for Bengali, Hindi, Persian, Panjabi, Tamil, & Urdu

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships support graduate students who will study Bengali, Hindi, Persian, Punjabi, Tamil, or Urdu and other modern South Asian languages as an integral part of an academic program focusing on South Asia. Applicants from Columbia graduate degree programs at GSAS, SIPA, and Teacher’s College, and the Schools of Business, Journalism, Law, and Public Health are eligible to apply for Academic Year fellowships. Applicants from all Columbia graduate degree programs may apply for Summer fellowships. Applicants must plan to enroll full-time in a graduate degree program at one of the above Columbia schools and must be U.S. citizens or have permanent resident status.

US Department of Education competitive priorities for the 2011-12 FLAS competition include 1) applicants who will achieve an Advanced level proficiency by the time of graduation; 2) applicants studying a Less Commonly Taught Language, defined by the Dept. of Education (Bengali, Hindi, Persian, Punjabi, Tamil, and Urdu); and 3) applicants studying towards a Professional degree.

The 2011-2012 Academic Year FLAS graduate fellowship will consist of full-time tuition and a stipend of approximately $18,000. Summer 2010 FLAS fellowships cover the cost of full tuition plus a stipend of $2,500. Summer language awards must be used to attend programs that meet language proficiency standards set by the U.S. Department of Education.

All applicants must apply on-line at the following address:

For further information, please contact Bill Carrick at <wac2112@columbia.edu>.

Summer 2011 & Academic Year 2011-12
FLAS Application deadline:
March 2011 (date to be announced)
General Guidelines for Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Graduate Fellowships

1. All awards are subject to U.S. Department of Education guidelines.

2. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or have permanent resident status.

3. Eligible languages of study at Columbia through the South Asia Institute are Bengali, Hindi, Persian, Punjabi, Tamil, or Urdu. Applicants may apply to study other modern South Asia languages in order to support research on the South Asia. Competitive priority will be given to the Less Commonly Taught Languages as defined by the U.S. Department of Education (Bengali, Hindi, Persian, Punjabi, Tamil, or Urdu), and to second South Asia language acquisition, at any level, for those who have already achieved advanced proficiency in one South Asia language.

4. Students in all graduate degree-granting programs at Columbia in GSAS, SIPA and Teacher’s College and the Schools of Business, Journalism, Law, and Public Health are eligible to apply for Academic Year, and graduate students in all schools are eligible to apply for Summer awards. Competitive priority will be given to applicants who are earning degrees in professional fields.

5. Students at all levels of language proficiency, except those with native fluency, are encouraged to apply. Competitive priority will be given to students who plan to achieve Advanced level proficiency before graduation.

6. All applications must include a statement of purpose, a current transcript, and two letters of recommendation. Applicants who will be studying at the Intermediate or Advanced level must submit an evaluation from a Language Instructor.

7. Fellows must submit pre- and post-award performance reports, and take pre- and post-award proficiency exams. Fellows must agree to submit bi-annual reports for a ten-year period following graduation on career activities or subsequent education, and use of the target language (all reports submitted on-line to Dept. of Education).

Academic Year 2011-12 Graduate Awards

1. Fellows must have full-time status or full-time equivalency status in 2011-12.

2. Fellows must enroll in at least one language course and one South Asia area studies course each semester.

Summer 2011 Awards

1. Summer awards are for language study. Applications for research or non-language programs will be rejected as ineligible.

2. Each individual program of language study must be approved by the Department of Education in advance of any payment for tuition or stipend (at least one month before the start of the language program).

3. Eligible programs must be the equivalent of one year of language study with a minimum of 140 classroom hours.

4. Students at the Elementary level are limited to studying at programs within the United States (unless there are no such programs in the U.S.). Students at Intermediate and Advanced levels are eligible to study outside the U.S.

5. Each award will include full tuition and will provide a stipend of $2,500.

6. Summer tuition is limited to $5,000. FLAS may be combined with non-FLAS fellowships, either from the language program or other funding agencies, to cover tuition above $5,000.

7. Applicants must advise the Institute if other funding is awarded.