The FLAS FAQ’s 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

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 U. S. 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. Academic Year Graduate 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. 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.

Q. What languages can I study with a Graduate Academic Year FLAS award?
A. FLAS-eligible languages currently include Arabic, Armenian, Bosnian, Chinese, Croatian, Czech, Filipino, Hebrew, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Pashto, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Quechua, Russian, Serbian, Thai, Tibetan, Turkish, Ukrainian, Urdu, Vietnamese, Uzbek, and Yiddish.

Q. What is an Undergraduate Academic Year FLAS?
A. Undergraduate Academic Year FLAS awards are for 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. FLAS awards cannot be deferred.
Q. What year of language is “intermediate or advanced”?
A. Second-year language courses are considered intermediate. Languages such as Polish and Russian are offered at the University of Michigan through the fourth- and fifth-year (respectively); therefore advanced study of those languages is more likely to be supported than intermediate.

Q. What languages can I study with an Undergraduate Academic Year FLAS award?
A. FLAS-eligible languages currently include Arabic, Armenian, Bosnian, Croatian, Czech, Filipino, Hebrew, Hindi, Indonesian, Persian, Pashto, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Quechua, Russian, Serbian, Thai, Tibetan, Turkish, Ukrainian, Urdu, Vietnamese, Uzbek, and Yiddish.

Q. I have not studied one year of language at the University of Michigan. Am I still eligible?
A. Yes, you are eligible. However, priority will be given to students who will have completed one year of a U-M language course prior to the FLAS fellowship period.

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. Summer FLAS awards cannot be deferred.

Q. For what language programs may I use a Summer FLAS award?
A. FLAS-eligible languages currently include Arabic, Armenian, Bosnian, Chinese, Croatian, Czech, Filipino, Hebrew, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Pashto, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Quechua, Russian, Serbian, Spanish (professional graduate school students only), Tamil, Thai, Tibetan, Turkish, Ukrainian, Urdu, Vietnamese, Uzbek, and Yiddish. Students may study languages not offered at the University of Michigan and are therefore not limited to studying the languages listed for above.

Q. What requirements does a Summer FLAS program need to meet?
A. Students can study at U.S.-based programs or approved overseas language programs. Undergraduate students may only study at the intermediate level or above. 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 and choose 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. You do need to submit two applications but can share your CV/résumé, official transcript(s), academic recommendations and Language Instructor Recommendation if appropriate.
Q. How do I apply for a FLAS award?
A. Complete the FLAS application and arrange for all of the supporting materials to arrive at the appropriate Area Studies Center by January 25, 2016. Late applications will not be considered.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that all FLAS application materials (including recommendations, language report, and transcripts) have arrived by the deadline. 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.

Please also note that you should check with the appropriate language department or Area Studies Center to be sure that the correct level of your language of choice is offered during the 2016-17 academic year.

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.

All forms are available at www.ii.umich.edu/flas.

Q. What do I need to submit?
A. Each applicant is responsible for making sure that the following materials are on file with the appropriate Area Studies Center by January 25, 2016.
   1. Online FLAS Application
   2. Statement of Purpose
   3. Current Resume or C.V.
   4. Two Academic Letters of Recommendation
   5. Language Instructor Report
   6. Official Transcripts of all college-level work

Q. What happens if I give staff permission for electronic access to my transcripts?
A. If you grant the Area Studies Center staff permission to access an electronic copy of your UM 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 of your current UM 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. If the official transcript is “issued to the student,” you must bring it in its original envelope with the seal unbroken.
Official transcripts should be mailed to the appropriate Area Studies Center. For transcripts to arrive by the application deadline, they should be ordered no later than January 15, 2016.

Q. When is the application deadline?
A. **January 25, 2016.** Students are responsible for ensuring that all materials are submitted by this deadline. Inform your recommenders of this deadline and stress to them the importance of timeliness.

Q. Where do I submit my application?
A. Submit the FLAS application and supporting materials [online](http://www.ii.umich.edu/flas).

Q. How many letters of recommendation do I need and from whom?
A. Two academic letters of recommendation are required, traditionally from faculty members, but employers are also acceptable. A Language Instructor Report about your language ability is also required. Please refer to the appropriate information packet(s) for more information.

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

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

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. Please do not call the Center to ask whether you will receive the fellowship.

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](mailto:financial.aid@umich.edu) to discuss your unique situation.

Q. Where do I get an application?
A. The application is available online at [www.ii.umich.edu/flas](http://www.ii.umich.edu/flas).