



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

Foreign Language & Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship Info Session

Summer 2021

Academic Year 2021-2022



Agenda

- 1) Overview of national FLAS program
- 2) Goals and uses of FLAS fellowships
- 3) Benefits of a fellowship
- 4) Eligibility criteria and priorities
- 5) Selection criteria and selection committee
- 6) Fellowship requirements and responsibilities
- 7) Application procedure
- 8) Question and answer



FLAS at the national level

- FLAS program is funded by U.S. Department of Education under Title VI Higher Education Act of 1965
- Provides academic year and summer fellowships to institutions of higher education to assist undergraduate and graduate students in foreign language and either area or international studies
- Universities compete every four years for grants



National FLAS Goals

- to assist in the development of knowledge, resources, and trained personnel for modern foreign language and area/international studies
- to stimulate the attainment of foreign language acquisition and fluency
- to develop a pool of international experts to meet national needs



Proficiency Level Requirements

- Fellowships may not be awarded for the study of the first 12 semester hours or the equivalent (i.e., the beginning level) of a commonly taught language (Spanish, French, and German)
- Undergraduate students must be in the intermediate or advanced study of a less commonly taught language to receive a fellowship



FLAS-eligible languages:

- Portuguese
- Quechua
- Other Latin American Languages (may be awarded on a case-by-case basis)



Benefits of Summer 2021 Fellowships:

- Undergraduate and Graduate/Professional students:
 - Tuition and fee support up to \$5,000
 - Stipend of \$2,500



Summer 2021 Eligibility Criteria:

- Undergraduate fellows:
 - Successful completion of one year of Latin American language study at the college level before beginning the fellowship (is in the intermediate or advanced study of a less commonly taught language)
 - U.S. citizen or permanent resident
 - Shows potential for high academic achievement based on such indices as grade point average, class ranking, or similar measures
- Graduate fellows:
 - U.S. citizen or permanent resident
 - Shows potential for high academic achievement based on such indices as grade point average, class ranking, or similar measures



Summer 2021 Fellowship Requirements:

- awarded only for intensive language study.
- may be used at a domestic program, an overseas program, or both.
- session (domestic or overseas) qualifies as an intensive language program if it is at least six weeks in duration
 - Beginning and intermediate levels require at least 140 contact hours of language instruction
 - Advanced levels require at least 120 contact hours of language instruction
- A student may meet the required number of contact hours by attending one program, more than one program, or supplementing hours with private tutoring, as long as the required total number of weeks and contact hours is obtained.



Summer 2021 Travel Awards:

- A summer FLAS student may receive a travel award in the amount of \$1,000 or the actual cost of the travel – whichever is less – to attend a domestic or an overseas language program.
- Travel awards may cover the costs of travel via air, car, rail, or bus. FLAS coordinators must submit a travel approval request (TAR) in IRIS for each student receiving a FLAS travel award.
- Travel awards may not be issued to students whose air travel is not in compliance with the Fly America Act or an Open Skies Agreement.



Benefits of AY 2021-2022 Fellowships:

- Undergraduate students:
 - Tuition and fee support up to \$10,000
 - Stipend of \$5,000
- Graduate/professional students:
 - Tuition and partial fee waiver for students in OSU Graduate School OR up to \$18,000 in tuition and fee support for students in OSU professional schools or students studying at other institutions
 - Stipend of \$15,000



AY 2021-2022 Eligibility Criteria:

- Undergraduate fellows:
 - Full-time student (12 semester credit hours/semester for fellows)
 - Successful completion of one year of Latin American language study at the college level before beginning the fellowship
 - U.S. citizen or permanent resident
 - Shows potential for high academic achievement based on such indices as grade point average, class ranking, or similar measures
- Graduate fellows:
 - Full-time graduate or professional student (12 semester credit hours/semester for AY fellows)
 - U.S. citizen or permanent resident
 - Shows potential for high academic achievement based on such indices as grade point average, class ranking, or similar measures



Academic Year Fellowship Requirements:

- May be used to enroll in a domestic or and overseas program of study
- Enrollment in at least one 3-credit, graded, classroom-taught language course each semester, which must be approved by the FLAS Coordinator
- Enrollment in at least one 3-credit, graded, classroom-taught area studies course, which must be approved by the FLAS Coordinator (at least 25% of course content must focus on Latin America) each semester
- Full-time student status (12 semester credit hours each semester);
- Language proficiency examination at the beginning and end of the academic year in order to gauge language progress over course of fellowship;



Fellowship Requirements (continued):

- Meet with FLAS Coordinator by the first week of each semester to discuss course load and obtain approval of program of study
- Submit a post-fellowship online report to the U.S. Department of Education;
- Participate in brief bi-annual survey on job placement and use of language skills for 8 years following graduation
- Dissertation FLAS fellowships must be used to conduct research abroad. Only students at the advanced level of the language are eligible to receive an AY fellowship to conduct dissertation research
- Using the language in conducting the dissertation research project must provide the FLAS fellow the intensive training that a full academic year of formal classroom instruction would provide



Grades, Credit, and Area Studies Courses:

- Students should receive grades and credits for the area studies courses and language courses supported by a FLAS fellowship. This requirement is consistent with the institution being awarded an allocation of fellowships based on its performance-based instructional programs
- “Area Studies” indicates any course with at least 25% of verified Latin American content
- Exceptions may be made for independent study to fulfill FLAS requirements, but students must contact the FLAS Fellowship Coordinator in advance to receive permission.



Distance-Education Courses:

- Online courses do *not* qualify to meet FLAS requirements.
- “Face to face” distance-learning courses do qualify.



Dissertation Approval Requests:

- This is for students to conduct dissertation research abroad during the academic year using their advanced language skills
- Students ensure that the justification and methodology clearly describe the research activities that the student will conduct and why the project is important



FLAS Priorities:

Undergraduate fellows

Consideration will be given to applicants with academic merit and professional potential.

Highest Priority:

Students who propose to study at the advanced level (Level 3 or higher) who also demonstrate financial need as defined in Part F of Title VI of the Higher Education Act of 1965

Second Highest Priority:

Students who plan to study at the advanced levels (Level 3 or higher) before entering government service



FLAS Priorities (cont):

Graduate fellows

Consideration will be given to applicants with academic merit and professional potential.

- **Highest Priority:** Students who propose to study at the advanced level (Level 3 or higher) before entering government service
- **Second Highest Priority:** Students who plan to study at the advanced level (Level 3 or higher) in the first three years of their graduate or professional program
- **Third Highest Priority:** Students who plan to study at the intermediate level (Level 2) or above in non-prototypical fields
- **Lowest Priority:** Native-level speakers, Students who are pursuing study of a language at the beginning level (with the exception of least-commonly-taught languages such as Quechua)



Selection Criteria:

The committee evaluates applications based on the following:

- Academic merit of applicant
(i.e. transcripts, GREs/GMAT/LSAT/SAT/ACT, letters of recommendation)
- Merit of proposal
- Proposed language and level of study
- Year in degree program
- Financial need

The committee may also take the following into consideration:

- Disciplinary breadth of awards
- Applicant's previous FLAS fellowships
- Applicant's eligibility for alternate sources of support



Selection Committee:

The selection committee is comprised of:

- At least 5 faculty members
- From at least 4 departments
- In at least 3 colleges (including professional schools)

Committee membership rotates every year but careful attention is paid to ensure a high-quality, interdisciplinary committee



Additional Responsibilities:

FLAS recipients are expected to maintain high academic standards

- Must receive a grade of “B” or better in all FLAS-related courses
- Must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0

Graduate/professional FLAS recipients are being paid to concentrate on their studies

- Employment within OSU is typically not permitted while on
- Students overseas are not permitted to work, intern, or participate in other programs during their overseas study program



Application Procedure:

- The DEADLINE to apply is **Monday, February 1, 2021 at 4:30 PM EST**
- Applications and supporting materials will be submitted online through Qualtrics.
- Before beginning an application, students should consult the relevant information sheet for specific information on eligibility requirements and application instructions for their particular competition:
 - [CLAS FLAS Info Sheet for Undergraduate Students](#)
 - [CLAS FLAS Info Sheet for Graduate and Professional Students](#)
- A PDF version of the application is available for preview and planning purposes only. Applicants must complete the application itself through Qualtrics.
 - [Preview of 2020-2021 CLAS FLAS Application to be Completed in Qualtrics](#)
- Before completing the online application form, students should have all the necessary information on hand and additional documents ready for uploading into the application. The online form should take approximately 20-30 minutes to complete and should be completed at one time.
- No consideration will be given to applications that are incompletely or improperly filled out.



A complete application includes the following:

- The completed Online Application Form.
- An up-to-date **OSU Advising Report** of all courses taken and grades received, and **Official Transcripts** from any other previous graduate work and undergraduate work (attached in your online application).
- A one-page single-spaced **Statement of Intent** (attached in your online application).
- A **Resume or CV** (two pages maximum; attached in your online application);
- A **Budget Estimate** section in your online application, with relevant supporting materials attached (if you are planning to complete part of your 2021-2022 academic year outside of Ohio State).
- **Three Letters of Reference** from faculty members familiar with the student's work, including language capability. Applicants fill out the Student Section of the FLAS Recommendation Form and provide it to their referees. Referees complete and submit via email to clas@osu.edu by Monday, February 1, 2021.
- Applicants must also separately submit a **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** to OSU's Office of Student Financial Aid by their priority deadline of Monday, February 1, 2021 in order to be considered for a FLAS Fellowship. The FAFSA can be accessed at <http://sfa.osu.edu>.



Timeline for decisions:

Academic Year 2021-2022:

AWARD NOTIFICATIONS: Fellowship competition results will be made in mid-March 2021 for Summer and Academic Year fellowships.



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Questions?

Center for Latin American Studies

(614) 688-4285

clas@osu.edu