

## ***Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships (FLAS) - AY***

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 Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 1:00pm.**

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 Latin American FLAS fellowship competition is only open to graduate students at 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 2025-2026**

ILAS is offering **four (4) graduate** academic year FLAS awards with potential to more.

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

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 2025-2026 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 \$20,000

*The US Department of Education provides FLAS recipients with \$20,000 in stipend and \$18,000 in tuition. To further enhance fellowship opportunities for master's students in the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences (GSAS) programs, GSAS will provide a "top-off" tuition fellowship for entering MA students who are awarded a FLAS fellowship. The GSAS support will combine with the FLAS award to provide a full-tuition fellowship for the student's first year. Students will be required to register for a full RU in both the fall and spring of their first year. Funding for the spring semester is contingent on maintaining satisfactory academic progress in the program.*

### **Eligibility Requirements**

- **Full-time graduate students only** at Columbia University or exceptional graduate students from another institution.
- 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)
- Fellowships are for students studying intermediate or advanced level of eligible languages. Beginning level language is eligible if the students already have proficiency in language relevant to the region (for example: Spanish or Portuguese)

### **Application Requirements**

- Completed FLAS [Application](#)
- **Statement of purpose:** The one- or two-page statement of purpose should describe your academic purpose, the role the proposed language plays within that academic purpose, and how you intend to use the language. Describe how the language and area study will relate to your educational and career goals. Also indicate previous language experience, both formal and informal.
- **Two letters of recommendation:** GSAS prefers that recommenders submit their letters of recommendation electronically to expedite processing. When you enter the names and email addresses of recommenders, they will automatically receive an email with upload information and instructions. You can resend a request by clicking the "Send Reminder"

button. Two Letters of Recommendation are required, preferably from instructors who can comment on your work in the target language and appropriate world area. Please make sure that recommenders are given ample time to submit recommendations by the deadline, and notify them if you are applying for more than one fellowship.

- **FAFSA:** Applicants must also separately submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the FLAS deadline of Thursday, February 6, 2025 in order to be considered for a FLAS Fellowship.

The FAFSA opens on December 1 this year, and students should apply as early as possible. Your Federal Student Aid Report (SAR) should list Columbia's federal school code (002707); if the code has been listed on your FAFSA, then it is very likely that your application has been sent to Columbia University.

- **Academic transcripts:** You must upload scanned copies of all undergraduate and graduate transcripts.

Below are some suggestions for how to upload a transcript:

1. Scan at the lowest DPI that results in a legible document (we recommend using 200 DPI or less whenever possible).
2. Ensure that the institution name and other identifying marks are included and that your scanned copy is clearly legible and can print on letter-size paper (8 ½" x 11").
3. Include the transcript legend (found on the final page, in many cases).
4. Save your document as a PDF file.
5. Make certain that its size is less than 1 MB. Scanning in "grayscale" or black and white may produce the best results.
6. If the scanned file is too large, make a photocopy first (experiment with different settings until you find one that results in the smallest file size), then scan the photocopy.
7. You may upload an institutional web-based transcript/academic record.
8. **The GSAS Fellowship application does not accept encrypted files for upload.** If you receive an error message noting that your file is encrypted, please print your transcript, scan it, and then upload the scanned copy. **Note:** Official Columbia transcript PDFs are encrypted; you may order a paper copy through SSOL or print the official transcript PDF you receive from Parchment, then scan and upload it.

Recommended but not required:

- **Curriculum vitae (CV)**
- **Letter of language evaluation:** For applicants who are at the intermediate or advanced level of proficiency, but not enrolled in a language department, a letter of evaluation from a language instructor attesting to proficiency in the language of application is recommended but not required. Evaluators must submit their letters electronically in the manner described above for letters of recommendation.

### **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).
- 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.