

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships

November 18, 2024



Boston University Pardee School of Global Studies
African Studies Center

Agenda

- ❖ Overview
- ❖ Eligibility
- ❖ Types of FLAS Programs
 - Academic Year
 - Summer
- ❖ Application Process
- ❖ FLAS Expectations
- ❖ Q & A

Overview

- ❖ Foreign Language & Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships support students pursuing studies of Less Commonly Taught Languages and area studies coursework
- ❖ Academic year and summer fellowships available to undergrad + grad students



African Language Program and FLAS Fellowships

Through Title VI grant funding from the Department of Education, the African Studies Center administers fellowships for African languages including:

- Akan Twi
- Amharic
- Arabic*
- Igbo
- Swahili
- Wolof
- Xhosa
- Zulu



Eligibility

- ❖ Only US citizens or permanent residents who are enrolled students (or who will be enrolled during the award period) are eligible
- ❖ Intermediate or higher level of study in FLAS language during the proposed award period
- ❖ Graduate students may take beginner level courses in a Less Commonly Taught Language if they have advanced skills in another language of that region
- ❖ For academic year awards, financial need as reflected in FAFSA is considered
- ❖ You **must** submit a FAFSA if applying for an AY award



Academic Year FLAS

- ❖ Undergraduate Fellowship Awards: \$10,000 tuition + \$5,000 stipend
- ❖ Graduate Fellowship Awards: \$18,000 tuition + \$20,000 stipend
- ❖ Requirements:
 - Enroll in one African language course + one African area studies course each semester of award period
 - Courses with 25%+ content focused on Africa meet the area studies requirement
- ❖ Students must reapply for FLAS annually, even if they have been previous awardee
- ❖ If you are enrolled in a BU study abroad program (e.g., the Cape Town, South Africa program), you can still receive FLAS so long as you meet the other requirements



Summer FLAS

- ❖ Available to undergraduate and graduate students
- ❖ For study in a domestic or overseas intensive language program
- ❖ Beginning or intermediate level programs must last at least 6 weeks and offer a minimum of 140 contact hours
- ❖ Advanced level programs must last at least 6 weeks and offer a minimum of 120 contact hours
- ❖ Covers up to \$5,000 in tuition and provides \$3,500 living stipend
- ❖ Travel awards of \$1,000 for overseas programs may be available, but are not guaranteed



Summer FLAS

- ❖ Some summer intensive programs attended by prior FLAS recipients include:
 - Dakar Language Center (DLC), Senegal - Wolof
 - Eastern Language Center, Nigeria - Igbo
 - University of Ghana, Ghana – Ewe
 - Kampala Language Center, Uganda – Luganda
 - Arabic Language Institute in Fez (ALIF), Morocco – Arabic
 - Indiana University Summer Language Workshop – multiple language offerings
- ❖ Contact Dr. Zoli Mali or your language instructor if you would like further recommendations specific to your language and interests.



Application Process

- ❖ Apply & FAQs, including for SPH students: www.bu.edu/africa/forstudents/alp/flas/
- ❖ Current unofficial transcript
- ❖ Personal statement (500 words max)
- ❖ Two letters of recommendation, sent via email to ascflas@bu.edu
- ❖ One letter should speak to your language skills
- ❖ Deadline of February 7, 2025



Personal Statement

Your statement should answer the following questions in about 500 words:

1. What are your motivations for studying your target language? What is your experience with the target language and what plans do you have for engaging the language after the fellowship?
2. How does language study serve your academic and career aspirations?



Personal Statement (continued)

Summer FLAS applicants:

- If you have a specific summer intensive program(s) in mind, please mention it and your rationale for selecting this program.
- Dissertation research abroad applicants:
 - Your proposed dissertation project, including your destination abroad, a clear plan for how you will engage the target language in your research, and tentative dates for travel;
 - Your progress toward your degree, including an anticipated date of graduation and steps remaining for completion; and
 - Any additional dissertation funding sources you may have or have applied for



Program Expectations for Accepted Applicants

- ❖ Participation in a spring informational meeting
- ❖ Completion of required pre and post language evaluations
- ❖ Engagement with FLAS Coordinators at ASC to ensure course choices meet the requirements
- ❖ Completion of brief post-fellowship survey sent from the DOE
- ❖ Completion of brief biannual surveys regarding employment and career goals