

**MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

**Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship  
Application Information, 2008-2009  
Application Due February 15, 2008**



**ASIAN STUDIES CENTER (ASN)  
301 International Center  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, MI 48824-1035  
Tel: (517) 353-1680  
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The Asian Studies Center (ASN) at Michigan State University (MSU) awards graduate fellowships under the Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship program of the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) to graduate students enrolled in a program that combines the study of a modern Asian language with advanced training and research in Asian studies.

**GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

To be considered for fellowship support in this program, you must:

- 1) be a citizen or national of the United States; a permanent resident of the United States; or a permanent resident of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands;
- 2) have earned a baccalaureate or comparable degree before the fellowship period begins and have a completed application submitted for or be currently enrolled in a graduate degree program at MSU;
- 3) intend to study an Asian language in the course of completing an advanced graduate program (disciplinary, interdisciplinary, or professional Ph.D. or Master's) at MSU with an Asia focus;
- 4) show potential for high academic achievement based on such indices as grade point average, class ranking, and/or other measures. (At MSU, applicants are expected to meet the normal criteria for fellowships on this campus, i.e., preferably have an undergraduate GPA and/or graduate GPA of 3.5 or better and strong letters of recommendation.)

### **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS: *ACADEMIC YEAR***

- 5) Undertake an approved program of language and Asian studies:
  - a. **At the pre-dissertation stage**, you must agree to enroll as a full-time graduate student in an academic year program of study that includes:
  - b. two semesters of study of an approved language in which you have less than native proficiency in regularly scheduled MSU language courses, and
  - c. two graduate courses from among those identified by ASN as core courses for the study of Asia.

**-OR-**

- 6) **At the dissertation stage**, you must:
  - a. have previously studied the language of the award and demonstrated a level of competence adequate for conducting research in that language;
  - b. need to use the language in a substantial way for your dissertation research; and
  - c. submit your dissertation research plan as outlined in the section titled "Application Procedures" below.
- 7) participate actively in the center activities of ASN. This includes regular attendance at center-sponsored speaker series and special events.

To receive an academic-year fellowship for use outside of the United States, you must meet the other requirements outlined above, engage in research that cannot be done effectively in the U.S., and be affiliated with an overseas institution of higher education or an appropriate organization in the host country.

### **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS: *SUMMER***

1. Summer Fellowships may be used **ONLY FOR INTENSIVE LANGUAGE STUDY**. Courses must provide a minimum of 140 contact hours at the elementary and intermediate levels, 120 at the advanced level; i.e., equivalent to one full year of language study as provided during the regular academic year.
2. All courses must be offered from an accredited or recognized educational institution.
3. If the applicant plans to enroll for language study at an institution outside the U.S., a letter must accompany the application providing a rationale and the benefits to be obtained from the study outside the U.S. and why these benefits cannot be obtained from a course of study at a U.S. institution.

### **LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS: *ACADEMIC YEAR AND SUMMER***

The purpose of the language study program is to provide the student of Asian studies with advanced competence in the language for use in archival and field research and/or professional work.

You must be enrolled in your language of concentration for each term you hold the fellowship until you achieve advanced competence for field research in the language and complete all requirements for the Ph.D. degree except the dissertation. To meet this requirement, fellows **must** enroll for regularly scheduled courses offered by the Department of Linguistics and Languages when available. Fellows may request tutorial arrangements if regularly scheduled courses are not available in their language at their level.

## ASN awards FLAS Fellowships for the study of the following languages:

1. All levels of the following languages:

Arabic	Chinese	Hindi	Indonesian	
Japanese	Korean	Tagalog	Thai	Vietnamese

2. **All levels of less commonly taught languages approved by ASN and USDE.** These languages are taught in an on-demand tutorial format. *Students should contact Dr. William Londo in the ASN office for further information.*

**Note:** Higher priority will be given to: (1) students studying less commonly taught languages who are pursuing advanced-level language proficiency; (2) students pursuing Master's degrees who may be likely to pursue government service

### TERMS OF THE AWARD: *ACADEMIC YEAR*

1. Award benefits include payment of tuition and fees (up to \$12,000 total for the year) for Fall and Spring Semesters of the fellowship year, and a stipend of \$15,000 for the academic year. If the student has a graduate assistantship or other source of aid (see items 7 and 8 below) that provide some tuition assistance, the fellowship will cover tuition charges beyond what the assistantship or aid covers **up to** a total of 12 credits per semester (e.g., if an assistantship pays for 6 credits, the fellowship will pay for an additional 6 credits).
2. Should it become necessary for the fellow to resign or withdraw during the year, the award will be prorated on a monthly basis.
3. **Fellows at the pre-dissertation level** must have the approval of the ASN Director (or a designated ASN faculty member) for the proposed course of study during the period of the fellowship.
4. **Fellows at the pre-dissertation stage** are also expected to:
  - a. engage in full-time graduate study and to register for at least 6 credits each term. In fulfilling this requirement, **fellows at the pre-dissertation stage** must be sure that they:
    - ii) enroll in two graduate-level Asian Studies courses of which one course is outside the fellow's major field
    - iii) enroll in one language course each semester. Fellows **must** enroll for regularly scheduled courses offered by the Department of Linguistics and Languages when available. Fellows may request tutorial arrangements if regularly scheduled courses are not available in their language at their level.
5. **Fellows at the dissertation level** must include at least one member of the ASN Core Faculty on the doctoral studies and dissertation committee to provide assistance in planning the graduate program. They must:
  - a. engage in full-time research
  - b. conduct their research primarily in the Asian Language of their fellowship
  - c. register for a minimum of 3 credits of research each term.
  - d. demonstrate competence in the language prior to being awarded the fellowship. Depending on the language, a language-proficiency examination may be given in the Department of Linguistics and Germanic, Slavic, Asian, and African Languages.

6. Fellowships are granted only for the academic year (September-May). **Renewals are not automatic**; a fellow must re-apply each year. Having received a, ASN FLAS Fellowship will not automatically assure subsequent awards, and students should apply with that in mind.
7. Concurrent fellowships: Fellows may not hold concurrent federally-funded fellowships
8. Fulbright, NSF, etc.). However, they may receive an MSU Graduate Office Fellowship (GOF).
9. Arrangements for accepting other concurrent fellowship support must be approved in advance by the ASN Director.
10. Employment during the fellowship year: A **quarter-time or half-time graduate assistant** appointment or its equivalent (up to twenty hours of work per week) may be held concurrently with the fellowship award if it relates to the program of study. Arrangements for other equivalent, limited employment must be approved in advance by the ASN Director.
11. Final reports from fellows are required at the end of the award year. Acceptance of the fellowship implies acceptance of the responsibility and intent to fulfill this requirement.

#### **TERMS OF THE AWARD: *SUMMER***

1. Award benefits include payment of tuition and fees (up to \$4,000 or current level of support as designated by USDE) and a stipend of \$2600. Should it become necessary for the fellow to resign or withdraw during the summer, the award will be prorated on a weekly basis.
2. Concurrent fellowships: Fellows may not hold concurrent federally-funded fellowships (Fulbright, NSF, etc.). However, they may receive an MSU Graduate Office Fellowship (GOF).
3. Applicants must enroll at MSU during summer semester for a minimum of one credit.
4. Final reports from fellows are required at the end of the award year. Acceptance of the fellowship implies acceptance of the responsibility and intent to fulfill this requirement.

#### **APPLICATION PROCEDURES: *ACADEMIC YEAR AND/OR SUMMER***

1. The following should be sent directly to:  
 Dr. William Londo, Associate Director  
 Asian Studies Center  
 301 International Center  
 Michigan State University  
 East Lansing, MI 48824-1035  
**by the deadline indicated on the application form**
  - a. One copy of the application. (Please designate on the front of the application whether you are applying for an academic-year and/or summer FLAS Fellowship and keep one copy for your reference.)
  - b. Official copies of transcripts of all graduate work up to the time of the application. If no graduate work has been completed, include undergraduate transcript.
  - c. At least two faculty recommendations, to be completed based on the guidelines stated in the Faculty Evaluation Request. At least one recommendation must come from a professor in your major department.

(**Note:** It is the applicant's responsibility to contact the two faculty members and give each of them a copy of the Faculty Evaluation Request; ask the faculty members to send the evaluation directly to the ASN office by the application deadline.)

If you are not currently an MSU graduate student, you must apply for admission to a graduate department. Please refer to the MSU publication *Academic Programs* (<http://www.reg.msu.edu/ucc/AcademicProgramsUpdated.asp>) in working out your proposed program of study. You may obtain an application from The Graduate School and a copy of the catalog by writing to the department of interest. A completed application must be on file with an MSU department by the submission date of the FLAS application.

### **ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES: *ACADEMIC-YEAR (DISSERTATION STAGE)***

**If you will be at the dissertation stage** during the fellowship year, you must also submit:

1. a signed letter from your graduate adviser indicating the status of your dissertation proposal and listing the members of your committee;
2. a project description (not more than two pages) that includes:
  - a. title of the project
  - b. statement of purpose
    - i. definition and delimitation of the precise topic to be investigated
    - ii. description of methods of research
    - iii. statement indicating the foreign language to be used and its relevance as a major research tool
    - iv. description of any proposed travel, within the United States or overseas, considered to be research related (if overseas, provide name of the institution or organization with which you will be affiliated)
    - v. statement of progress to date and of work remaining to be done.

### **APPLICATION PROCEDURES: *SUMMER***

**Official printed information about the language program for which funding is requested must accompany the application.** There are no exceptions. This information must include tuition and fee information as well as contact hours and other pertinent course arrangements. Material printed from Web sites is acceptable. If information for the current year is not yet available from the program, the previous year's information may be submitted. Once current program information is available, the applicant should send it to the ASN office immediately.

### **CRITERIA FOR JUDGING APPLICATIONS**

Fellowship applicants will be judged on the following criteria (weighted equally):

1. Demonstrated ability to do excellent post-graduate study, as evidenced by, for example, undergraduate GPA, graduate GPA, faculty evaluations, etc.;
2. Previous education and practical experience related to Asian Studies;
3. Relevance of education goals and career goals to what you plan to do in the field of Asian Studies;
4. Relevance to Asian Studies of overall plan for graduate studies and the planned coursework during the fellowship year to the study of Asia;
5. Choice and integration of language program with planned graduate studies and career goals.

Questions should be directed to Dr. William londo, ASN Director, by phone at (517) 353-1680 or via e-mail at [londo@msu.edu](mailto:londo@msu.edu).