sciences
- Students with advanced (non-native) language skills. Lowest priority is given to students proposing to study their native language.

Terms of the Award

- FLAS awards are for the academic year (9 months) or the summer interim (3 months).
- Academic Year Fellows are required to enroll in language and area studies courses each semester.
- Courses must be for credit and graded on a grade point average system or percentage grade.
- Independent studies are not accepted.
- Students who wish to use an award for a formal study abroad program must be at the intermediate or advanced level of language proficiency.
- Dissertation research: only students who are at the advanced level of language proficiency can be approved to use a FLAS for dissertation research.
- The Institute of Latin American Studies is required to request approval in advance from the U.S. Office of Education for any language study or dissertation research abroad before the FLAS award begins.
- FLAS recipients must complete a Student Performance Report at the end of the award period.
- Applicants must provide reasonable assurance that upon completion of training they will be available for teaching in a higher education institution or in an elementary or secondary school or other services of a public nature

Deadline

The deadline for FLAS applications is **March 06, 2009.**