The FLAS FAQs are intended to provide a general overview of the FLAS fellowships and the application process. Please refer to the appropriate information packet(s) at ii.umich.edu/flas.

Frequently Asked Questions

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General Questions about FLAS

Q. What is a FLAS Fellowship?
A. Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships provide funding to undergraduate and graduate/professional students to encourage the study of less commonly taught foreign languages in combination with area studies, international studies or international aspects of professional studies. These fellowships are funded with grants from the US Department of Education (US/ED) under Title VI of the Higher Education Act, as well as the International Institute and its area studies centers. FLAS Fellowships are administered by the International Institute’s Area Studies Centers and are awarded competitively on a merit basis through an annual fellowship competition.

Q. What is a Graduate Academic Year FLAS?
A. Graduate Academic Year FLAS Fellowships are awarded to graduate and professional students at the master’s and doctoral level to study modern foreign languages and related area and/or international studies. Graduate Academic Year FLAS fellows receive $18,000 for tuition and fees and a $15,000 stipend during the fall and winter terms. The International Institute makes every effort to negotiate a full-tuition package for graduate students. Both currently enrolled U-M graduate students and incoming graduate students (applying for admission to a U-M graduate program for Fall 2017) are eligible to apply.

Q. What is an Undergraduate Academic Year FLAS?
A. Undergraduate Academic Year FLAS awards are for current UM-Ann Arbor undergraduate students to study intermediate or advanced modern foreign languages and related area or international studies. FLAS recipients receive up to $10,000 for tuition and fees and a $5,000 stipend during the academic year (fall and winter terms).
Q. 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. US/ED authorization must be obtained in order to take a course not offered in an approved US-based institution.

Q. Where can I study with Academic Year FLAS?
A. Academic Year FLAS is primarily intended for language and area studies coursework on campus at UM-Ann Arbor. Official U-M study abroad programs and in-country PhD dissertation fieldwork are also eligible with US/ED approval.

Q. What requirements does a Summer FLAS program need to meet?
A. Students can study at the U-M Summer Language Institute, another domestic program or an approved overseas program. Programs must be approved by US/ED and have a minimum of six weeks of instruction and 120 contact hours for advanced levels, or 140 hours for beginning or intermediate levels. Area Studies Center staff may have information about summer language programs, but it is the fellow’s responsibility to identify, choose, and apply for admission to a program that meets FLAS requirements.

Q. Can I apply for both an Academic Year and Summer FLAS? If so, do I need two separate applications, statements, etc.?
A. Yes, you can apply for both if you are eligible. You will need to complete two separate applications, though some application items, such as CV/resume, transcripts, and recommendations may be shared between the two applications if appropriate.

Q. How will the FLAS Fellowship affect my financial aid package?
A. Please contact the Office of Financial Aid at 734.763.6600 or financial.aid@umich.edu to discuss your unique situation.

Language and Language Level Questions

Q. What languages can I study with an Academic Year FLAS award?
A. FLAS-eligible languages currently include Arabic, Armenian, Bengali, Bosnian, Chinese, Croatian, Filipino, Hebrew, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Nahuatl, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Quechua, Russian, Serbian, Thai, Tibetan, Turkish, Ukrainian, Urdu, Uzbek, Vietnamese, and Yiddish. This list of languages is common to both Graduate and Undergraduate awards. Note that some languages have special language level priorities—see the appropriate information packet(s) for details.

Q. For what language programs may I use a Summer FLAS award?
A. FLAS-eligible languages currently include Arabic, Armenian, Bengali, Bosnian, Chinese, Croatian, Filipino, Hebrew, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Nahuatl, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Quechua, Russian, Serbian, Thai, Tibetan, Turkish, Ukrainian, Urdu, Uzbek, Vietnamese, and Yiddish. Other less commonly taught languages of the six world regions for which U-M currently has FLAS grants may be approved on a case-by-case basis.
Q. What year of language is “intermediate or advanced”?
A. Second-year (3rd and 4th term) language courses are considered intermediate. Advanced level corresponds to 3rd year (5th and 6th term) and beyond.

Q. I have not studied language at the University of Michigan. Am I still eligible?
A. Yes, you are eligible, but you must be able to pass the placement test to enroll in at least the intermediate level language class by the beginning of the fellowship period.

Q. Can I study a beginning level language?
A. Undergraduate students may NOT study a beginning level (1st and 2nd term) language—no exceptions. Graduate students may be granted an exception to study beginning level language if they already possess advanced proficiency in another foreign language of the same world region. Beginning level language awards require US/ED approval.

Q. Will the language level I want to study be taught?
A. Not all languages offer courses in all language levels every year. Students should confirm that the language level they plan to enroll will be offered in AY2017-18. Contact the language department for more information.

Q. Can I take my language courses “pass/fail” while on a FLAS?
A. No. The Department of Education requires that all required FLAS courses be taken for a letter grade and the student must remain in “good academic standing.”

Application Questions

Q. How do I apply for a FLAS award?
A. Complete the online application through the II Fellowships & Grants portal by January 15, 2017; a link to the portal is posted on the FLAS website. Late applications will not be accepted. It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that all application materials arrive at the appropriate Center by the deadline. Please refer to the application instructions for information on checking the status of your materials. If you are applying for the Summer FLAS, you must request and complete admission materials for the program at which you plan to use the Summer FLAS.

Q. What do I need to submit?
A. Each applicant is responsible for making sure that the following materials are submitted by the deadline:
   - Online FLAS Application
   - Statement of Purpose
   - Current Resume or C.V.
   - Two Academic Letters of Recommendation
   - Language Instructor Recommendation
   - Official Transcripts of all college-level work

Q. When is the application deadline?
A. January 15, 2017 at 11:59pm. Students are responsible for ensuring that all materials are submitted by the deadline.
Q. What happens if I give staff permission for electronic access to my transcripts?
A. If you grant the FLAS Coordinators permission to access an electronic copy of your U-M transcript by checking the appropriate box on the online application, the FLAS coordinator will download your transcript from Wolverine Access and add it to your application materials. This is the preferred method.

Q. What if I choose not to grant staff permission to access my transcripts electronically?
A. If you do not wish to grant electronic permission, you must provide a hard copy or e-transcript of your current U-M official transcript. The hard copy must be prepared by the Office of the Registrar; an unofficial transcript printout from Wolverine Access is not acceptable.

Q. How do I order official University of Michigan transcripts?
A. University of Michigan official transcripts can be ordered through Wolverine Access. Login, go to Academic Records, and select Order Transcripts. For transcripts to arrive by the application deadline, they should be ordered no later than January 10, 2017.

Q. My institution will send an e-transcript. What email address do I use?
A. Please send e-transcripts to ii.flasinfo@umich.edu.

Q. Where should hard copy official transcripts be sent?
A. Official transcripts should be mailed to:
   FLAS Coordinators
   International Institute
   University of Michigan
   1080 South University, Suite 2660
   Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1106

Q. I need to drop off a hard copy official transcript “issued to the student”. Where do I go?
A. Please bring it to the International Institute Main Office at 2660 School of Social Work Building.

Q. Where do I submit my application?
A. Submit the FLAS application and supporting materials on the II Fellowships & Grants portal; a link to the portal is posted on the FLAS website. Any material that cannot be submitted online may be mailed or hand delivered to the International Institute. See the previous questions for email, mailing address, and office location.

Q. Will I be interviewed as part of the selection process?
A. No, interviews are not conducted.

Q. When and how will FLAS nominees and alternates be notified?
A. Each Area Studies Center will make its own announcement of fellowship nomination to its applicants. Nominations are generally announced by the end of March, though each Center operates independently and Centers may differ in their schedules. Centers will not give out results of the competition over the telephone in response to inquiries.

Q. Where do I get an application?
A. The application is available online at www.ii.umich.edu/flas. Scroll down to the bottom of this page and look for the 2017 Application Materials section for a link to the online portal.
Recommendation Questions

Q. How many letters of recommendation do I need and from whom?
A. Two academic letters of recommendation are required, traditionally from U-M instructors (professors, lecturers, GSIs), but work supervisors are also acceptable. A Language Instructor Recommendation about your language ability is also required. Please refer to the appropriate information packet(s) for more information.

Q. My recommender can’t find the email request for recommendations. What do I do?
A. You can resend the recommendation request email. Go back to your online application on the II Fellowships & Grants portal, and find the Email Recommendation Request task. Edit this task to resend the email to your recommender.

Q. My recommender is not responding to my request for recommendation so I want to ask a different person. How do I do this?
A. You can change the recommender by going back to your online application on the II Fellowships & Grants portal. First, edit the FLAS Academic Recommender & Language Instructor Registration form to update the recommender information; be sure to save the form. Then find the Email Recommendation Request task, and Delete the existing entry. Then redo this task with the new recommender’s information to send a request email.

Q. My recommender is not affiliated with U-M. How does he/she login?
A. Your recommender first needs to create a U-M Friend Account. Instructions on how to obtain a U-M Friend Account is given at the bottom of the recommendation request email.