ALL YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT:
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships (FLAS)
University of Hawaii at Manoa 2014-2015

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What languages can be studied under the FLAS program at UHM?

Our current FLAS languages are: Chinese, Japanese, and Korean (East Asia); Cambodian, Filipino, Indonesian, Thai, and Vietnamese (Southeast Asia); Chamorro, Maori, Samoan, Tahitian, and Tongan (Pacific Islands)

Both graduate and undergraduate recipients studying Chinese or Japanese must take 3rd year or higher language courses during the award. Graduate recipients in Korean, Pacific Islands, or Southeast Asian languages can take 1st year or higher courses, while undergraduate recipients in Korean, Pacific Islands, or Southeast Asian languages must take 2nd year or higher language courses during the award.

Who can apply for FLAS awards?

You must be a U.S. citizen, national, or permanent resident and full-time degree-seeking UHM graduate or undergraduate student, taking one of the FLAS approved modern foreign languages. Following federal guidelines, Ph.D. dissertation research or write-up will be given lower priority. Students who are already as fluent as native speakers in that language are NOT encouraged to apply.

How can I get an application form?

The application for East Asian languages is accessible at the UH scholarship website at: www.star.hawaii.edu/scholarship. Both continuing and incoming students will be able to log on and search for “FLAS”. The application for Southeast Asian languages is posted at: http://www.cseashawaii.org/students/scholarships/flas/flasapp/. The FLAS application for Pacific Islands languages is available at from the awards page of the CPIS website: http://www.hawaii.edu/cpis/academic_programs_6.html

What are the differences between the summer fellowships and the academic year fellowships?

Summer fellowships are for intensive language study only. Applicants must enroll in formal summer language training programs with 120 hours of instruction in advanced languages (3rd year or higher), or 140 hours of instruction in lower level languages, for a period of 6 weeks or longer. Summer elementary level language study is available only to graduate students studying Korean or one of the Southeast Asian languages in domestic programs. While in-country study is generally recommended for higher level summer language training, recipients in East Asian languages may enroll in UHM summer sessions.

Academic year fellowships are for a combination of language and area studies. Applicants must take at least one target language course and one matching area/international studies course each semester during the award period.

What does the fellowship package include?
An academic year (two semesters) graduate recipient receives a $15,000 stipend and tuition cost for up to 10 credits per semester, and an undergraduate recipient receives a $5,000 stipend and tuition cost up to $10,000. Stipends are disbursed in installments. A summer recipient receives a $2,500 stipend and tuition cost up to $5,000. All FLAS fellowships are pending funding from the U.S. Department of Education.

When is the application deadline?

The deadline for Pacific Islands languages FLAS application is Thursday, October 30, 2014. Southeast Asian languages application is Monday, January 20, 2014, and the deadline for East Asian languages applications is Monday, February 3, 2014 (for both Summer and Academic Year). SEASSI (Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute) has a different deadline for its fellowships (www.seassi.wisc.edu).

Is it possible for FLAS awardees to study abroad?

Yes, students can submit a study abroad plan for a summer or academic year fellowship, if their language level is at intermediate (2nd year) or higher. Intensive in-country language training is strongly recommended for summer Southeast Asia fellowship applicants. The same course requirements explained above apply to study abroad. Applicants who wish to study abroad must provide detail information, such as the overseas program name, location, website, study/travel dates, course levels/titles, and tuition information. Each study abroad is pending approval by the U.S. Department of Education.

Who selects FLAS awardees, and how many awards are given?

The selection committees comprised of UHM faculty members in respective area studies review and rank applications, and Fellowships Coordinator sends out notifications. The number of awards varies from year to year, based on availability of funds.

What are the selection criteria?

The selection committee looks at the quality of the statement of purpose, the level of scholarly records, and the strength of faculty recommendations. The committee reviews the applicant’s plan to take appropriate language and area studies courses.

What are the responsibilities of a FLAS recipient?

Recipients must carry out the course/program plans presented in the application and keep Fellowships Coordinator informed of their academic and tuition status. In addition, they must complete language proficiency tests and online reports required by the Department of Education at the start and end of the award period. Changes in academic course/program plans must be notified and approved by the selection committee via Fellowship Coordinator beforehand. Failure to meet these requirements may result in withdrawal of an award, or a payback obligation. Recipients will be asked to participate in biennial post-award surveys.

What if a student who receives an award cannot fulfill the study? Are there alternates?

Alternates are selected and are told they are alternates.

Are students eligible to apply for FLAS awards even though they have been awarded before?

Yes, they can reapply.