MIA Field Research Grants

Call for Applications 2016

The Miami Institute for the Americas invites graduate students to apply for the MIA Field Research Grants. The MIA Field Research Grants (formerly, CLAS Field Research Grants) are intended to complement the Tinker Field Research Grants. The internationally-recognized Tinker Field Research Grants provide funding for graduate students in all disciplines to conduct research in Latin America and the Caribbean (defined by the Tinker Foundation as “the Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking countries of the Western Hemisphere and excluding Puerto Rico”). The MIA Field Research Grants provide funding to graduate students working on other countries, regions, and populations not covered by the Tinker Grants. These include, but are not limited to: Haiti, Puerto Rico, the Anglophone and Francophone Caribbean, and Latina/o populations in the United States and Canada.

We feel that it is fundamental to the mission of MIA to support research on the greater Caribbean region and the connections among all societies in the Americas.

Eligibility

Students who can apply to the Tinker Field Research Grants cannot not apply to the MIA Field Research Grants. These two programs complement one another, and students may only apply to one of the two grants.

Graduate students from all University of Miami Schools, Colleges, and Departments are welcome to apply, including, but not limited to, those in the social sciences, STEM disciplines, law, humanities, music, education, and architecture. Non-US citizens are eligible to apply. Awards will be made to graduate students pursuing degrees at the master’s, doctoral, and other levels. The goal is to support varied types of introductory and pre-dissertation field research. Doctoral students are welcome to apply, but this grant is not intended for students close to finishing their degrees.

Awards will not exceed $2,000 per student. The research trip must be completed and reimbursement processed by October 1st, 2016.

Application Submission

Students will submit a full application electronically no later than March 18th, 2016. The application will consist of the following items:

- MIA Field Research Grants Application Form.
- Statement describing the research travel and project to be undertaken and how it relates to degree program (Max. 5 pages long, 12 pt. font, double spaced)
- Proposed itinerary and itemized budget
Please send your full electronic application package to MIA’s Research Director for Latin American Policy, Eduardo Elena (edelena@miami.edu) in one single pdf file. The letter of recommendation may arrive in a separate message.

For useful guidelines on writing proposals for research funding, we suggest Adam Pzreworski and Frank Salomon, *On The Art of Writing Proposals* (Social Science Research Council, 1995 rev., 1988).

**Selection Process**

MIA will convene an interdisciplinary committee of faculty with expertise in Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino/a Studies from across UM. The committee will select the awardees and determine any adjustments or changes to the proposed budget.

MIA will notify applicants of the committee’s decision in mid-April. Awardees will be required to attend an orientation meeting before conducting their research to review the program requirements, UM policies and program rules for spending research funds, and guidelines for reimbursement.

**Reporting Requirements**

A narrative and financial report of the research trip must be submitted to MIA prior to student reimbursement and within two weeks of concluding the research trip. The narrative report of three pages will include a description of the activities undertaken, research results, and an explanation of the next stages of the research project. A one-page financial report will present a complete account of expended funds.

Upon their return, awardees will be expected to submit an abstract for participation in the Annual South Florida Latin American and Caribbean Studies Graduate Student Conference. In addition to presenting their findings at this conference, students will present their research results to students and faculty members at a session organized by MIA during the academic year following their fieldwork. Awardees will be requested to submit to MIA any papers or other materials developed as a result of the award. These materials or a portion of them may be featured on the MIA website.

---

**Guidelines for Disbursement**

- Current University of Miami graduate transcript
- CV
- Letter of recommendation from advisor
Grant recipients will be reimbursed through UM's standard Electronic Business Expense Reimbursement Form (eBERF) upon their return from the field. Students will be responsible for completing all the necessary paperwork. MIA staff will assist them in filing the eBERF if necessary. Original receipts will be required.