FLAS INFORMATION SESSION

As an undergraduate or graduate student, engage in intensive training in Latin American or Caribbean less commonly taught languages and related area or international studies.

Provided by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

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START HERE.

CHANGE EVERYWHERE.
Why Study at UT Austin?

UT Austin is a globally connected campus with a vast network of internationally engaged entities. The nationally recognized area study centers and foreign language programs at UT, and in particular at LLILAS Benson, foster development in global cultures and critical languages.

With financial aid, and renowned faculty who are engaged in relevant and vital research, you are able to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to change the world.
OVERVIEW OF FLAS
What is FLAS?

Foreign Language and Area Study (FLAS) Fellowships support students who are pursuing advanced training in modern foreign languages, specifically a less commonly taught language, and in diverse fields of international and area studies.

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) awards funding for FLAS Fellowships to select area studies centers at public and private institutions of higher learning through the Title VI program in four-year cycles. The current cycle runs through 2026. Funding year-to-year is contingent upon funds provided to the ED.
What are the Goals of FLAS?

The goals of the fellowship program are to:

• Foster foreign language acquisition in an effort to achieve fluency;
• Assist in the development of knowledge, resources, and trained personnel for modern foreign language and area or international studies;
• Develop a domestic pool of international experts to meet national needs.
Which Students are Targeted by FLAS?

Set by the U.S. Department of Education, the priority is to fund students who meet one or more of the following categories:

• Students with demonstrated financial need.
• Students with plans to go into government services or to become K-12 educators.
• Students with plans to study abroad.
• Students with plans to enroll in a professional school.
• Students with plans to earn an advanced degree.
Funding Available to Students

Academic Year Fellowships
• **Undergraduate** – up to $15,000
  • Tuition: Up to $10,000
  • Stipend: $5,000
• **Graduate** – up to $38,000
  • Tuition up to $18,000
  • Stipend: $20,000

Summer Fellowships
• **Undergraduate & Graduate** – up to $8,500
  • Tuition: Up to $5,000
  • Stipend: $3,500
  • Travel: Up to $1,000 in additional travel funds might be available for international travel.
Important Funding Notification

The **stipend is considered taxable income** that you must report when filing your taxes.

This income will be reported on the IRS 1098-T form provided by the institution, which should account for all financial aid received in the last year.

For questions, consult with a licensed tax preparer.
Tangible Benefits

• Experience new worlds.
• See amazing places.
• Meet new people and make new friends.
• Enrich your critical understanding of people, cultures, and systems.
• Contribute to vital research, field work, or community action locally and globally.
Other Benefits

- Grow creative and analytical skills.
- Help to decreases prejudices and promote mutual understanding.
- Encourage reflection about your own culture.
- Ease international travel and trade.
- Improve math and reasoning skills.
- Provide marketable, competitive skills for career building.
## Other Benefits of LCTLs

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<th>Benefit</th>
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<td>Unique cultural exchanges.</td>
<td>Intersect different interests and disciplines.</td>
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<td>Support communities in critical need.</td>
<td>Generally improve language acquisition.</td>
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<td>Opportunities for ethical, vital research.</td>
<td>Often cheaper to study.</td>
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REQUIREMENTS OF FLAS
Who is Eligible?

- U.S. citizens, Nationals or Permanent Residents.
- Accepted to be enrolled full-time or enrolled **full-time** at UT Austin
  - Accepted or enrolled at another nationally accredited institute of higher learning **and** enrolled part-time at UT Austin.
- Studying a LLILAS-approved FLAS language.
- Fellowships will not be given to native speakers or those with fluency equivalent to native speakers.
General Requirements

• Demonstrated long-term interest in a particular language and area of study.
• Good academic standing with at least a cumulative GPA of 3.0.
• Potential for high academic achievement.
• Undergraduate fellows must be at the intermediate or advanced level by the start of the accepted term.
• Graduate fellows ideally would be at the intermediate or advanced level, but they may start at the beginner or elementary level if the student has achieved advanced proficiency in another language of their world area of expertise and research as well as earned approval from the U.S. Department of Education.
• Graduate students may take Spanish, French or German at the advance level, pending approval.
• Non-UT Austin, or non-traditional (i.e., directed study or reading) courses must be approved.
Academic Year Requirements

Academic Year

- Full-time enrollment, 30 days prior to the start of the term.
  - One (1) approved language course per semester (3 cr.).
  - One (1) approved area studies course per semester (3 cr.).
- Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) with an approved instructor near the start and end of the term.
- Self-Evaluation form in IRIS at the end of fellowship.
- Participation in LLILAS outreach events and publications.
- Periodic professional updates via surveys.
- Consistent communication with your FLAS Coordinator about any changes to your academic plan.
Summer Requirements

Summer

- At least 6 consecutive weeks of intensive language study that equals a full academic year.
  - 140 contact hours for beginning and intermediate.
  - 120 contact hours for advanced.
- Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) with an approved instructor near the start and the end of the term.
- Self-Evaluation form in IRIS at the end of fellowship.
- Participation in LLILAS outreach events and publications.
- Periodic professional updates via surveys.
- Consistent communication with your FLAS Coordinator about any changes to your academic plan.
- Students interested to study abroad must be approved by the Department of Education and UT Global Risk & Safety.
FLAS
AT LLILAS
LLILAS Approved Languages

Requests will be considered for the study of the following:

• Chatino, Haitian Creole, Kaqchikel, K'iche', Nahuatl, Portuguese, Quechua, and other Latin American or Caribbean modern languages approved by the Department of Education, including indigenous languages.

• A limited number of awards may be provided to graduate students for the advanced study of Spanish, however the priority are less commonly taught languages.
Apply Now!

The Student Application Will Open on November 1.

- Apply by December 20 (EOD).
- Applications may be accepted late, although you must communicate with, and be granted approval by, the FLAS Coordinator. Reach out with questions or concerns. Late applications will not be prioritized, except in emergency circumstances.
Letters of Recommendation Required

Recommenders must submit letters of recommendation by January 20 (EOD).

- The FLAS Coordinator will notify recommenders about submitted student applications, but it is the responsibility of the applicant to organize with recommenders to submit letters in order to complete an application for consideration. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Letters may be accepted late, although the recommender must communicate with, and be granted approval by, the FLAS Coordinator. They may reach out with questions or concerns.
Application Requirements

The following files should be submitted with your application:

- Two (2) Page Personal Statement or Proposal
- Current Resume or CV (2 pages)
- Current and/or Most Recent Transcripts or Degree Progress Reports
- Two (2) Recommenders
- Proof of a FAFSA application
Why Not Both?

You may apply for both an Academic Year and Summer fellowship. However, you must submit separate applications, including unique materials specific to the proposed period of study or term.

Recommenders should distinguish in their letters which, or both, terms that the student is applying.
Competitive Preferences

Financial Need

New program guidelines require consideration of financial need as part of a two-tiered ranking system.

- Selection committees will first rank FLAS applications by merit and then take financial need into consideration.
- Competitive preference is to be given in final rankings to applicants who demonstrate financial need.

Information included in a FAFSA application will be used to indicate financial need. Students who do not submit a FAFSA or give permission will be assumed to not have financial need. We strongly recommend both graduate and undergraduate students file a FAFSA and submit proof of submission as part of their FLAS application.
FAFSA Guidance

Applicants should refer to the UT Office of Student Financial Services website to create and submit a FAFSA application.

• More info: [http://finaid.utexas.edu](http://finaid.utexas.edu)
• FAFSA may be submitted starting on October 1.
  • Allow for 3-8+ weeks processing time for the FAFSA
  • Must be completed before the FLAS application deadline (contact the FLAS Coordinator with questions or issues).
• Once the FAFSA is completed, send proof of completion with application and give consent for FLAS coordinator to see financial need ranking assigned by OSFS.
HOW TO APPLY SUCCESSFULLY
Personal Statement

Requirements

• Must include your name, EID, and which FLAS term you are applying for on the statement, ideally in the header (i.e., Undergraduate AY, Graduate AY or Summer).

• May be single or double spaced, but is limited to two (2) pages, size 12 font.
Personal Statement Cont.

Some Successful Strategies

This is the most important part of the application! It is imperative that you develop a strong letter in close coordination with personal advisors/mentors, references, and the FLAS Coordinator. We recommend that you:

- Address the following:
  - Educational background and future career plans;
  - Interest in the discipline and language;
  - Planned course of study;
  - How your language study will further your career plans;
  - How learning a language will allow you to contribute to a field of study.

- Draft, write, revise, and revise again...
Personal Statement Cont.

Some Successful Strategies

Reflecting on the priorities of the U.S. Department of Education and LLILAS Benson, we recommend that:

If you are an excellent student with strong commitment to the field/region, if you have compelling experience and reasoning for studying a foreign language; if you have intent to study abroad; if you have intent to begin a career in an area of national need or pursue an advanced academic or professional degree: if you have financial need, you should mention that!
Resume or CV

Requirements

• May be single or double spaced, but is limited to two (2) pages, size 12 font.
Resume or CV

Some Successful Strategies
This is your record of experiences and accomplishments. This document should supplement other parts of the application. For example, items mentioned in the cover letter should be listed on your resume. We recommend that you:

• Revise your CV consistently, not at the last minute;
• Speak with professionals for about best strategies;
• Organize according to FLAS priorities.
Transcripts

Requirements

• Current and Past Unofficial Transcripts are accepted.
• If you are an incoming student, submit your most recent transcript.
• Incoming graduate students must also include a copy of their GRE scores.
Transcripts

Some Successful Strategies

The FLAS Selection Committee needs to know the courses – and grades – that you have completed in your academic career. This document informs the committee about your disciplinary depth, interdisciplinary diversity, and high achieving academic performance. We recommend that you (as soon as possible):

• Request transcripts or advising reports that display the most current courses/grades;
• Request a transcript from your previous institutions.
Recommenders + Letters of Recommendation

Requirements

• The names and email addresses of two (2) recommenders.
  • Applicants are responsible for providing correct email addresses and for giving their recommenders ample time to submit a recommendation letter.
  • Upon your submission of the application form to LLILAS, your references will receive an email with a link to submit a letter.
  • It is the responsibility of the applicant to organize with recommenders to submit letters in order to complete an application for consideration. **Incomplete applications will not be considered.**

• Recommendations ideally should come from faculty and at least one letter should speak to language learning abilities. Contact the FLAS Coordinator with questions or concerns.
References + Letters of Recommendation

Some Successful Strategies

Find trusted advisors/mentors/professionals who can write a letter on your behalf. Whomever you ask should be able to write the best letter for you, and only you. We recommend that you:

• Coordinate with recommenders at least 1 month in advance;
• Provide recommenders with your application materials;
• Schedule at least 1 in-person meeting (if possible);
• Determine a shared strategy to be apply successfully.
QUESTIONS!

Please ask anything. If you are curious, someone else is, too!

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