



2025 Tinker Field Research Grant Guidelines

Grant Overview

Field Research Grants are intended to provide graduate students with early experience conducting hands-on field research in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the opportunity to develop independent research projects. These grants are travel to and in-person field research in Latin America and the Caribbean

Time spent abroad may range from a minimum of two weeks to a maximum of four months and must occur between February 15 and October 15, 2025.

Grants can be used for the following purposes:

- to become familiar with relevant information sources
- to conduct pilot studies and preliminary investigations
- to develop contacts with scholars and institutions in your field
- to acquire a comprehensive knowledge of language and culture. ***However, language study alone is not sufficient reason to receive a grant.***

NOTE: UC Berkeley policy mandates that research involving human subjects be approved or exempted by the Committee for Protection of Human Subjects (CPHS) **before** the research is begun. Applications for Committee review must be submitted approximately **one month** before the next scheduled CPHS meeting. For more information, see the CPHS website at cphs.berkeley.edu.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

- Registered UC Berkeley graduate students in master's programs or the early stages of doctoral-level studies, including those pursuing professional degrees.
- Field Research Grants are for pre-dissertation field research (not advanced dissertation research).
- Non-U.S. citizens and permanent residents ARE eligible.
- Students must intend to register for the Fall 2025 semester.
- Students must be proficient in the language(s) of the country where research will be conducted.
- Priority will be given to candidates who have not received similar funding from CLACS in previous years. However, candidates who have received funding are welcome to apply.

USE OF AWARD FUNDS

The Tinker Foundation intends for Field Research Grants to fund international travel to Latin America and the Caribbean, and research-related expenses while there. Possible expenses include airfare, transportation, per diem (food, lodging), etc. Limited funds (under \$200) may be requested for research equipment, including internet access/phone cards, transcription/interpretation devices/services, research software, access to archives, etc.

International travel is dependent on UC Berkeley international travel guidelines. Please see the UC Berkeley "[Guidelines and Requirements for International Travel](#)" page for policy updates from the university. Some destinations require pre-approval.



AWARD AMOUNTS

Awards will be between \$1,500 and \$3,500. The actual award amount will depend on the applicant's travel destination and number of applicants eligible for this grant cycle.

Funds will be transferred to students' accounts as a graduate stipend or travel stipend, via electronic funds transfer (EFT). **Funds must be used by October 15, 2025**, or returned to CLACS.

Grant Application Process

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

- Complete the application form by **11:59pm, December 15, 2024**.
- Upload *as one document one file* that contains the following:
 - Proposal narrative to the application.
 - Curriculum Vitae
 - Academic transcript (unofficial transcript is acceptable) to the application.
- Ensure faculty member has submitted a recommendation

AWARDING OF GRANTS

- A faculty committee will rank the proposals based on the applicant's academic record, language ability, and merit of the proposed project.
- Applicants will be notified of the selection committee's decision by February 20, 2025.

Reporting Requirements

Final report materials must be submitted two weeks upon completion of proposed research project / return to the US, and not later than **October 15, 2025**.

1. Abstract: One paragraph-long abstract.

2. Summary Report: Two- to three-page report in the form of a journalistic article describing your project. All reports will be considered for publication in the CLACS Blog.

3. Photographs: At least two original, high-resolution photographs, minimum 1200x800 pixels. Photos should be journalistic in nature and illustrate the subject matter of your report. Photos should be submitted as jpg, gif, or png files. Submission of photographs indicates that CLACS has permission to use images in CLACS communications and outreach, including the CLACS website, social media, and publications. If published, an appropriate credit will be included with the image.

4. Presentation: Grant recipients are required to give an oral presentation in Spring 2026, date TBD, about their research to other grantees and members of the CLACS community.