

**MELLON UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS FOR SUMMER RESEARCH  
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN  
Application deadline: March 21, 2025**

**OVERVIEW**

Funded by an endowment from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the awards provide opportunities for Duke undergraduates to complement course work with research experience on Latin America and the Caribbean (including Puerto Rico and the U.S.-Mexico border region).

The awards are open to all fields and subjects. Awards typically range from \$500 to \$2,500 per person.

Feel free to contact us at [patrick.semmler@duke.edu](mailto:patrick.semmler@duke.edu) with any questions about allowable expenses prior to application submission.

**PROCESS**

- 1) Applicants must submit a proposal for an academic research project on Latin America and/or the Caribbean. It is recommended that the research take place between May and August.
- 2) Proposals for work done in conjunction with a larger project directed by a faculty member and/or organized by a Duke research center or student group are eligible as long as there is a significant independent research component. Projects done in conjunction with an internship are also eligible. If you are planning a group project, each member of the group must apply individually, including separate application form, supporting documentation and a budget reflecting only your own research and costs.
- 3) Applicants must enlist a faculty sponsor with expertise in the country, topic, or methodology of the student's project. The sponsor will help the student develop a research program and establish contacts in the country to be studied, if appropriate.
- 4) The sponsor must meet with the student at least one week prior to the application deadline.
- 5) The sponsoring faculty member is required to submit a letter of recommendation by the due date to Patrick Semmler, [patrick.semmler@duke.edu](mailto:patrick.semmler@duke.edu).

Applicants are encouraged to seek additional funding at Duke and elsewhere if necessary.

**APPLICATION**

A pdf copy of the application must be submitted electronically by the deadline to Patrick Semmler, [patrick.semmler@duke.edu](mailto:patrick.semmler@duke.edu).

A completed application must include:

- 1) completed application form;

- 2) a project statement of no more than three double-spaced pages of 12-point type; the statement should delineate the central issue or question of the project and any key subsidiary issues and questions; discuss how your project relates to research already done on related issues; outline the methods and sources you will use to address your project's central issue(s) and question(s); explain the importance of the proposed topic, the project's feasibility, and its potential contribution to knowledge about the region; and **indicate how the community where the research is taking place will benefit from/engage with the outcomes of the work/research;**
- 3) itemized budget and budget narrative;
- 4) one-page resumé and/or one-page, double-spaced autobiographical statement;
- 5) official Duke transcript that includes Fall 2024 grades.

## KEEP IN MIND

- 1) **Note about research involving human subjects:** undergraduate students whose proposed research involves human subjects should be aware that it is necessary to obtain approval of your research from the Institutional Review Board. Please consult with the Office of Research Support about the policies concerning research with human subjects at Duke University. Information can be found on the Office of Research Support web site at <https://campusirb.duke.edu/>. **Summer funding cycle deadlines are tight, so it is strongly recommended to begin this process while applying to this competition and to not wait until award notification.** No grant funds will be released until this approval has been obtained.
- 2) If a grantee's research topic changes, the student is obliged to contact CLACS, as funding would be contingent on review and acceptance of the new project.
- 3) Applicants must be enrolled at Duke in the semester following the field research experience.
- 4) After returning from the field, grantees will be required to provide CLACS with a written report of their work abroad and an informal oral presentation to staff, peers, and others of their research activities .
- 5) Undergraduate students must consult Duke's travel policy at <https://travel.duke.edu/travelpolicy> and follow all required steps. Be sure to keep an eye on the Restricted Regions List published by the Global Travel and Administrative Support Office, <https://travel.duke.edu/restricted-regions-list> and consult with the staff of the Global Travel and Administrative Support Office. If you are planning to conduct research in a restricted region, there are additional steps you will be required to take before you can register your travel. We must receive proof that you have completed the Duke Travel Registry <https://travel.duke.edu/registry> and that your travel is approved by this office before tickets can be purchased or funds released.

For more information on the award competition, please email Patrick Semmler at [patrick.semmler@duke.edu](mailto:patrick.semmler@duke.edu).