

**2016 GRADUATE STUDENT FIELD RESEARCH GRANTS
CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN STUDIES, DUKE UNIVERSITY
APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

Application Deadline: Friday, March 25, 2016

The Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies is pleased to announce the availability of Graduate Student Research Grants for the summer and fall of 2016. The grants support short periods (two weeks or more) of field research in Latin America and the Caribbean by outstanding graduate and professional school students in the social sciences, humanities and natural sciences at Duke. Funding for this year's competition is provided by the Tinker Foundation Incorporated, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Office of Global Affairs.

The Graduate Student Field Research Travel Grants are primarily intended to provide graduate and professional school students with the opportunity to deepen their disciplinary interests in any country of Latin America and the Caribbean. The awards will allow recipients to assess research sites and determine the focus and feasibility of the dissertation prospectus. In some cases, research for master's theses or other culminating projects will also be supported. Grantees are encouraged to use this opportunity to develop ties with institutions, organizations and individuals in the country they will travel to. The proposed research should clearly have some impact or connection to the scholarly community, economy, health, culture and/or environment of the place where the research will be conducted.

Grants will be limited to travel expenses, and when possible a small contribution toward lodging and meals. Grant amounts will vary according to distance traveled and length of time in the field. Grantees are expected to spend at least two weeks in the field. All disbursements will be made according to University procedures. Recipients of the funds will be required to establish an affiliation with an appropriate institution in the host country.

General Information

Please note that there is no restriction against citizens of Latin American and Caribbean countries utilizing the funds for research within their own countries. U.S. graduate students, however, must use the awards for projects involving field research outside the U.S. (i.e., in Latin America or the Caribbean). In addition, the competition is open to applicants of all nationalities - there are no citizenship requirements.

To apply for a Graduate Student Field Research Travel Grant, please submit the following documents:

- (1) A completed Graduate Student Field Research Grants Application Form (attached);
- (2) A brief (up to two pages, double-spaced) plan of research including information on the following: topic and objectives of the research project; indication of the project's relevance to the applicant's discipline or field of study and to their own academic and career trajectory; indication of the contribution the proposed research might make to the scholarly community, economy, health, culture and/or environment of the place where the research will be conducted; ability to function in relevant foreign language as required by this research; ties with specific individuals and institutions in the host country; anticipated length of stay; and the planned research agenda;

- (3) a one-page bibliography;
- (4) A proposed budget (Due to the limited amount of funds available, we will fund international travel, and in some cases a contribution toward in-country travel costs, and toward lodging/meals of no more than \$10 per day.) Please use the following format:
 - a. Round-trip airfare from RDU airport
 - b. In-country travel (describe)
 - c. Per diem @ \$10 per day (Note: Per diem is defined as meals and lodging. Do not include separate budget items for these expenses.)
- (5) A one-page *curriculum vitae*, a copy of the transcript of your record at Duke that includes Fall 2015 grades, and a letter of recommendation from your graduate advisor or a faculty member familiar with your work. (Note that it is the student applicant's responsibility to be sure that your faculty advisor turns in the letter of recommendation on time.)

Applications are invited from Duke graduate and professional school students who work on Latin America and/or the Caribbean, in all disciplines. Previous grantees are eligible to apply; however it should be noted that in most cases priority will be given to first-time applicants.

Applicants should submit one copy (all pages single-sided) of their application materials to Natalie Hartman, Room 135 Franklin Center, on or before Friday, March 25, 2016. Late applications (including late letters of recommendation) will not be considered. The decisions of the selection committee will be announced by the first week of May. Awards will be made on the basis of academic credentials, the quality of research proposals, and the candidates' eligibility. The amount of individual awards will vary according to destination and length of time in the field, but can rarely exceed \$1,500.

Grantees will be required to provide the Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies with a brief written description of field activities and a financial accounting within 30 days of returning from the field. Grantees may also be asked to share their experiences and findings by participating in colloquia or panel discussions during the year following their return from the field.

Note about research involving human subjects: For graduate and professional school students whose proposed research involves human subjects, you should be aware that it is necessary for you 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://ors.duke.edu/orsmanual/use-human-subjects-research>.

Note about Duke's International Travel Policy: Please consult <https://global.duke.edu/admin/travelpolicy/index.php> for complete information on Duke's Graduate & Professional School Student Travel Policy. You are required to register your international travel plans with the Duke Travel Registry (link can be found on the web site above). If planning to travel to a location that is on the Duke Restricted Regions List, you must register your travel and sign the High Risk Travel Waiver/Release Form (link can be found on the web site above).