

2007-2008 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship
Administered by University of Michigan Area Studies Centers
For University of Michigan Graduate and Professional School Students

Program Description

A Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship provides tuition and a stipend to students studying designated foreign languages in combination with area studies or international aspects of professional studies. The priority is to encourage the study of less commonly taught languages. FLAS Fellowships are administered by the University of Michigan Area Studies Centers and are awarded competitively through annual fellowship competitions. The U.S. Department of Education (US/ED) funds these awards under the provisions of Title VI of the Higher Education Act. The amount of funding and number of awards granted is contingent upon annual US/ED program approval, federal regulations, as well as continued congressional funding, all of which may change from year to year.

Academic Year FLAS awards are for graduate and professional school students to study modern foreign languages and related area or international studies. FLAS recipients receive full tuition, mandatory fees, and a stipend during the academic year fall and winter terms. FLAS awards cannot be deferred. The Academic Year FLAS award for 2007-2008 covers full tuition, mandatory fees, and a \$15,000 stipend. The stipend is dispersed in 10 equal payments over an eight-month period.

Summer FLAS awards are designed to support summer modern language study. These awards are given only for intensive language classes that teach the equivalent of a University of Michigan academic year language class. Authorization must be obtained in order to take a course not offered in approved US-based programs. Summer FLAS awards are to be used during summer 2007 and cannot be deferred. The Summer FLAS covers full tuition for a summer language program and a \$2,500 stipend. In some cases, a travel award may also be made. The summer award is dispersed as a lump sum.

Eligible Languages

Arabic, Armenian, Bengali, Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian, Czech, Filipino, Hebrew, Hindi, Indonesian, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Quechua, Russian, Spanish, Tamil, Thai, *Tibetan, Turkish, Ukrainian, Urdu, *Uzbek, Vietnamese, or Yiddish.

**currently seeking approval to offer this language*

- FLAS awards are not given for the first year of Tibetan, except possibly in the case of professional school students or students who have already mastered their first language. Contact [CSAS](#) for more information.
- FLAS applications for Spanish are considered only for students enrolled in a professional school and studying at an advanced level. Contact [LACS](#) for more information.
- FLAS awards are not given for the first or second year of Russian, except possibly in the case of professional school students.
- We expect to offer Uzbek via videoconferencing from the University of Wisconsin. Contact [CREES](#) for more information.

Eligibility Criteria

Each FLAS grantee must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident and an applicant to or continuing student in a full-time University of Michigan graduate degree or professional school program that combines modern foreign language training with international or area studies or with the international aspects of professional training or other fields of study.

A student who already possesses language fluency equivalent to an educated native speaker in the language for which the award is sought will be assigned the lowest consideration in the selection of fellows. Although exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis, FLAS fellowships are generally not tenable for dissertation research or writing.

Please submit applications to the appropriate Area Studies Center located within the International Institute, 1080 South University, School of Social Work Building (on the corner of South University and East University). Questions should also be directed to the appropriate International or Area Studies Center (see “contacts” following “Application Procedures”).

Application Procedures

Complete the two-page application form and arrange for all of the supporting materials to arrive at the relevant Area Studies Center by **February 1, 2007**. Late applications will not be considered.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that all FLAS application materials have arrived at the Center. This means applicants must check with Center fellowship representatives personally, prior to the February 1 deadline, to confirm that an application is complete. Incomplete applications will not be considered for awards.

Please also note that you should check with your respective Center to be sure that the correct level of your language of choice is offered during the academic year 2007-2008.

If you are applying for the Summer FLAS, you must request and complete admission materials for the institution at which you hope to use the Summer FLAS. **Note: Center staff may have information about summer language programs, but it is the fellow's responsibility to identify and choose a program that meets FLAS requirements.**

Each applicant is responsible for making sure that the following materials are on file with the appropriate Area Studies Center by February 1, 2007:

- FLAS Application Form ([available here](#))
- Statement of Purpose
- C.V.
- Two Academic Letters of Recommendation ([Forms available here](#))
- Language Report Form ([available here](#)) and Language Letter of Recommendation
- Your Application to the University of Michigan Rackham Graduate School, Law School, Medical School, or other professional school or program
- Official Transcripts of all college-level work
- Your GRE, GMAT, and/or LSAT Score Report Form/s (a photocopy is acceptable)

If you are a Master's student applying for admission to the Center, or if you have applied for a FLAS in the past, contact your Center to see what is already on file.

If you are a non-Center Master's student or a doctoral student, contact your department to see what they can forward to the Center on your behalf.

If you have difficulty having the Language Report Form completed, contact your Center to discuss.

Applicants to the [Center for South Asian Studies](#) and to the [Center for Southeast Asian Studies](#) who are planning to take an advanced language course beyond fourth year level to fulfill the FLAS language requirement, must also include a letter of agreement from the instructor teaching the course. This letter should express the instructor's commitment to cover the language for no less than three (3) credit hours per week. Contact the [Center for South Asian Studies](#) or the [Center for Southeast Asian Studies](#) for more information.

If you are applying to the [Center for Russian and East European Studies](#) you must submit a Fellowship Data Sheet.

International and Area Studies Center Contact Information

Latin American & Caribbean Studies (LACS)

tel 734.763.0553

fax 734.615.8880

email lacs.office@umich.edu

www.ii.umich.edu/lacs

Portuguese, Quechua, Spanish

Middle Eastern & North African Studies (CMENAS)

tel 734.764.0350

fax 734.764.8523

email cmenas@umich.edu

www.ii.umich.edu/cmenas

Arabic, Armenian , Hebrew, Persian, Turkish

Russian & East European Studies (CREES)

tel 734.764.0351

fax 734.763.4765

email crees@umich.edu

www.ii.umich.edu/crees

Armenian, Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian, Czech, Polish, Russian, Ukrainian, Yiddish, and possibly Uzbek

South Asian Studies (CSAS)

tel 734.764.0352

fax 734.936.0996

email csseas@umich.edu

www.ii.umich.edu/csas

Hindi, Tamil, Urdu, Bengali, Punjabi, and possibly Tibetan

Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS)

tel 734.764.0352

fax 734.936.0990

email csseas@umich.edu

www.ii.umich.edu/cseas

Indonesian, Filipino, Thai, Vietnamese

FAQs

Q1. What is a FLAS Fellowship?

A. A FLAS Fellowship provides tuition and a stipend to students studying designated foreign languages in combination with area studies or international aspects of professional studies. The priority is to encourage the study of less commonly taught languages. FLAS Fellowships are administered by the University of Michigan Area Studies Centers and are awarded competitively through annual fellowship competitions. The U.S. Department of Education (US/ED) funds these awards under the provisions of Title VI of the Higher Education Act. The amount of funding and number of awards granted is contingent upon annual US/ED program approval, federal regulations, as well as continued congressional funding, all of which may change from year to year.

Q2. What is an Academic Year FLAS?

A. Academic Year FLAS awards are for graduate and professional school students to study modern foreign languages and related area or international studies. FLAS recipients receive full tuition, mandatory fees, and a stipend during the academic year fall and winter terms. FLAS awards cannot be deferred.

Q3. What is a Summer FLAS?

A. Summer FLAS awards are designed to support summer modern language study. These awards are given only for intensive language classes that teach the equivalent of a University of Michigan academic year language class. Authorization must be obtained in order to take a course not offered in an approved US-based institution. Summer FLAS awards are to be used during summer 2007 and cannot be deferred. See Question 25 for more information.

Q4. What languages can I study with an Academic Year FLAS award at the University of Michigan?

A. Arabic, Armenian, Bengali, Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian, Czech, Filipino, Hebrew, Hindi, Indonesian, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Quechua, Russian, Spanish, Tamil, Thai, *Tibetan, Turkish, Ukrainian, Urdu, *Uzbek, Vietnamese, or Yiddish.

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- We expect to offer Uzbek via videoconferencing from the University of Wisconsin. Contact [CREES](#) for more information.

Q5. How much is the FLAS award and what does it cover?

A. The Academic Year FLAS award for 2007-2008 covers full tuition, mandatory fees and a \$15,000 stipend. The stipend is dispersed in 10 equal payments over an eight-month period. Grantees will be given payment dates.

The Summer FLAS covers full tuition for a summer language program and a \$2,500 stipend. In some cases, a travel award of up to \$1,000 may also be made. The summer award is dispersed as a lump sum.

Q6. What are the eligibility criteria?

A. Each FLAS grantee must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident and an applicant to or continuing student in a full-time University of Michigan graduate degree or professional school program that combines modern foreign language training with international or area studies or with the international aspects of professional training or other fields of study.

A student who already possesses language fluency equivalent to an educated native speaker in the language for which the award is sought will be assigned the lowest consideration in the selection of fellows. Although exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis, FLAS fellowships are generally not tenable for dissertation research or writing.

Q7. How do I apply for a FLAS award?

A. Complete the two-page application form and arrange for all of the supporting materials ([click here for forms](#)) to arrive at the relevant Area Studies Center by **February 1, 2007**. Late applications will not be considered.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that all FLAS application materials have arrived at the Center. This means applicants must check with Center fellowship representatives personally, prior to the February 1 deadline, to confirm that an application is complete. Incomplete applications will not be considered for awards.

Please also note that you should check with your respective Center to be sure that the correct level of your language of choice is offered during the academic year 2007-2008.

If you are applying for the Summer FLAS, you must request and complete admission materials for the institution at which you hope to use the Summer FLAS.

Q8. What do I need to submit?

A. Each applicant is responsible for making sure that the following materials are on file with the appropriate Area Studies Center by February 1, 2007.

- FLAS Application Form ([available here](#))
- Statement of Purpose
- C.V.
- Two Academic Letters of Recommendation ([forms available here](#))
- Language Report Form ([available here](#)) and Language Letter of Recommendation
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If you have difficulty having the Language Report Form completed, contact your Center to discuss.

Applicants to the [Center for South Asian Studies](#) and to the [Center for Southeast Asian Studies](#) who are planning to take an advanced language course beyond fourth year level to fulfill the FLAS language requirement, must also include a letter of agreement from the instructor teaching the course. This letter should express the instructor's commitment to cover the language for no less than three (3) credit hours per week. Contact the [Center for South Asian Studies](#) or the [Center for Southeast Asian Studies](#) for more information.

If you are applying to the [Center for Russian and East European Studies](#) you must submit a [Fellowship Data Sheet](#).

Q9. When is the application deadline?

A. 5:00 p.m. on February 1, 2007 at the relevant Area or International Studies Center. Students are responsible for ensuring that all materials reach the Center by this deadline. (Arrangements for delayed letters of recommendation or transcripts may be made on an individual basis with the Center. Students must contact the FLAS coordinator at the Center for permission.) Please inform your recommenders of this deadline and stress to them the importance of timeliness.

Q10. Where do I submit my application?

A. To the appropriate Area Studies Center located within the International Institute, 1080 South University, School of Social Work Building (on the corner of South University and East University). Questions should also be directed to the appropriate Area Studies Center.

Q11. Can I submit my application electronically?

A. No. We do not have the capability of accepting electronic applications at this time.

Q12. How many letters of recommendation do I need and from whom?

A. Two letters of recommendation are required, traditionally from faculty members, but employers are also acceptable. A Language Report and a letter specifically about your language ability are also highly recommended, though not required, and are usually written by a language instructor. If you have not previously studied the language for which you are applying, this report can be based on the study of any language, as the intent is to determine your ability to learn language. (See Q13)

Q13. I have not had formal language training or have not had it in quite some time. What do I do about the Language Report Form?

A. This form is optional, but highly recommended. You could talk with a local language instructor who could assess your language ability on this form, or you could explain your language training on the self-reporting section of the Language Report, and in your Statement of Purpose if you wish.

Q14. Am I competitive if I have never studied a language?

A. Yes. Although language study helps, knowledge of a language learned from work or living abroad is also advantageous. However, the primary criterion for a FLAS is your plans for using the language to further your career goals.

Q15. I am an applicant to the University of Michigan. Can materials from my admissions application be used for my FLAS application?

A. Yes. Contact the department to which you are applying by mid-January and request that they forward your Rackham application, undergraduate transcripts, GRE scores and two letters of recommendations to the appropriate Area Studies Center. You are responsible for submitting the FLAS application, FLAS Statement of Purpose, C.V., and Language Report.

Q16. I am an applicant to an Area Studies MA program. What do I need to provide in addition to my admissions application?

A. A FLAS application, a FLAS Statement of Purpose, a C.V., and a Language Report.

Q17. I am a continuing graduate student. How do I apply?

A. Submit the FLAS application, Statement of Purpose, C.V. and Language Report Form with Language Letter to the Center. Write or e-mail your home department and ask them to copy the materials (Letters of Recommendation, Transcripts, Test Scores) you would like included in your FLAS application and have them sent to the appropriate Area Studies Center. Keep in mind that letters of recommendation should not be more than one year old.

Q18. Who do I talk to in my department about FLAS and about getting the necessary copies?

A. If you are an applicant, talk to the staff member responsible for admissions applications. If you are a continuing student, talk to the staff member responsible for funding and fellowships.

Q19. I applied in the past and was not selected. Can I re-apply?

A. Yes.

Q20. I was awarded a FLAS previously. Can I re-apply?

A. Yes.

Q21. I have applied for an Academic Year or Summer FLAS in the past. Could materials from that application be moved to my new application?

A. Yes. You must contact the Center and specify which materials you would like transferred. Again, keep in mind that letters of recommendation should not be more than one year old.

Q22. Can I apply for both an Academic Year and Summer FLAS through the same Center? And, if so, do I need two separate applications, statements, etc.?

A. Yes, you can apply for both. No, you don't need two application forms. One application is sufficient, but you should clearly describe in your statement why you plan to study a language during the academic year and summer and how this fits in with your overall education and/or career plans. Some Centers require a separate Statement of Purpose if you are also applying for the Summer FLAS. Check with your Center for details.

Q23. I am applying for FLAS awards from two different Centers. Must I submit separate applications to each?

A. Yes. Separate applications must be submitted to each Center.

Q24. Will I be interviewed as part of the selection process?

A. No. Interviews are not conducted.

Q25. For what language programs may I use a Summer FLAS award?

A. The programs must be approved by the Department of Education. Students may study at any language level in approved U.S.-based programs or at or above the intermediate level for approved overseas language programs. The programs must have a minimum of six weeks of instruction and have 120 contact hours for advanced levels, or 140 hours for beginning and intermediate levels. Contact your Center for information about approved programs.

Q26. Can I work while on a FLAS fellowship?

A. Yes, but you must obtain permission from your Center before accepting employment.

Q27. Can I take my language courses 'pass/fail' while on a FLAS?

A. No. The Department of Education requires that these courses be taken for a letter grade and the student must remain in "good standing".

Q28. May I use an Academic Year FLAS for dissertation research abroad?

A. Yes, but only with approval from the Department of Education. A student must be at an advanced level of proficiency and the use of language in dissertation research must be extensive enough so that language improvement would be equal to that obtained from a full year's worth of formal instruction.

Q29. Will the Area Studies Center notify me if my application is incomplete?

A. No. Students are responsible for confirming that all materials have been received.

Q30. When and how will FLAS nominees and alternates be notified?

A. Award announcements will be made at the end of March. Phone calls and/or e-mails are normally made to award recipients as soon as possible after the Fellowships Committees make their decisions.

Q31. Where do I get an application?

A. Applications, Language Report Forms and Academic Recommendation Forms are available online [here](#).