MELLON UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS FOR SUMMER RESEARCH ON LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Applications for Summer 2021 are due March 22, 2021, 5 pm.

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 $2,000 per person.

NOTE REGARDING SUMMER 2021: All activities involving undergraduate travel – both international and domestic – will be suspended this summer. CLACS encourages students to apply to use funding for research-related expenses other than travel. The kinds of expenses that may be covered include, but are not limited to:

- Research materials such as book purchases, fees for digitizing archived data, high resolution GIS images.
- Virtual conference or seminar attendance/presentations.
- In-country data collection fees.
- Online delivery language course fees (for courses not offered at Duke).
- Transcription fees.

Feel free to contact us 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 September.

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, supporting documentation and 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.

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 Miguel Rojas Sotelo, Ph.D., miguel.rojassotelo@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;
3) one-page bibliography of sources relevant to proposed research
4) itemized budget and budget narrative
5) one-page resume and/or one-page, double-spaced autobiographical statement
6) official Duke transcript

KEEP IN MIND

1) **Note about research involving human subjects**: undergraduate 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://campusirb.duke.edu/. Summer funding cycle deadlines are tight, so it is strongly recommended that you begin this process while applying and that you don’t wait until award notification. No grant funds will be released until this approval has been obtained.
2) If a grantee’s research subject 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) Grantees will be required to provide CLACS with a written description and/or formal oral presentation of research activities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE AWARD COMPETITION, CONTACT Miguel Rojas Sotelo, Ph.D., miguel.rojassotelo@duke.edu