

**GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS**

**2026 SUMMER FOREIGN LANGUAGE AND AREA STUDIES FELLOWSHIPS**

**APPLICATIONS DUE: FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026**

*Letters of recommendation must be sent directly by recommenders to [patrick.semmler@duke.edu](mailto:patrick.semmler@duke.edu).*

With funding provided by the U.S. Department of Education, the Duke Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies will award non-service fellowships for the 2025 summer session. The awards provide stipends of \$3,500 each plus up to \$5,000 to cover tuition and fees for one summer session. Additionally, travel support may be available for up to \$1,000.

The purpose of the summer FLAS Fellowships is to permit students to study one of the languages indicated below on an intensive basis. The fellowships are available to graduate and professional school students as well as undergraduate students who are studying less commonly taught languages at the intermediate to advanced level.

The degree of intensity must be equivalent to covering one year of college-level instruction in the summer (for those at the beginning or intermediate level, the minimum required number of contact hours is 140, and for those at the advanced level, the minimum required number of contact hours is 120). All programs must be for at least 6 weeks.

The summer FLAS competition is open to undergraduate, graduate, and professional school students currently enrolled at Duke. In most cases, native speakers of these languages, even if U.S. citizens or permanent residents, are not eligible for a fellowship in their native language. Competitive preference will be given to applicants who have demonstrated financial need as reflected in their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Student Aid Report.

Eligibility requirements for Summer FLAS Fellowships:

- (1) Recipients must be full-time students in an undergraduate, graduate, or professional degree program during the regular academic years preceding and following this award;
- (2) Recipients must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents;
- (3) Recipients must enroll in the formal study of one of the languages indicated below;
- (4) Recipients must be enrolled as full-time students at a FLAS-granting institution or enrolling in a Summer language program offered by a FLAS-granting institution.

Application instructions for Summer FLAS Fellowships: We are pleased to invite applications from students in academic departments or professional schools for these FLAS fellowships. All Summer FLAS applications must be submitted by **Friday, March 6, 2026**. All materials must be sent as email attachments to [patrick.semmler@duke.edu](mailto:patrick.semmler@duke.edu).

- (1) a completed application form;
- (2) a two-page (double-spaced) proposal by the candidate describing prior language and area studies training, related experiences, and future study plans, including reference to how those plans will lead to professional activity in the relevant world area in which the language will be used. Please clearly indicate the proposed language and the summer intensive language program in which you wish to enroll.
- (3) an official Duke transcript of the applicant's academic record at Duke.

(4) Student Aid Report from your most recent Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This form and instructions can be found online at <https://studentaid.gov/announcements-events/fafsa-support>

(5) two letters of recommendation:

- a. one which evaluates the candidate’s graduate and/or undergraduate performance, from the candidate's academic advisor, sponsoring faculty member, or other, and
- b. one from a language instructor who is able to assess the student’s current skills in the language to be studied, or for beginning language candidates, the second letter should be from another faculty member or other who is familiar with your work.

NOTE: letters of recommendation should be sent as email attachments to Patrick Semmler ([patrick.semmler@duke.edu](mailto:patrick.semmler@duke.edu)) at the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

**Fellowship Requirements:**

Fellowship recipients are required to meet the following conditions during and after the term of the fellowship:

- Summer FLAS Fellowship recipients must be enrolled in an approved intensive language program. Fellowship recipients in a language with level restrictions who fail to meet enrollment requirements for the minimum level (e.g. successful completion of prerequisite courses or minimum score on a placement test) will have their fellowships cancelled. Summer FLAS funds may not be used to enroll in culture and/or area studies activities/courses that are not included as a part of the intensive language program and for which separate tuition is charged.
- FLAS Fellowship recipients must complete any language proficiency testing at the beginning and end of their fellowship terms as required by U.S. Department of Education and the Duke centers.
- FLAS Fellowship recipients must comply with all reporting requirements of U.S. Department of Education and the Duke centers. Students’ failure to complete the reports will prevent them from being considered for funding in the future.
- FLAS Fellowship recipients are required to complete a survey regarding their career paths for a period of time (up to 8 years) following graduation from their currently enrolled degree program in accordance with U.S. Department of Education requirements. You must provide us with an email address that you are sure you will continue to use for at least 8 years following your fellowship period.

Center	Specified purpose of Summer FLAS Fellowship
Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies Languages Building Room 205 Campus Box 90257 Contact: Patrick Semmler Phone: 919-660-3101 Email: <a href="mailto:patrick.semmler@duke.edu">patrick.semmler@duke.edu</a>	The UNC-Duke Consortium in Latin American and Caribbean Studies awards Summer FLAS Fellowships for the intensive study of Brazilian Portuguese, Haitian Creole/Kreyòl, K'iche' Maya, Yucatec Maya, or other less commonly taught languages of the Americas. Languages other than the 4 listed above may be possible, but will require special funding agency approval. Application due date for Summer 2026 FLAS competition: March 6, 2026.

Applicants are encouraged to consult with Patrick Semmler for guidance in identifying eligible programs as you consider and select a summer language program. Please note: the FLAS application is for funding, and separately, programs have their own applications and due dates. For example, Tulane University applications for the K'iche' Maya program in Guatemala and the Portuguese program in Brazil are due on February 6th. Students must be accepted into a FLAS-eligible program, and program application due dates vary.

*Duke University does not discriminate on the basis of color, race, religion, national origin, handicap, veteran status, sexual orientation or preference, sex, or age in the administration of educational policies, admission policies, financial aid, employment or any other University program or activity. It admits qualified students to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities accorded or made available to students.*

