

# MELLON UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS FOR SUMMER RESEARCH IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

*Applications due in spring of the year preceding summer research.*

NOTE:

ALL PROPOSED PROJECTS MUST BE SUPPORTED BY A FACULTY/INSTRUCTOR SPONSOR, WITH WHOM YOU MUST MEET AT LEAST ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE TO DISCUSS YOUR PROJECT. YOUR SPONSOR MUST SIGN THAT SHE/HE HAS MET WITH YOU IN ADVANCE, HAS ADVISED YOU ON YOUR PROJECT, AND WILL SUPPORT YOU IN YOUR RESEARCH. \*AWARDS FOR RESEARCH IN CUBA MUST PASS REQUIREMENTS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE AT DUKE

## 1. WHAT IS THE AWARD?

- a. *The Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies announces the availability of awards for undergraduate summer research in Latin America and the Caribbean.*
- b. *Funded by an endowment from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the awards provide opportunities for Duke Undergraduates to complement class work with research experience in Latin America and the Caribbean (including Puerto Rico and U.S.-Mexico border region).*
- c. *Applicants are strongly encouraged to sign up for the undergraduate certificate in Latin American Studies program; however **the awards are open to all fields and subjects.***
- d. *Approximately ten awards ranging from \$1000 to \$2000 each will be offered. Special consideration will be given to students with little previous experience in the area or areas targeted for research.*
- e. *A two week minimum stay is required for research.*

## 2. HOW DO I APPLY FOR THE AWARD?

- a. *Applicants must submit a proposal for an academic research project to be conducted in a particular Latin American or Caribbean country of at least two weeks duration. It is recommended that the research take place between May and September.*
- b. *Successful proposals will make a case for the importance of the proposed topic, the project's feasibility, and its potential contribution to knowledge about the region.*
- c. *Proposals for work done in conjunction with an internship or foreign language training in Latin America or the Caribbean are eligible as long as there is a significant independent research component.*
- d. *In addition, field research can be conducted in conjunction with a larger research project directed by a faculty member.*
- e. *Applicants should enlist a faculty or advanced graduate student instructor sponsor with expertise in the country, on the student's topic, or on the methodology being*

used. The sponsor must meet with the student at least one week prior to the application deadline.

- f. The sponsor will help the student in developing a research program and establishing contacts in the country to be visited. Preparation might include: researching the topic, estimating costs, and assessing project feasibility.
- g. It may be possible, with the support of a faculty member or graduate student instructor, for award recipients to use the results of their research for course work or an independent study upon their return.
- h. Staff members at the Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies are available to assist students with identifying sponsors whose interests match their own. Center staff can also assist students with developing the budget.
- i. Applicants are expected to seek additional funding at Duke (such as the Center for International Studies competition and the Dean's Summer Research Fellowships) and elsewhere, if necessary.

### 3. WHAT DO I DO WITH MY APPLICATION?

- a. Four paper-clipped copies of the completed application should be submitted in one folder or envelope and must include:
  - i. **application cover sheet** (print from the web or visit the Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies, John Hope Franklin Center, 2204 Erwin Road)
  - ii. **project statement** (three-pages, double-spaced) which must include all of the following information:
    - 1. **Topic and objectives of the research project.**
    - 2. Contacts with individuals and institutions in the host country.
    - 3. Anticipated length of stay; the planned research agenda.
    - 4. Indication of the applicant's relevant foreign language skills (please indicate level of proficiency from beginner, intermediate, advanced in speaking, reading, and writing.)
    - 5. Some idea of how the proposed project compares with research already done on related topics in the same country and/or on the same theme. (For example: If you propose a research project on conservation of the Amazon rain forest in Brazil, then you must give some of idea on how it might contribute to existing research on this same topic.)
    - 6. Some idea of why this project is important and to whom.
  - iii. one-page bibliography (sources relevant to proposed research)
  - iv. resume (one-page, double-spaced)
  - v. autobiographical statement (maximum one page, double-spaced)
  - vi. budget narrative (Explain why you need the amount of funds you are requesting)
  - vii. signature and e-mail address of the faculty or advanced graduate student sponsor (on application cover sheet)
  - viii. Duke transcript (not in signed envelope; copies of a current original are sufficient)

### 4. WHERE DO I SUBMIT MY APPLICATION?

- a. **Four paper-clipped copies of all components of the application must be submitted by the deadline to:**

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Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies  
John Hope Franklin Center Room 13-  
2204 Erwin Rd.  
Box 90254.

- b. *Faxed applications will not be accepted. Special provisions for application submission may be made for students who are currently studying abroad.*
- c. *If a grantee's proposed project location or research subject should change, the student is obliged to contact the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, as project funding may be affected unless the new project is reviewed and accepted.*
- d. *Grantees will be required to provide the Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies with a four to five page written description of field activities and a financial record of expenditures within 30 days of 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). Grantees will 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:

APPLICANTS MUST BE ENROLLED AT DUKE IN THE SEMESTER FOLLOWING THE FIELD RESEARCH EXPERIENCE. THERE IS NO RESTRICTION AGAINST APPLICATIONS FROM CITIZENS OF LATIN AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES WHO WISH TO CARRY OUT RESEARCH IN THE REGION. FOR STUDENTS WHOSE PROPOSED RESEARCH INVOLVES HUMAN SUBJECTS, YOU MUST CONTACT THE OFFICE OF RESEARCH SUPPORT AND COMPLY WITH APPLICABLE FEDERAL, STATE, AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES. INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON THE OFFICE OF RESEARCH SUPPORT WEB SITE AT

[HTTPS://ORS.DUKE.EDU/UNDERGRADUATE-RESEARCH.](https://ors.duke.edu/undergraduate-research)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE AWARD COMPETITION, CONTACT THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM COORDINATOR AT [919-681-3981](tel:919-681-3981) OR [LAS@DUKE.EDU](mailto:LAS@DUKE.EDU).