



# Stone Center and Tinker Foundation Summer Field Research Grants for Graduate Students of Latin America and the Caribbean

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

**Deadline for Application – Friday, February 26, 2021**

### Introduction

The Stone Center for Latin American Studies invites all Tulane University graduate students engaged in the study of Latin America or the Caribbean to apply for funding to conduct field research outside of the United States during the summer of 2021. These field research grants are not to be used for dissertation research, but rather to provide graduate students who have little to no field research experience with an opportunity to explore the feasibility of a particular field research project and to gain experience in conducting preliminary hands-on field research abroad. Students must submit a complete *Summer Field Research Grant* application via online submission by **February 26, 2021**. In order for the application to be considered complete, a current transcript of graduate coursework (official or unofficial) must be included in the online application submission, and the online Faculty Sponsor recommendation must also be submitted by the application deadline.

Students applying for field research in Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking Latin American and Caribbean countries will be considered for **Tinker Field Research Grant** funding. Tinker grant funding is available to both pre-dissertation doctoral students and those seeking master's or professional degrees from all academic disciplines. Additional funding is available for graduate students seeking support for summer field research in Latin America or the Caribbean that is not supported by **Tinker Field Research** funds. Funding to countries outside of Latin America or the Caribbean will be considered under certain circumstances.

**NOTE ON COVID-19 SITUATION:** Given the current travel restrictions in place as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, any future travel is subject to approval by the university. If for some reason, field research travel is not possible, there may be additional opportunities for non-travel summer research funding. Students who would like to propose an alternative backup plan for non-travel summer research should submit an addendum that outlines the scope, timeline, and research goals of the alternative project, as well as a modified budget request for lodging, meals, and supplies expenses related to the alternative project.

### Guidelines for the Summer Field Research Grant

1. You must plan to spend at least two weeks in the field.
2. Field research ordinarily is conducted between *May 15 and August 15, 2021*. Applicants who wish to conduct research beyond those time constraints must consult with the Graduate Advisor in Latin American Studies before applying.
3. Field research grants supported by the Tinker Foundation and matching Stone Center funds can only be used to support brief periods of fieldwork in Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking Latin American and Caribbean countries. Stipends are modest and will ordinarily cover round-trip economy airfare, in-country travel, and some subsistence expenses.
4. The Stone Center also independently allocates a modest amount of funding for proposals to conduct research in countries in Latin America and the Caribbean where Spanish or Portuguese is NOT spoken, as well as for research on Latin America or the Caribbean conducted in countries outside of the region. In such cases, applicants must clearly demonstrate linguistic competency in the host country language.

5. Field Research Grant recipients are not eligible for other Stone Center summer funding. If you are applying for more than one program, please indicate this on your application.
6. Recipients must enroll at Tulane University as full-time students in the semester after the grant is awarded, or they will be required to refund their award. Full-time status includes either a minimum of 6 credit hours of graduate-degree coursework or MA/Dissertation Research.
7. Applicants whose proposals have been approved for funding but who have standing incompletes at the end of the Spring 2021 term will forfeit the summer grant.
8. A brief terminal report will be due on September 15, 2021. Report guidelines will be issued with award notices. The terminal report should be no more than 500 words, should come with a completed report cover sheet template which will be made available to all grant recipients, and should be submitted electronically, fully proofread and ready for publication on our website. The Stone Center staff may request additional materials to share with the Tinker Foundation.
9. All award recipients must present their field research project findings at a weekend symposium sponsored and organized by a Stone Center Research Project Associate in the Fall 2021 semester. Award recipients who do not present at this symposium will not be eligible for future summer research funding or FLAS summer fellowships from the Stone Center. The symposium usually takes place in mid-October of the fall semester subsequent to the summer grant year, but the specific date of the fall symposium will be provided in the original award notice.
10. All funded proposals involving human subjects must undergo a review process administered by the IRB (Institutional Review Board). If you are unsure whether your proposal needs to go through this review process, please consult with your faculty advisor or with the Office of Research Administration.  
*NOTE: Successful applicants whose proposals are subject to the Human Subjects Review process will not receive their grant funds until the review process is complete or an exemption has been granted.*
11. Projects that do not involve international travel to Latin America or the Caribbean do not qualify for Tinker Foundation funding under original grant guidelines; but there is limited funding from the Stone Center to support projects that involve international travel to other countries or regions (see #4).
12. Projects that involve work for another agency or organization, or that do not advance the individual research program of the applicant, do not qualify for this grant program. Projects that involve coursework or tuition fees do not qualify for this grant program. If you are uncertain about whether your proposed research project qualifies as an independent field research project under the guidelines of this program, please contact the Graduate Advisor in Latin American Studies for guidance.
13. Priority is given to proposals from students who have not received Field Research Grant funding previously from the Stone Center and to proposals from students who are in the beginning coursework phase of their graduate programs. Proposals from advanced graduate students who are at the dissertation stage of their graduate programs are not eligible for these grants.
14. Non-U.S. citizens are eligible to apply. However, non-U.S. citizens enrolled at Tulane are not eligible to receive awards to conduct research in their home countries if they have previous field research experience in that country.
15. Once a grant is awarded, recipients will be held to the terms of their proposals. Any changes must be reported to the Center and could result in the loss of the grant.
16. Any publications resulting from this funded research should acknowledge the Stone Center for Latin American Studies. Recipients who receive Tinker Foundation grant money must also acknowledge the Tinker Foundation in any publications resulting from the funded research grant.

#### **Guidelines for Non-travel Research Grants (contingent on the status of COVID-19 travel)**

1. In the event that the COVID-19 pandemic prohibits international travel, both Tinker Foundation and Stone Center funds may possibly be approved for use in support of alternative projects that do not involve travel, but which may still advance the student's research project in some way.

2. Students should apply for these non-travel research grants only as a backup plan. It is possible that by Summer 2021 the Covid-19 pandemic will preclude travel to some locations but not to others. Students who are able to travel to their field research site will not be considered for these funds unless granted an exception by the Director of Graduate Studies.
3. With the exception of guidelines pertaining explicitly to travel (numbers 3, 4, and 11), all guidelines for the Summer Field Research Grants also pertain to the alternative non-travel Research Grants.
4. Students may apply for a non-travel research grant by appending an alternative project description (including scope, timeline, and goals) and budget to their Summer 2021 Summer Field Research Grant applications. They may not apply for these funds without also applying for a Summer Field Research Grant.

## Application Procedures

1. Completed applications are due **February 26, 2021**. They should be submitted through the Online Summer Field Research Application. Students are strongly encouraged to review the sample application and gather all required materials BEFORE beginning the online form.
2. Link to Application: [http://tulane.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_c17wMQbMRcl12J](http://tulane.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_c17wMQbMRcl12J) (NOTE: If you abandon your application midway through the process, your progress will be saved ONLY if you return to it from the same IP address within 2 weeks. After 2 weeks, your partial application will be deleted.)
3. Application Materials: The *SAMPLE Graduate Student Summer Field Research Application 2021* is available for download as a [PDF here](#) but the final application must be submitted on-line.
  - **Basic Applicant Information** (online application form)
  - **Basic Project Information** (online application form)
  - **Project Budget**, including travel and subsistence funding (online form)
  - **Project Itinerary**, including information such as: (a) dates, (b) location [in the foreign country] , (c) possible contacts, (d) research objectives for the location. (.pdf upload)
  - **Project Description**, addressing (a) the character and need for the research, (b) the project's methodology, design, and feasibility, (c) previous scholarship, (d) your qualifications and methodological and linguistic capacity to carry out the research, and (e) the significance of the research to the advancement of the field and your professional goals. Consider, How will your results be different from a project without fieldwork? (.pdf upload)
  - **Applicant Transcript** (.pdf upload)
  - **Faculty Sponsor Information** (online recommendation form)
  - **OPTIONAL: Alternative Project Description for non-travel research**, addressing the scope, timeline, and goals of the research. (uploaded as .pdf)

4. **Recommendation Requirements:** Applicants should discuss details of their proposal and itinerary with an appropriate faculty member who will agree to sponsor the project and provide appropriate feedback on the project's viability. The faculty sponsor's letter of recommendation should be signed by the chair of the department and uploaded to the online recommendation portal. (NOTE: Students in the Stone Center for Latin American Studies do not need the Executive Director's signature.) Recruiters will receive a link to the portal via email when you submit your application. You can also provide them directly with the following link: [http://tulane.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_3wU1q8aM37ohiV7](http://tulane.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3wU1q8aM37ohiV7)

Projects lacking a faculty project sponsor recommendation will not be funded.

5. **Priorities in funding** include the following:

- Applicants who have a clear plan of action.
- Projects that are viable and can be completed in the time planned.
- Projects that are well-conceived, have strong faculty support, and show evidence that the candidate has worked closely with the faculty sponsor.

- Projects that will clearly benefit from fieldwork and that cannot be accomplished through library research alone.

If you have a question about any of these guidelines, please contact Jimmy Huck, Assistant Director for Graduate Programs, at <[jhuck@tulane.edu](mailto:jhuck@tulane.edu)> or Valerie McGinley, Director of Planning & Management, at <[vmcgmar@tulane.edu](mailto:vmcgmar@tulane.edu)>.