

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships (FLAS)
Sponsored by the Department of Education (USED)
Plus Other Funding Opportunities for
Training and Research in Middle Eastern Studies
Frequently Asked Questions

FLAS Fellowship in Middle Eastern Studies

Who is eligible?

Students in a Master's degree program and Ph.D. students whose research focuses on the Middle East (all disciplines)

The student must be a US citizen or permanent resident.

The student must be in good standing at UT or be accepted for admission by the time that the award is granted.

What are the benefits?

Academic Year (AY) fellowship provides tuition and course-related fees for up to 11 hours of credit and a \$15,000 stipend

Summer fellowship provides tuition and fees for intensive language study (in US or abroad) plus \$2,500 stipend. If funding permits, and if USED travel restrictions are met, small travel grants might be obtained.

What can the AY fellowship be used for?

Full-time graduate study at UT emphasizing one of the four modern Middle Eastern languages – Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, and Turkish, and if approved, Tajik. The USED expects FLAS fellowship recipients to receive full credit from the programs they attend. Taking courses on a pass/fail basis is not acceptable.

With special permission from USED, dissertation research, in the US or abroad. However, priority is given to students who propose language study as opposed to dissertation research.

With special permission from US Department of Education, advanced language study abroad.

What can the summer fellowship be used for?

Intensive language study --the equivalent of one year's credit (must be 120-180 contact hours, depending on language level). The USED expects FLAS fellowship recipients to receive full credit from the programs they attend, especially for programs away from UT, to ensure that appropriate credits will be transferred to the student's transcript.

Can I apply for both the AY and Summer FLAS?

The committee welcomes student applications for both Summer and AY FLAS and students MAY be awarded both.

Can I apply for more than one language?

While the FLAS will be awarded for only one language, the committee will evaluate both programs of study to decide the language program to be funded. This must be indicated in your Statement of Purpose and each program of study will need to be detailed.

How intense is the competition?

UT generally has 8 AY awards and expects approximately 80 applications; generally, there are 4 summer awards with approximately 40 applications.

Where is emphasis placed in the application?

Everything in the application is important, but remember to be clear and concise about your proposed, advanced (preferable) program of language study. Recommenders should be faculty members with whom you have studied. One recommender letter should speak to your language skill-level. You should demonstrate potential for superior academic achievement, such as a GRE score (verbal + quantitative score of 1,100 recommended) and a high GPA.

How should the application arrive at the FLAS Coordinator's office?

The application should arrive complete. If you are not hand delivering your application to WMB 6.102 then use a tractable method of delivery such as FedEx. Students are responsible for obtaining their recommenders letters (in sealed envelopes) and including them along with the complete application materials.

Where can I get information on Summer Language Programs?

Please email pittcarrin@mail.utexas.edu and ask for our list. It contains not only US programs but programs abroad that have already been approved by the USED in the past.

Other Funding Opportunities

Social Science Research Council and **Fulbright** programs support dissertation work in the Middle East and North Africa, providing more generous support than FLAS. Applications are due in early fall. Information available from the Office of Graduate Studies.

(<http://www.utexas.edu/ogs/>)

Examples of Special Purpose Programs

The American Institute of Maghrib Studies offers short-term travel grants (\$2,000) and full research grants (\$10,000)--Deadline is late March. (<http://www.la.utexas.edu/research/mena/aims/>)

Center for Arabic Studies Abroad provides support for 9-month academic year for advanced Arabic (third year and above) at the American University in Cairo. CASA will be housed at the University of Texas at Austin in Fall 2006.

Ann Grabhorn Friday Endowed Presidential Scholarship provides \$5000 stipend to support research on the Arab world—Deadline is December 11, 2006.

(<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/cmes/graduate/finaid/-ann>)

Dorot Scholarship provides \$1,000 in travel money for summer study in Israel (mostly for undergraduate, but a few graduate awards are given)—Deadline is late March.

(<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/cmes/graduate/finaid/#dorot>)

Danciger Scholarship provides money and has a deadline in the Fall.

(<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/cmes/graduate/finaid/-danzc>)

American Research Institute in Turkey --for dissertation research in Turkey (amounts vary)

(<http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/ARIT/FellowshipPrograms.htm>)

For other information about Middle Eastern Studies funding and internships, contact:

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