

Summer 2026 CLACS FLAS Application

MSU Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies 2026 Summer Foreign Language & Area Studies (FLAS) Application.

The U.S. Department of Education's FLAS Fellowship program seeks to meet the national need for area specialists in education, government and other public and professional sectors. They are designed for students who plan to utilize a modern foreign language and Latin American/Caribbean studies in their future careers, which may include teaching in primary or higher education in the U.S., serving the U.S. government, or working for an organization which contributes to international understanding.

Please direct questions to FLAS Coordinator Michelle Van Deuren at gunnmich@msu.edu.

Deadline: February 1, 2026 11:59 pm

* Indicates required question

Applicant Information

1. Applicant First Name *

2. Applicant Last Name *

3. MSU email address *

4. Other email address

5. Cell phone number *

6. Are you an MSU student? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No - current application pending

7. If you are a current MSU student, what is your APID#?

8. Select Eligible Language of Study *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Portuguese

☐ Haitian Creole

☐ Latin American/Caribbean Indigenous Language

9. If you selected a Latin American/Caribbean Indigenous Language, please list it here.

10. Intended Level of Language Study during Fellowship *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ First Year - ONLY graduate students who have achieved advanced proficiency in another Latin American language, including Spanish
- ☐ Second Year
- ☐ Third Year
- ☐ Fourth Year or more

11. Home Institution *

12. How many years have you studied the language you are applying for? When did you study it? *

13. Please list all of the courses you have taken in the target language and the grades you received. *

14. Have you studied any other languages previously? Please specify which languages, what levels, and for how long. *

15. Degree program enrolled in during FLAS award period: *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ B.A.
- ☐ M.A./M.S./MFA
- ☐ Ph.D.
- ☐ Professional Degree (JD, MD, DO, etc)

16. List all MSU Colleges, including Honors College, in which you will be enrolled in during the award period for all of your academic programs. *

17. List all MSU Departments in which you will be enrolled in for the award period of your all of your academic programs, for example, majors, minors, specializations, certificates, etc. *

18. List any other academic programs, scholar programs and disciplines you are enrolled in during the FLAS award period not covered above. *

19. When is your anticipated graduation date? *

20. FLAS fellows must be a citizen, non-citizen national, or legal permanent resident of the United States. Are you: *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Citizen of the United States
- ☐ Non-citizen National
- ☐ Legal Permanent Resident of the United States

21. Do you qualify for in-state tuition? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

22. If you qualify for in-state tuition, on what basis? (residency, graduate assistantship, etc.)

23. Do you qualify for MSU course fee courtesy benefits? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

24. Local Address - include city, state and zip code. *

25. Permanent Address - include city, state and zip code.

26. Please list any recent academic honors, scholarships, fellowships, or membership * in honor societies and respective dates.

Statement of Purpose

For the essay, refer to the [checklist on the website](#) for guidance on the areas to address.

Please address:

- Intended language of study and experience in the language.
-

Relevance

of the chosen language to the applicant's academic training and career goals, including specific information on current interests/studies pertaining to Latin America/Caribbean.

- Explanation of applicant's Latin American training and expertise.
- Expected role that the chosen language aligns with current academic programs of study and research and career interests.
- Extent to which the chosen language will play in advancing academic and professional plans.

27. For the Summer FLAS, students must also apply to respective institutions to be admitted to participate in formal, summer intensive language programs. The application herein is only for funding and is not connected with summer language program admissions. *

I understand that I must apply separately to the intensive summer language program. I also understand that the intensive summer language programs have separate application deadlines and requirements.

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

28. FLAS Summer Fellowships are intended to facilitate intensive language studies training during undergraduate, Master's, and Ph.D. levels. *

I will use this fellowship for:

Mark only one oval.

☐ Summer Intensive Language Program

29. **Undergraduate Students** (5000 character maximum):
Outline your selected language and related experience in the language; your current academic program(s); and how the proposed language and/or Latin American studies advances your current academic studies and future professional plans.

Please see the [checklist on the FLAS website](#) for more information about this essay.

Files submitted:

30. **Master's and Ph.D. Students** (5000 character maximum):

Outline your selected language and related experience in the language; your current academic program(s) and research interests; and how the proposed language studies will advance your current academic studies, research interests, and future career plans.

Please see the [checklist on the FLAS webpage](#) for more information about this essay.

Ph.D. Students: Describe your dissertation (or future dissertation) research, including a description of topic, methods, host country affiliation, dates, levels of competence in the language, and an explanation of how language will be used.

Files submitted:

31. Indicate your long-term career goals (mark all that apply): *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Elementary Education
- ☐ Secondary Education
- ☐ Post-secondary Education
- ☐ Post-secondary Education Administration
- ☐ State/Local Government
- ☐ Federal Government
- ☐ Foreign Government
- ☐ U.S. Military
- ☐ International Organization in the U.S.
- ☐ International Organization outside the U.S.
- ☐ Private Sector, Non-profit
- ☐ Private Sector, for profit
- ☐ Unknown/Undecided
- ☐ Other: _____

Supporting Documentation

Two letters of recommendation are required to be submitted.

One letter of recommendation is required from faculty familiar with your academic work, preferably from your faculty advisor. Send this [link](#) to your faculty referee to complete.

Your application must be supported by a faculty recommendation letter. The faculty referee should be different from the FLAS language instructor referee.

You are responsible for contacting the faculty member and requesting that they complete the reference. **This system DOES NOT automate a request for the recommendation. Be sure the faculty member you ask has the [link](#) to the form. The CLACS FLAS Faculty Recommendation [Form](#) is also available on the CLACS FLAS webpage.**

Second, a language letter of recommendation is required from your language instructor if you have taken a formal Latin American less commonly taught language course within the last two academic years; otherwise, an evaluation of your language training is not necessary. Use this [link](#). **Again, this system DOES NOT automate a request for the language letter of recommendation.** Make sure your language referee has the [link](#) to the form.

If you are an incoming MSU student or beginning-level graduate student and/or you do not have an MSU language instructor, your second letter of recommendation should be from an additional faculty member or advisor.

Plan accordingly to allow the referees enough time to write and return their documents. They must be received by **February 1, 2026**.

32. **Recommendation Letter 1**

Your application must be supported by a faculty recommendation letter.

The faculty must not be the FLAS language instructor of the less commonly taught language (LCTL), as they will need to submit the language letter of recommendation.

You are responsible for contacting the faculty members and requesting that they complete the reference. This system DOES NOT automate a request for the recommendation. Be sure the faculty member you ask has the [link to the form](#).

The Faculty Recommendation Form is available on the CLACS FLAS webpage.

What is the name of the faculty member who will write your letter?

33. I will contact the above-named faculty member to request a letter of recommendation using the [form](#) and let them know to submit by February 1, 2026.

*

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

34. **Recommendation Letter 2** *

Your application must be supported with a letter from your FLAS language instructor. This person is different from the the faculty referee.

Again, this system DOES NOT automate a request for the evaluation. Applicants must request it themselves. Make sure your language evaluator has the [link to the form](#).

If you are an incoming MSU student or beginning-level graduate student and/or you do not have an MSU language instructor, you may provide a second letter of recommendation from an additional faculty member or advisor.

What is the name of the less commonly taught language instructor you will ask for a letter of recommendation?

Or, if you do not have a language instructor for a less commonly taught language, what is the name of the second faculty member for the second letter of recommendation?

35. I will contact the above-named language instructor (or second faculty member if applicable) to request a letter of recommendation using the [form](#) and will let them know to submit by February 1, 2026. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ No

36. Use this [link](#) to request your unofficial transcript from the MSU Registrar. *

I will request my transcript using the above link to be sent to clacs@msu.edu to arrive by February 1, 2026. If I have problems with this link, I will contact clacs@msu.edu.

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

37. If applicable, request transcripts from other higher education institutions using their online system to send email to clacs@msu.edu to arrive by February 1, 2026.

Check all that apply.

☐ I understand I must request non-MSU transcripts be emailed to clacs@msu.edu to arrive by the deadline.

38. Do you waive your right to view your letters of recommendation and language proficiency evaluation? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

39. Upload a pdf file of your current resume or CV

Files submitted:

Summer Fellowship Applicants

Summer fellowships are for intensive language study only. Intensive language study programs must be approved by the CLACS FLAS Coordinator and may occur overseas or in the US. Summer language programs must:

1. Be equivalent to one full year of language study as provided during a regular academic year.
2. Be offered by an accredited or recognized educational institution.
3. Take place over a minimum of 6 weeks and provide a minimum of:
 - 140 contact hours at the intermediate level, or
 - 120 contact hours at the advanced level.
 - Field trips do not count toward contact hours.

Enrolling in a non-language course, such as a Latin American/Caribbean area studies course, is not required for summer FLAS fellowships.

Students must apply separately to the desired language summer program at the institution offering the program.

This application is for FLAS funding only.

40. If you would like additional information on available summer language program opportunities, please reach out to FLAS Coordinator Michelle Van Deuren at gunnmich@msu.edu as early as possible.

What is the name and website address of the language program you intend to participate in?

41. If available, upload the program pdf or detailed description of the proposed program of summer language study.

Files submitted:

42. Where is the summer language program?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ U.S.
- ☐ Overseas
- ☐ Both

43. Country of destination

44. Study Site

Demonstrated Need

Students with or without financial need are encouraged to apply; when conditions are equal among qualified candidates, preference will be given to those who can demonstrate financial need.

1. CLACS will work with the MSU Office of Financial Aid and other units to verify eligibility and demonstrated need and determine award packages for FLAS fellows.
2. The FLAS Fellowship may impact your current financial aid package. If so, the MSU Office of Financial Aid will work with CLACS to determine the best possible financial aid package for FLAS awardees.

45. Did you file a FAFSA? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

46. If you filed a FAFSA, what is the dollar amount of the expected family contribution?

47. If you did not file a FAFSA, what is the dollar amount of your expected costs (e.g., tuition, books, fees and living expenses)?

48. What is the total dollar amount of the fellowships, scholarships and assistantships you will have to cover expected costs?

49. Have you applied or do you intend to apply for any other scholarships, fellowships * or assistantships for the FLAS award period?

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

☐ No

50. If you have applied for or have been granted other scholarships or fellowship, * please indicate the award, amount, applicable dates. Please also indicate if you will have a graduate assistantship during the award period.

51. Do you receive the MSU Course Fee Courtesy? *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

52. To ensure federal compliance, CLACS will work with the MSU Office of Financial Aid and other units to verify eligibility and demonstrated need and determine award packages for FLAS fellows. *

The FLAS Fellowship may impact your current financial aid package. If so, the MSU Office of Financial Aid will work with CLACS to determine the best possible financial aid package for FLAS awardees.

Check all that apply.

- ☐ I understand that CLACS will need to verify financial information with MSU to ensure compliance with federal regulations.

Signature and Certification

53. By checking the box, I certify that this information is true, complete and given in good faith. I understand that if I receive the FLAS Award, I will be accountable for the information disclosed in this application. I also understand that I must comply with the terms of the award which include - but is not limited to - submitting a performance report to the US Department of Education as directed by the FLAS Coordinator and completing language assessments at the beginning and end of the FLAS period. *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ I agree

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms

