



## **U-MIA Field Research Grants for Graduate Students**

**Deadline: Friday, March 9, 2018**

The University of Miami Institute for the Americas invites graduate students to apply for U-MIA Field Research Grants (FRGs). For the 2018 competition, the U-MIA Field Research Grants will fund student work in all areas of Latin America and the Caribbean, including Puerto Rico, as well as the US when the work pertains to people of Latin American and Caribbean origin. As early career grants, the FRGs are aimed at helping graduate students at UM to develop cutting-edge research projects and gain firsthand knowledge of Latin America and the Caribbean. These experiences increase significantly the ability of graduate students to secure external funding for their subsequent research. Equally important, we feel that they are absolutely fundamental for the type of engaged scholarly work that U-MIA seeks to encourage. The goals of the FRGs are to: 1) offer students an opportunity to acquire a comprehensive knowledge of language, terrain, and culture; 2) to familiarize themselves with information and sources relevant to their studies; 3) to conduct pilot work and preliminary investigations; and 4) to develop contacts with scholars and institutions in their fields of study.

### **Eligibility**

Graduate students from all University of Miami Schools, Colleges, and Departments are welcome to apply. Non-US citizens are eligible to apply. Citizens of Latin American and Caribbean countries enrolled at UM can receive awards to conduct research in their home countries provided they have no previous field research experience in that country. 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 USD 2,000 per student. The research trip must be completed and reimbursement processed by Oct. 1, 2018. The applications of those who have not previously received a Tinker grant or field research grant will be prioritized.

### **Application Submission**

Students will submit a full application electronically no later than March 9, 2018. The application will consist of the following items:

- U-MIA Field Research Grants Application Form (below, page 4)
- Statement describing the research travel and project to be undertaken and how it relates to degree program (Maximum 5 pages long, 12 points font, double spaced)
- Proposed itinerary and itemized budget
- Current University of Miami graduate transcript
- CV
- Letter of recommendation from advisor - sent directly by advisor.

Please send your full electronic application package in one single .pdf file to [mia@miami.edu](mailto:mia@miami.edu) with the following reference line “UMIA FRG Application.” Please have your advisor separately submit a letter to [mia@miami.edu](mailto:mia@miami.edu) with the reference line “UMIA FRG Recommendation.”

For useful guidelines on writing proposals for research funding, we suggest Adam Pzeworski and Frank Salomon, *On The Art of Writing Proposals* (Social Science Research Council, 1995 rev., 1988). Please remember your application will be judged by a committee of faculty from several different disciplines. Pzeworski and Salomon speak to how to write proposals for academically diverse review committees.

### **Selection Process**

U-MIA will convene an interdisciplinary committee of faculty with expertise in Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies from across UM. The committee will recommend recipients of the award and any adjustments or changes to the proposed budget. U-MIA will notify applicants of the committee's decision in early April. Before departure, awardees will be required to attend an orientation meeting 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 U-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 additionally must:

- submit an abstract for participation in the Annual South Florida Latin American and Caribbean Studies Graduate Student Conference, which will be held next year at the University of Miami.
- present their research results to students and faculty members at a session organized by U-MIA during the academic year following their fieldwork.
- submit to U-MIA abstracts of papers or other materials developed as a result of the award, as well as website links if they are eventually published online. These materials may be featured on the U-MIA website.

## **Guidelines for Disbursement**

Awarded students must submit travel plans to the university's International SOS prior to leaving the country or may not be reimbursed for travel. 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. U-MIA staff will assist them in filing the eBERF if necessary. [Original receipts](#) will be required.

## **U-MIA Application Cover Sheet**

Applicant's Name and E-Mail:

Applicant's Department:

Current University of Miami address (through December 2018):

Degree Program and Semester of Study:

Academic Advisor:

Country/Sub-Region of Research:

Description of language competencies applicable to research:

Four key words describing research interests:

Other funding secured for summer 2018 research: