

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships (FLAS)

ILAS administers the United States Department of Education **Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS)** fellowships for Latin America. Applications are available on GSAS Financial Aid Office: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/gsas/sub/finaid/cstudents/flas/index.html>. **The deadline is Friday, February 24, 2017.**

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 both undergraduate and graduate students of Columbia University who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents and are undergoing training in modern foreign languages and related area or international 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.

All applicants must demonstrate both merit and financial need as indicated by the student's expected family contribution, as determined under part F of the Title IV of the HEA.

FLAS ACADEMIC YEAR 2017-2018

ILAS is offering four (4) **graduate** and one (1) **undergraduate** academic year FLAS award.

FLAS Fellowship may be used for the study of Portuguese, Nahuatl, Creole (through NYU), Mixtec, and Quechua (through NYU). ***Priority is given to the study of less commonly taught languages (LCTL).***

Under exceptional circumstances, advanced (or third-year) Spanish study may be allowed for graduate students only. Spanish is not permitted for undergraduates.

Graduate students who are applying for a beginning level LCTL must have already achieved advanced proficiency in another language of the world area of specialization, and if learning a second language of that world area is required for the student's overall training and expertise. Proof of foreign language at advanced proficiency may be required.

Academic Year 2017-2018 Award for Fellows

- The academic year FLAS provides payment of partial tuition, health service fees, and medical insurance fees (basic coverage only), plus a stipend.

Graduate Awards

- AY institutional payment \$18,000
- AY stipend \$15,000

Undergraduate Awards

- AY institutional payment \$10,000
- AY stipend \$5,000

FLAS SUMMER 2017

ILAS is offering two (2) summer FLAS awards.

FLAS Fellowship may be used for the study of all Amerindian languages and Portuguese. ***Priority is given to the study of less commonly taught languages (LCTL).***

Under exceptional circumstances, advanced (or third-year) Spanish study may be allowed for graduate students only. Spanish is not permitted for undergraduates.

Summer 2017 Award for Fellows

- Summer institutional payment \$5,000
- Summer stipend \$2,500

Eligibility Requirements

- Full-time graduate or undergraduate students at Columbia University
- Citizen, national, or permanent resident of the United States
- Currently enrolled in a degree program 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
- Shows potential for high academic achievement based on merits
- Non-native speaker of the language proposed for study

Language Requirements

- Priority will be given to less commonly taught languages (LCTL – Amerindian, Creole, and Portuguese)
- 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.
- Applications for Indigenous Language study are available at all levels but must have achieved proficiency in another language of the world area of specialization.
- Applications for Creole Language study are available at all levels but must have achieved proficiency in another language of the world area of specialization.
- Applications for advanced study of Spanish will be considered once priority applications have been evaluated
- Eligible Summer Study Abroad Programs for Graduate Students: all levels Amerindian, intermediate and advanced Portuguese and Spanish
- Eligible Summer Domestic Study Programs: all levels
- Undergraduate must be at the intermediate or advanced levels of Portuguese language or Amerindian and **cannot** apply for Spanish

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