



INTERNATIONAL AND  
FOREIGN LANGUAGE  
EDUCATION

TITLE VI



# Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships Program

FLAS

International and Foreign Language Education  
Office of Postsecondary Education  
U.S. Department of Education





## WHO WE ARE

The Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships program provides allocations of academic year and summer fellowships to U.S. institutions of higher education (IHEs) or consortia of U.S. IHEs to assist meritorious undergraduate students and graduate students undergoing training in modern foreign languages and related area or international studies. Eligible students apply for fellowships directly to an institution that has an allocation of fellowships from the Department.



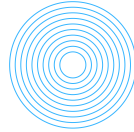


## WHAT WE DO



### WHY

The purpose of the FLAS program is to increase the number of students with advanced proficiency in less commonly taught languages. The FLAS program prepares a continuous cadre of language and area studies experts for careers in government agencies, public and private sectors, and academia.



### HOW

The FLAS program operates on a four-year competition cycle. Institutions may submit an application for an allocation of fellowships through Grants.gov. For more information, visit [www.ed.gov/programs/iegpsflasf/applicant.html](http://www.ed.gov/programs/iegpsflasf/applicant.html)



### WHO

U.S. IHEs and consortia of U.S. IHEs apply to receive an allocation of FLAS fellowships, which are then awarded to eligible, meritorious students enrolled at the FLAS-recipient institution.



### WHERE

FLAS fellows may use their fellowships to participate in language and area studies training at their home institution in the United States or to study at an institution overseas. The student's FLAS training may focus on a world region, such as Africa, East Asia, Middle East, Russia and Eastern Europe, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Western Europe, and the Western Hemisphere (Canada and Latin America), or on international themes or topics.



## MEET OUR FLAS ALUMNI

**MARK SIMAKOVSKY,  
FLAS FOR RUSSIAN,  
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY**

Mark Simakovsky received a FLAS fellowship to study Russian language and culture in 2004-2005. Simakovsky has contributed to important work at the U.S. State Department, U.S. Department of Defense, and the U.S. Congress in positions related to national security, Russia, and Eurasia affairs. He credits FLAS with helping him to develop language and cultural skills that were critical to his understanding and analysis of the 2008 Russo-Georgian War, which he worked on as Georgia Country Director for the Pentagon from 2007-2011. Simakovsky currently works at a strategic advisory firm specializing in international policy, defense, intelligence, cybersecurity, and homeland security. He also serves as a Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council.



**AAZIA MICKENS-DESSASO,  
FLAS FOR BRAZILIAN  
PORTUGUESE, UNIVERSITY  
OF FLORIDA**



FLAS fellow Aazia Mickens-Dessaso drew upon her FLAS experience in Brazil to cofound start-up software company FreePing, which provides free streams of news and other information to prepaid mobile phone subscribers in emerging markets. The idea for the company formed during Mickens-Dessaso's time as a FLAS fellow in Brazil, where she witnessed firsthand the ways in which people use phones to organize social movements and was inspired to build a platform to improve communication among socially impassioned people in developing countries. In 2015, Mickens-Dessaso was named one of five Emerging Global Entrepreneurs by President Obama. Since then, she has continued to be active in grassroots entrepreneurship in the U.S. and across the world.

**DORIS LOAYZA,  
FLAS FOR QUECHUA,  
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY**

Doris Loayza received FLAS fellowships in 2012 and 2013 to study Quechua language and culture at New York University. The number of Quechua-speaking immigrants from Latin America in the New York region is growing, and Loayza has served the community in recent years by working as a Quechua interpreter for the Queens (NY) District Court, helping Quechua speakers communicate with lawyers and judges. She has also curated a Quechua-language poetry project for cultural heritage programming in New York and field-produced a documentary in Peru using Quechua-language interviews and translation. She has coordinated cultural events with the Smithsonian by presenting Quechua-speaking artisans from Peru at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C. Loayza currently teaches Quechua at the University of Colorado Boulder.





SINCE 2010,



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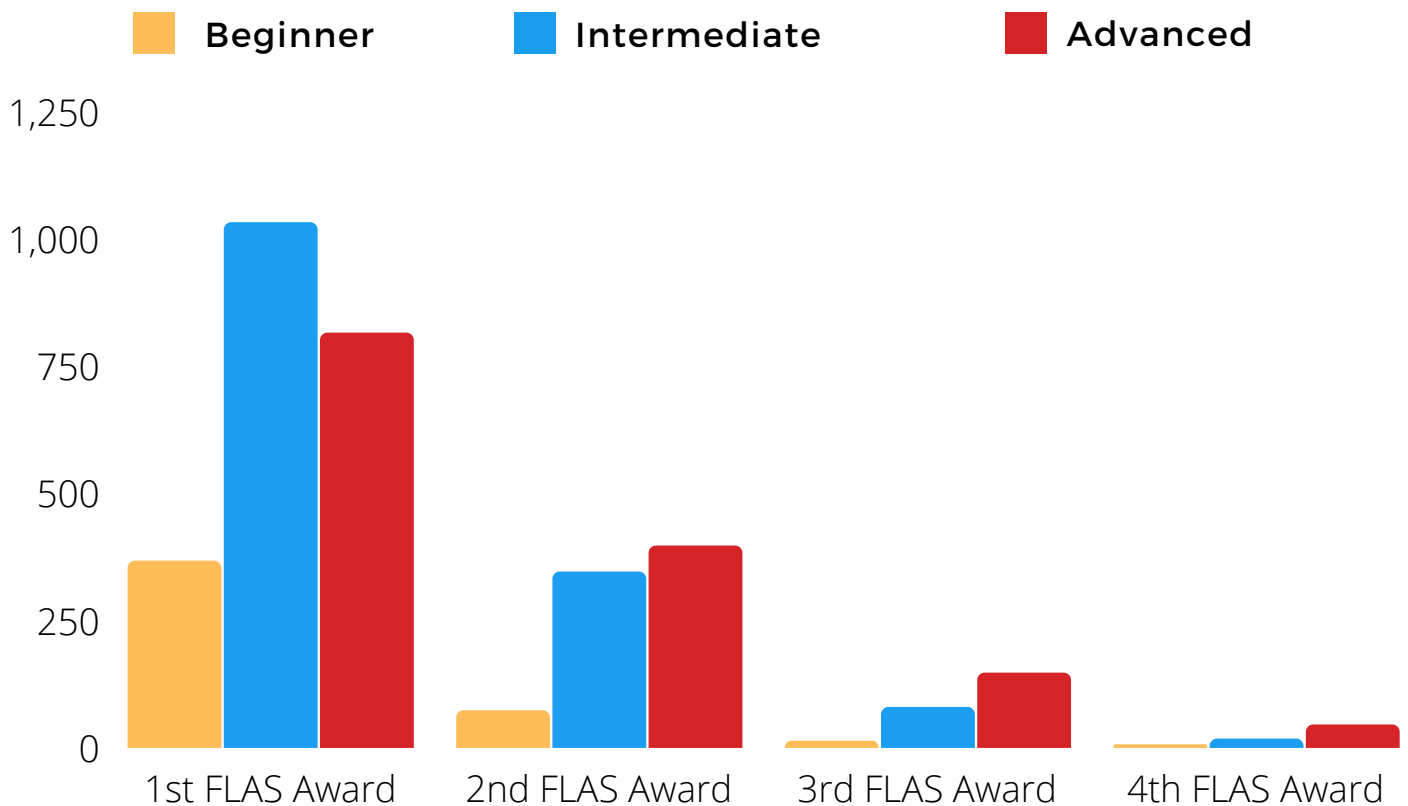
Languages have been studied by FLAS fellows



72%

Of survey respondents indicated that their foreign language and area/international studies training directly impacted their career path

## SELF-REPORTED LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY OF FLAS FELLOWS



Data on this page were collected via the FLAS Biennial Alumni Survey, 2010-2019.



## FACTS AND FIGURES, FY 2020



Institutions With  
Allocations of  
FLAS Fellowships



Million Awarded to  
Grantee Institutions

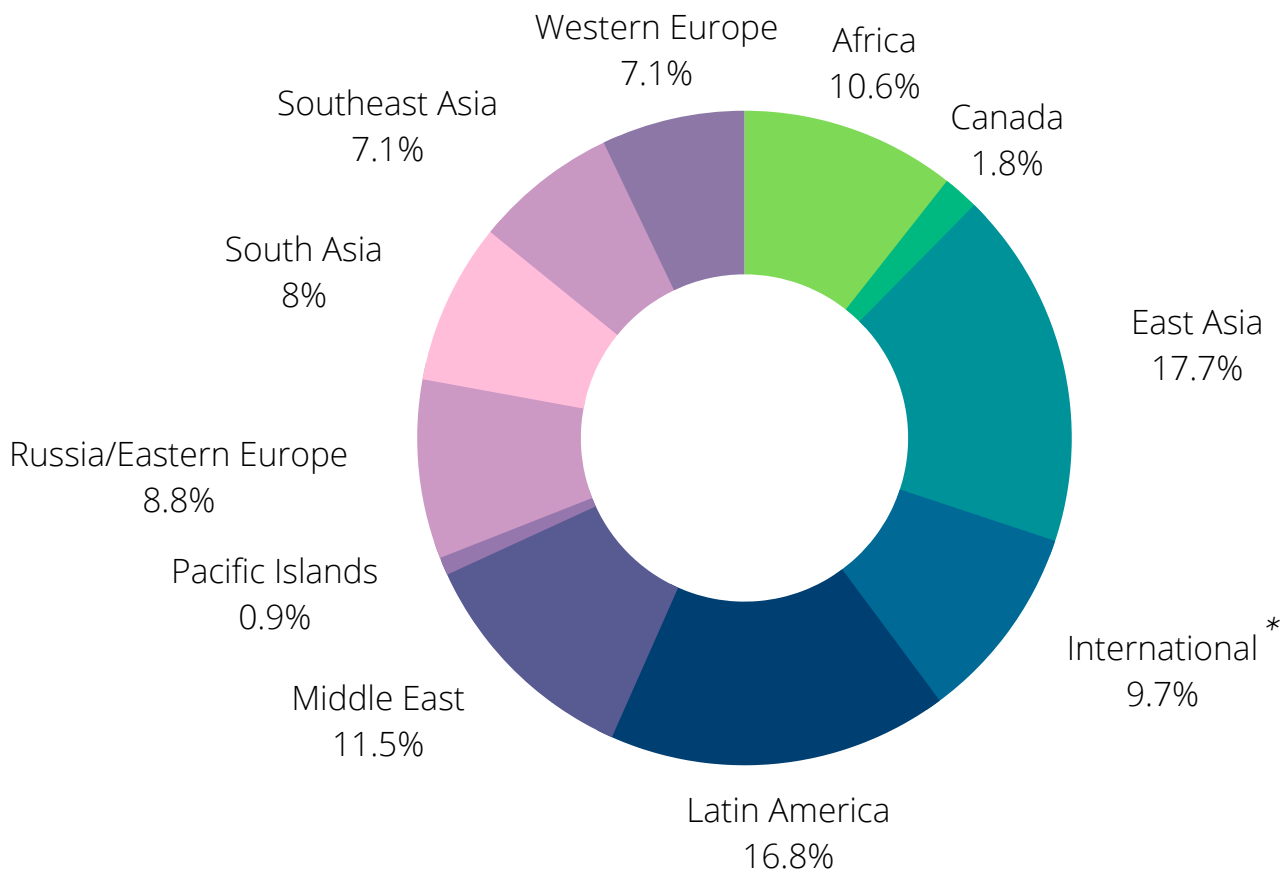


World Regions or  
Thematic Focus



Students Awarded  
FLAS Fellowships

## WORLD REGION OR THEMATIC FOCUS, FY 2021



\*International FLAS fellows study cross-regional languages and topics related to disciplines such as global studies and climate change.





# APPLICATION TIPS

## Getting Organized

- Read the Federal Register Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) for important competition details
- Review the successful grant applications from the most recent FLAS competition (<https://iris.ed.gov/info/applications>) to familiarize yourself with the content and format
- Contact recent grantees for assistance, especially if you are new to the application process
- Develop and leverage linkages internally and externally
- Designate a proposal development team with language, disciplinary, and grants management experience
- Get an early start on gathering data, course lists, and other required application components
- Request letters of support (U.S. and overseas institutions and organizations)
- Contact your Department Program Officer (see list on FLAS website: [www.ed.gov/programs/iegpsflasf](http://www.ed.gov/programs/iegpsflasf))
- Review FAQs ([www2.ed.gov/programs/iegpsflasf/faq.html](http://www2.ed.gov/programs/iegpsflasf/faq.html))

## Writing Your Proposal

- Address all selection criteria in the order listed in the NIA and the application packet
- Include sufficient details and tell your story in a manner that anyone who is unfamiliar with your project can understand it
- Provide a detailed budget for all four years of the proposed project
- Avoid grammatical errors and excessive use of acronyms
- When writing your application, take into consideration the perspective of the panel reviewers who will read and score your application. Only include relevant content.
- Be clear and concise

## Submitting Your Application

- Register early with Grants.gov to avoid technical issues with the online application platform
- Save your proposal in other electronic formats to ensure that you have a backup in case of technical issues
- **DO NOT wait until the last minute to submit!**







## CONTACT US

Website: [www.ed.gov/programs/iegpsflasf](http://www.ed.gov/programs/iegpsflasf)

Email: [IFLE@ed.gov](mailto:IFLE@ed.gov)

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International and  
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