Application Deadline: Friday, April 2, 2021

The Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies is pleased to announce the availability of Graduate Student Research Grants for the summer and fall of 2021 (note that while this funding is typically used in summer and fall, if you need to conduct your research in winter or spring of 2022 you should apply now; there is only one competition per year). The grants support short periods (two weeks or more) of research on 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 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The Graduate Student Research Grants are primarily intended to provide graduate and professional school students with the opportunity to deepen their disciplinary interests on any country of Latin America and the Caribbean. The awards will allow recipients to assess future 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 study. The proposed research should clearly have some impact or connection to the scholarly community, economy, health, culture and/or environment of the place being researched.

NOTE REGARDING SUMMER 2021: For all students and faculty, the COVID-19 Travel Suspension is in effect until August 8, 2021. It may be possible for graduate students and faculty to obtain approval for “essential travel” in Summer 2021. You are strongly encouraged to consult Duke’s recently updated travel policy and COVID-19 addendum at https://travel.duke.edu/travel-policy-and-covid-19-addendum. You are also encouraged to consult with the staff of the Global Travel and Administrative Support Office. All travel must be approved by this office before tickets can be purchased or funds released.

For remote research, 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.

All disbursements will be made according to University procedures. The competition is open to applicants of all nationalities -- there are no citizenship requirements.

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

(1) A completed Graduate Student 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 to be studied; 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 project; and the planned research agenda;

(3) a one-page bibliography;

(4) A proposed budget (See the list above regarding allowable expenses);

(5) A one-page *curriculum vitae*, an official transcript of your record at Duke that includes Fall 2020 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 their application materials as e-mail attachments (Word or .pdf) to Natalie Hartman, njh@duke.edu, on or before Friday, April 2, 2021.**

Late applications (including late letters of recommendation) will not be considered. The decisions of the selection committee will be announced by the end of April. Awards will be made on the basis of academic credentials, the quality of research proposals, and the candidates’ eligibility. The amount of individual awards are generally in the $500-$2,000 range.

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 completing the project. Grantees may also be asked to share their experiences and findings by participating in colloquia or panel discussions during the year following the award period.

**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://campusirb.duke.edu/](https://campusirb.duke.edu/).

**Note about Duke’s COVID-19 Travel Policy:** If you are awarded a CLACS Summer Research Grant that involves travel, it will be necessary for you to complete all requirements for approval of your international travel in accordance with the current Duke travel policy and COVID-19 addendum, including via the Duke Travel Registry. The approval process is not automatic and can take time, so you are encouraged to begin this process at the time of application for the research grant. Do not wait until you receive an award notification. No funds can be released until the necessary registry and approval requirements have been fulfilled. This is a University rule.

Please consult with Global Administrative Travel Support at globaltravel@duke.edu if you are considering research-related travel. The Duke Travel Registry can be found at [https://travel.duke.edu/registry](https://travel.duke.edu/registry).