ELIGIBILITY

**Are graduate students from other departments eligible for a FLAS?**
Yes. Students from all programs are encouraged to apply. Fellowships are awarded to students enrolled from all fields of study who are in good standing at UT Austin or who have been recently accepted for admission. Students must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Native speakers of the language applied for are not eligible. We especially encourage applications from students from the professional schools. Students are typically engaged in pre-dissertation study. In rare cases, the dissertation research/writing phase may be considered.

**I will be working on my dissertation during the award period. Am I eligible for a FLAS?**
You must enroll in one language course and one area studies course in each semester of the award period. If you can do this as well as work on your dissertation, then yes. If not, then you must study abroad for the duration that you’re receiving the award. You should mention this in your application and, of course, consult your supervisor.

**I am applying to study a language that I have not studied previously. Am I eligible for a FLAS?**
Yes, though preference is given for students with two or more years of previous study.

**Can a student receive the FLAS for multiple years?**
Yes, though a new application must be submitted each year. Transcripts, GRE, and up to 2 letters may remain on file. At least one new letter is needed in successive applications.

APPLICATION PROCESS

**I have no previous study experience of the proposed language of study. Am I exempt from the required language reference?**
No. You should submit a letter of recommendation from an instructor of another language you have studied.

**When will I be notified of my award status?**
Notifications begin in early March and continue through mid-April.

**Should I collect letters of recommendation from my references, or should they turn them in to the FLAS coordinator directly?**
Current students are strongly encouraged to collect sealed letters from their references and submit them with all other application materials. Alternatively, a UT professor may personally deliver his/her letter to the MES Graduate Office. Prospective students will probably have all, or the majority, of their letters downloaded from their graduate school applications. Instructors who are providing a letter for the FLAS – but not the graduate school application – should email it directly to the MES Graduate Office.

**Will I be notified if my application is missing a letter of recommendation?**
No. Students are responsible for ensuring their application is complete.

FINANCES

**Will the FLAS cover all of my tuition?**
The FLAS will cover tuition for up to 11 credit hours, regardless of the college to which they belong. The remaining tuition bill is the responsibility of the student.

**Does the FLAS cover health insurance?**
No. If necessary, students may purchase medical coverage with their stipend.

**Can I accept other fellowships or awards during the period of award?**
Usually not, unless approved by the Center. However, the Center may approve special cases.

**Can I accept offers of employment for the period of award?**
Usually not. The FLAS is designed to allow students to focus on their studies full-time. However, CMES will consider employment of 5-10 hours per week if it’s relevant to the student’s degree. The Director makes the final decisions in such cases.

**Will the FLAS award affect my financial aid?**
Yes. Upon accepting the FLAS, you should work with a financial aid counselor in the Office of Student Financial Services to establish a new aid offer. A hold will be placed on your stipend disbursement if you fail to do this. Single students with no dependents should expect a drastic reduction in and possible elimination of an aid offer from OSFS.
REGISTRATION

**Is full-time registration required?**
Yes.

**What qualifies as an area studies course?**
Any graduate course offered under the MES prefix or cross-listed with MES. Other courses may be considered upon request, but are unlikely to be approved. This must be taken for a letter grade.

**What qualifies as a language course?**
Any course in the usual language sequence (i.e., first- through third-year language courses) will count. For advanced students, any course taught exclusively in the language of study will count. This must be taken for a letter grade.

**What if my course schedule is not approved?**
Your stipend and tuition payment will not be released until your schedule is approved.

**What if I change my schedule after it is approved?**
Your new schedule must be re-approved. This will likely result in a delay of the award’s release.

**Can I use the FLAS for courses taken at another institution?**
No. The academic year FLAS may only be used for study at UT Austin.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- Complete online reports sent to you by the U.S. Department of Education. This happens at the beginning and end of each fellowship period.

- Meet with assigned faculty at the beginning and end of the academic year for language assessment. This consists of an OPI (oral proficiency interview) and responding that test the student on the description of various situations with increasing levels of difficulty.

**FLAS RULES & FAQS – SUMMER**

ELIGIBILITY

**I am graduating in May (i.e., before the award period). Am I eligible for a Summer FLAS?**
No. You must be a current student to receive the funding. If you delay your graduation, which may mean enrolling in the thesis or report course during the summer, then you are eligible for a Summer FLAS.

**Are graduate students from other departments eligible for a Summer FLAS?**
Yes. Students from all programs are encouraged to apply.

APPLICATION PROCESS

**If I don’t have a program of study selected, can I still apply?**
No. Programs without a proposed program of study will not be considered. Note that this is only expected to be a proposal, and we realize that program selection may change due to a number of valid reasons. However, funding will be offered contingent upon the proposed program, so students should put serious thought into program selection.

**When will I be notified of my award status?**
Late March or early April.

PROGRAM OPTIONS

**Do I have to go overseas to study?**
Students at the intermediate and advanced levels are expected to pursue overseas programs of study. If no appropriate programs are available, such students may propose a domestic program. Beginning-level students are expected to select a domestic program of study. Beginner and intermediate levels of study require a minimum of 140 contact hours. The advanced level requires at least 120 contact hours. These contact hours must be clear on the program’s website or brochure. Programs offering less than these minimum requirements cannot be considered. This is what defines “intensive” for FLAS purposes. Eligible programs typically last at least 6 weeks, usually 8-10 weeks.
**FINANCES**

*Does the Summer FLAS cover travel expenses?*
Sometimes. The Summer FLAS stipend is designed to cover all travel and living expenses. If there are FLAS funds remaining, however, after all qualified students have been funded, travel stipends may be awarded to cover certain travel costs. These stipends are usually not paid until the end of the summer and can only be awarded if travel arrangements comply with the Fly America Act. This legislation mandates that federal funds be applied only to travel on US carriers, wherever possible. You should take this into consideration when booking your flights.

*Does the Summer FLAS cover health insurance?*
No. If necessary, students may purchase medical coverage with their stipend.

**ACADEMICS**

*Will courses completed under a Summer FLAS award show up on my UT transcript?*
No. Graduate students may only transfer graduate-level courses to UT Austin.

*Can I get credit towards my degree for language study completed under a Summer FLAS?*
Possibly. This is up to each student’s program. CMES students may make progress towards completing the language requirement, but no degree requirements will be fulfilled by language courses completed at another institution. All other students should check with their graduate coordinators.

**REGISTRATION**

*Do I need to be enrolled at UT during the summer?*
Students traveling overseas must apply to the Study Abroad Office for Independent Study & Research (ISR) status. CMES will cover ISR-related fees: a $400 registration (tuition bill) and $50 registration fee (WIO page). Upon approval, Study Abroad will enroll students in ISR 080, which is a zero-credit full-time enrollment course, which allows them to maintain current student status and covers them under International SOS, UT’s overseas emergency plan. A separate ISOS application is required and students are charged $19/week to their WIO page, which may or may not be covered by FLAS (decided on case-by-case basis). Stipends will not be disbursed until students are registered for ISR 080.

*Restricted Regions:* Students seeking a program in what is considered a restricted region must apply for permission to travel (list of countries). Please review the university policy and prepare early your application to request travel authorization.

**OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

- Complete online reports sent to you by the U.S. Department of Education. This happens at the beginning and end of each fellowship period.

- Meet with assigned faculty at the beginning and end of the academic year for language assessment. This consists of an OPI (oral proficiency interview) and responding that test the student on the description of various situations with increasing levels of difficulty.