Duke Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies  
MELLON UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS FOR SUMMER RESEARCH IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Applications for Summer 2020 are due March 6, 2020, 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 in 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 $1,000 to $2,000 per person, though larger grants can be awarded in exceptional cases.
NOTE: To see if travel to Cuba is allowed, you must clear requirements with the Duke Office of Export Controls before applying to this competition: https://export.duke.edu

PROCESS
a. Applicants must submit a proposal for an academic research project to be conducted in Latin America or the Caribbean for a minimum of two weeks. It is recommended that the research take place between May and September.
b. 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 or foreign language training in Latin America or the Caribbean are also eligible.
c. 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 visited.
d. 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 kmattitt@duke.edu.

A completed application must include:
   i. application form
   ii. a project statement of no more than three double-spaced pages of 12-point type; the statement should:
a. delineate the central issue or question of the project and any key subsidiary issues and questions;
b. discuss how your project relates to research already done on related issues;
c. outline the methods and sources you will use to address your project’s central issue(s) and question(s);
d. explain the importance of the proposed topic, the project’s feasibility, and its potential contribution to knowledge about the region;
e. Anticipated length of stay.

iii. one-page bibliography of sources relevant to proposed research
iv. budget narrative
v. one-page resume
vi. one-page, double-spaced autobiographical statement
vii. Duke transcript (not in signed envelope; copies of a current original are sufficient)

KEEP IN MIND

- For students whose proposed research involves human subjects, you must contact the Duke Campus Institutional Review Board and comply with applicable government and university policies. [https://campusirb.duke.edu](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.

- At the time of application, students should also check to see if their research destination is located on the Duke Global Travel Support Office’s Restricted Regions List. If so, you will need to obtain special permission from the Travel Office to travel. Again, as deadlines are tight, we recommend you take care of this as soon as possible and before award notification. All awardees regardless of destination are required to register their trip on the Duke Travel Registry. See [https://travel.duke.edu](https://travel.duke.edu) for information on restricted regions and the Travel Registry.

- If a grantee’s project location or research subject changes, the student is obliged to contact CLACS, as funding would be contingent on review and acceptance of the new project.

- Applicants must be enrolled at Duke in the semester following the field research experience.

- Grantees will be required to provide CLACS with a written description and/or formal oral presentation of field activities, and a financial record of expenditures after returning from the field. Students must keep a record of the airline ticket purchase and the ticket stubs from travel to and from the country of research.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE AWARD COMPETITION, CONTACT KENNETH MAFFITT AT 919-681-3981 OR kmaffitt@duke.edu.