Tinker 2016 Field Research Grants

The Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at KU and the Tinker Foundation sponsor a competition for small grants open to graduate students across all academic disciplines and graduate degree programs for pre-dissertation researching Spanish- or Portuguese-speaking Latin America and the Caribbean. Intended for first-time research in a country the applicant has not previously performed field research, MA and PhD pre-candidate students are privileged, but doctoral candidates doing research not directly related to their dissertations are eligible, particularly if it involves research in a place new to them. The awards can be used to cover airfare, in-country transportation expenses, and subsistence and research expenses incurred any time before November 15, 2016. Research periods typically range from three to five weeks but may be longer.

Applicants should complete the application and proposal using the blank form on the Center’s Graduate Funding page. The application should include: a) the application form found on Center’s Graduate Funding page, b) a narrative proposal with calendar and budget, c) a curriculum vita, d) three letters of recommendation, one of which is by a faculty sponsor, e) an unofficial transcript (DPR Advising Report) in PDF, and f) a letter from a language instructor verifying that you have the linguistic abilities to carry out the research (see specifics below). All should be submitted electronically to latamst@ku.edu with “Tinker FRG Application Summer 2016” in the subject line. Proposals will not be considered without all application materials. For those wanting further clarification, an informational session will be held on February 1 at 3:00 in 318 Bailey Hall. Applications are due at noon on Monday, February 15th. The multidisciplinary Graduate Committee of CLACS-affiliated faculty will convene to decide the award of grants and what budget items can be funded for what amount. Most grants will range from $1,500-$3,000. The Center intends to announce awards by the end of Spring Break.

THIS IS THE LAST YEAR THAT KU WILL HAVE TINKER FUNDING FOR AT LEAST 2 YEARS.

Eligibility: Master’s or doctoral-level students in degree programs whose course of study or research project has a focus on Latin America. Projects focused on Spain and Portugal are no longer eligible.

Restrictions: Money is not available for jobs, internships, courses, or language programs; only independent research projects in Latin America are eligible.

Application: Applicants are required to provide the following:  
1. A research proposal of no more than five double-spaced, 1” margin, 12 pt font pages, describing the work to be undertaken and its significance, as well as the project’s duration and itinerary. Include the names of research centers with which you may be affiliated while conducting fieldwork, as well as any research contacts in the country. This proposal must be signed and approved by your faculty supervisor.
2. A brief curriculum vitae
3. Approval and letter of recommendation from a sponsoring faculty member who agrees to supervise the research
4. Two additional faculty letters of reference.
5. Unofficial transcripts (KU’s advising report) showing all graduate work.
6. A reasonable, detailed budget with explanations for any unusual expenses.
7. Proof of language competence sufficient to carry out the project (letter of evaluation from language instructor) as appropriate.

Reporting: Awardees must present receipts and cancelled tickets for all approved expenses to the Center within 30 days of return to the U.S. and provide a 3-page report that includes, at minimum, itinerary, research results, an account of expended funds, and proposed final stages of the project. Narrative portions should include a brief reiteration of the trip’s purpose, a description of previous research, international, and field experience, activities undertaken and objectives achieved while abroad, lessons learned and/or recommendations for others conducting similar research, and the uses to which the findings or results will be applied. Well-written articles with good photographs may be posted on the
Tinker Foundation’s website (www.tinker.org) and included in CLACS newsletters and other publications with the author’s permission. Any additional materials such as photographs or scholarly articles published as a result of the student’s research should be included with the report and should acknowledge the support of the Tinker Foundation and the Center. Awardees should also be willing to present research results to students and faculty through the Center’s Merienda lecture series, or in another forum.

Questions: For further information, contact Brent Metz, interim director, Center of Latin American and Caribbean Studies at 785-864-1126, bmetz@ku.edu.