LATIN AMERICAN & IBERIAN INSTITUTE

LAII Student Field Research Grants
SPRING 2022 APPLICATION

The Latin American & Iberian Institute (LAII) announces the competition for grants to conduct field research in Latin America. The goal of the program is to offer graduate students an opportunity to acquire a comprehensive knowledge of Latin American languages, terrain and cultures; to familiarize them with information sources relevant to their studies; to conduct pilot studies and preliminary investigations that will inform their thesis or dissertation proposals; and to develop contacts with scholars and institutions in their fields of study. The deadline for applications is **Friday, March 11, 2022 by 5:00 p.m.** Please submit the application to the Unit Administrator Jason Farmer at Laiibusiness@unm.edu. The LAII will offer a virtual information session on Friday, January 28th, 2022, 2:00–3:00 P.M.

General Conditions

1. Master's students, or doctoral students at the preliminary stages of their dissertation research, and those pursuing professional degrees are eligible to apply.

2. The LAII Field Research Grants are not to be used for advanced dissertation research; they are intended to provide graduate students with early experience conducting hands-on field research in Latin America and the opportunity to develop independent research projects.

3. Citizens of Latin American countries enrolled at UNM are eligible to receive field research grants to conduct research in their home countries provided they have no previous field research experience in that country.

4. Priority will be given to first-time applicants, but those who have received a prior LAII Field Research Grant may be considered for subsequent awards if they are doing preliminary work on a substantially new project.

5. Funds are for travel and field-related expenses for field research in the Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking countries of Latin America (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela). **Research in Spain or Portugal will not be supported.**

6. Applications will be accepted from all disciplines. Applicants must address how the research has clear relevance to the human societies of the region studied, which can include developing ethical collaborations with local communities and institutions, training opportunities, and local outreach. **Group projects and joint applications are not permitted.** If planning collaborative research, each applicant must provide a unique research statement, including information regarding the applicant's individual role and objectives in the research project.

7. Research must be conducted in the twelve months following March 31, 2022 (though allowances will be made for pandemic-related delays).

8. Students applying for a second FRG must indicate in their research statement what specific results were obtained from the previous research. The Committee is particularly interested in knowing whether the previous investigations resulted in a research paper, publication, or subsequent research awards.

Application Deadline

The deadline is Friday, March 11, 2022 at 5:00 P.M. Applications must be complete by the deadline to be considered by the Grants and Awards Committee. (See application checklist)

Proposal Guidelines

1. LAII field research grants are for the purpose of encouraging foreign area research of direct relevance to Latin America. Travel to Spain or Portugal is not allowed.

2. The grants are primarily intended for relatively brief periods of research, ranging from two weeks to four months. For longer-term projects, these grants may serve as seed grants to support preliminary research leading to funding from other sources.

3. The competition is open to all enrolled graduate students from all academic disciplines, including professional schools, though priority will be given to doctoral students doing preliminary research. The LAII Field Research Grants are not intended for advanced dissertation research, but rather to provide graduate students with their first experience in developing independent research projects and with conducting hands-on field research in Latin America.

4. Awards will cover round-trip travel, and (funding permitting) in-country travel and partial per diem. Applicants are expected to seek funding from other sources to help meet other research expenses and to help ensure that the field research grants can support as many students as possible.

5. Applicants are expected to have adequate facility with the language of the country or community in which the research will be conducted. Applicants should also demonstrate familiarity with the relevant literature on the topic, as well as knowledge of the geographical context for the research. A very important component of the application is the research description with the appropriate methods outlined.

6. Applicants must demonstrate that they have made the necessary contacts with scholars and other professionals in the field site to enable them to conduct the research. Applicants are strongly encouraged to obtain letters of support from such contacts.

7. Citizens of Latin American countries enrolled at UNM are eligible to receive field research grants to conduct research in their home countries provided they have no previous field research experience in that country.

8. All applicants are required to obtain approval or exemption for human subject research from the UNM Institutional Review Board (IRB) prior to travel. Information about IRB applications and procedures can be found on UNM's Human Research Protection Office website at

https://irb.unm.edu/, Researchers applying for an FRG who will be conducting research and other activities involving animals are required to obtain approval from the UNM Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee before departure. Applicants should contact IACUC for the most current deadline schedule. Information about the IACUC can be found at https://hsc.unm.edu/research/oacc/iacuc/index.html.

Application Procedures

1. **Application**

   Application forms are available online at https://laii.unm.edu/funding/student-field-research-grants.html. You may also request copies of the forms by emailing the LAII Unit Administrator, Laiibusiness@unm.edu. Applicants are reminded to review guidelines before completing the application. Applications must be submitted as a single PDF file, and the file name should begin with the applicant's last name.

2. **Research Statement**

   Applicants should provide a carefully edited research statement describing the proposed project that specifies the purpose and goals of the research and outlines the research design and method. It must be clear how the research has relevance to the human societies of the region studied, which can include developing ethical collaborations with local communities and institutions, training opportunities, and local outreach. The statement should be a maximum of four pages (not including references), including a title, double spaced, with one-inch margins, and twelve-point font. In view of the interdisciplinary composition of the Grants and Awards committee, applicants should write their statements in plain language without jargon. If you must use technical, disciplinary terminology, be sure to define your terms. To demonstrate your familiarity with the relevant literature, it is advisable to include bibliographic references. Please work closely with your advisor in drafting this research statement, as they will be able to help you refine your research goals and methodology.

3. **Itinerary**

   Also include a research itinerary such as Phase I: Preliminary Research, Phase II: Field Research *in sitio*, Phase III: Post Research Activities. For each phase, indicate the approximate dates, locations, and activities.

4. **Airfare Quote and Budget**

   Applicants must indicate airfare in the budget and include a screenshot of that itinerary and airfare from an online travel service as Kayak, Travelocity, Expedia, etc. Please use the budget template provided in the application form below. The budget should clearly state the amounts requested from the LAII FRG, other grants such as the SRG, and personal funds. Describe per diem expenses such as housing and meals and equipment expenses in as much detail as possible. Also, provide a general estimate for other transportation in country such as taxi, bus, and train.

5. **Letter of Recommendation**

Applicants must have one letter of recommendation from their principal faculty adviser. The letter should be submitted directly to Laiibusiness@unm.edu by the faculty member.

6. **Curriculum Vitae or Resumé**

   Include a current curriculum vitae or resumé.

7. **Transcripts**

   Unofficial graduate transcripts are also required. Social Security number and date of birth should be blacked out on all materials.

8. **Evidence of applying for supplemental funding (e.g., GPSA's Student Research Grant [SRG] and/or Rogers Research Award)**

   Applicants are required to apply for supplemental funding in support of the project. The most common source is the Graduate and Professional Students Association (GPSA). Information on the GPSA Student Research Grant can be found at https://gpsagrants.unm.edu/. Additionally, the Office of Graduate Studies offers the Rogers Research/Project Award; more information can be found at: https://grad.unm.edu/funding/research-travel-grants/rogers-research.html. Please include a copy of the email confirming submission of your application for supplemental funding. **Failure to receive another award will not disqualify you from receiving the FRG.**

9. **IRB Online CITI Training**

   Applicants must complete the IRB's online CITI training by the application deadline. Documentation of completion should be included in the FRG application packet. Field Research Grant awardees must notify the LAII of their IRB approval or exemption prior to travel. Proof of IRB approval or exemption may be submitted in paper form or sent to Laiibusiness@unm.edu. Acceptable proof of exemption may be an official notification of exemption from the IRB, or an email from the IRB staff indicating that IRB oversight is not required. As IRB processing can take significant time, we encourage all applicants to contact the IRB early in their application planning process.

10. **Evidence of Contacts and Support**

    Although not required, letters of support from organizations or individuals affiliated with the project in the host country, or evidence of collaboration such as email correspondence, support the research proposal and can make a difference in the selection process. Letters of support should be included in the PDF file application.

11. **Submit Application**

    Applicants must submit their materials electronically as a single PDF in the order stated below to the LAII Unit Administrator, at Laiibusiness@unm.edu. Complete applications are due March 11, 2022 at 5:00 PM.

    - Project Title
    - Application form, which includes budget (see guidelines above)
    - Itinerary
    - Screenshot of airfare quote (include website)
    - Current CV or resumé
    - Unofficial graduate transcripts

- Copy of submission confirmation email (for supplemental funding)
- Documentation of having completed the IRB's CITI training
- Letters of support or evidence of communication with in-country contacts (optional but recommended)
- Letter of recommendation from principal faculty advisor should be emailed directly by the advisor to Laiibusiness@unm.edu.
- Please start the name of your application file with your last name (e.g., LastName-FirstName-2022-FRG.pdf)

Selection Procedures

1. Awardees will be selected by the LAII Grants and Awards Committee. The committee members are representative faculty from the sciences, social sciences, humanities, and professional schools with significant experience in Latin America.
2. Complete applications and supplementary materials will be accepted until 5:00 PM on March 11, 2022. It is the applicant's responsibility to provide a complete application by the deadline indicated, and to allow their faculty advisors sufficient time to submit letters to the LAII by the deadline.
3. The Committee will have approximately two weeks to review the applications and will then meet to make the awards. Applications are reviewed and awarded solely upon merit.
4. Award recipients will be notified within one week after the committee meets and will have up to two weeks from the date of the award letter to accept the award. If an awardee should decline the award, the next highest alternate will be awarded.
5. Applicants awarded a grant are responsible for obtaining a valid passport, required immunizations, required visa, health insurance, and for complying with UNM's international travel policy.

Post-Award Procedures

1. After returning from the field, awardees must submit a brief report on their research activity and a summary of expenses. Future funding requests by the applicant will not be considered until final reports have been received.
2. Awardees are required to share their field research experience and findings by participating in the Student FRG Colloquium.
3. If any publication results from the research, the support of the LAII Field Research Grant must be acknowledged. For more information, see https://laii.unm.edu/funding/expectations-for-acknowledgment.html.

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SPRING 2022 APPLICATION

I.   Applicant Information UNM Academic Record

Date submitted

Name

UNM ID number

Country of citizenship

Phone

Email

Address

II.   UNM Academic Record

Degree program (M.A., Ph.D.)

Discipline / Department

Field / Concentration

Number of UNM hours completed

Cumulative GPA

Principal UNM faculty advisor

III. Field Research Project

Title of research project

Country and site of research

Dates of research

Provide information for the institution, agency or individual at your research site with which you will have significant contact as part of your project.

Name	Affiliation	Email

Provide information related to your academic preparation for the proposed research project.

Rate your language ability as beginner, intermediate, advanced, or native fluency

Language	Speaking	Listening	Comprehension	Reading	Writing
Spanish					
Portuguese					
Other (specify)					

Basis of language competency, such as classroom instruction (indicate number of semesters), living abroad, etc.

List previous LAII field research grants received.

Dates   Country   Project Title   Research Results

Use the Budget form to provide as much detail as possible regarding field research costs and the basis for calculation. For example, meals for 20 days at $30 per day.

Expense and explanation	Requested from LAII	Requested from other	Personal funds	Total
Airfare (attach itinerary and quote)				
Other Transportation (in-country travel such as bus, taxi, etc.)				
Per diem (food and lodging, provide daily rate)				
Other (such as research materials, copies, etc.)				
TOTAL				

Attach the Research Statement that describes the proposed research project. See Application Procedures for specifics regarding format and content.

Attach a Research Itinerary concerning the different phases of the research project. For each phase, indicate the approximate dates, locations, and research activity.

Deadline

Friday, March 11, 2022 by 5:00 PM. Applicants must submit their completed application materials electronically as a single PDF in the order stated below to the LAII Unit Administrator at Laiibusiness@unm.edu

Application Checklist

Applicant's acknowledgement of application requirements (initials) _____

Required Items:	✓
Title Page, including name	
Completed application form, including project title and budget	
3-4 page research statement	
Itinerary with phases	
Screenshot of airfare quote	
Letter of recommendation from principal faculty advisor	
Current CV or resumé	
Unofficial graduate transcripts	
Copy of emailed submission confirmation (for supplemental funding)	
Documentation of IRB online CITI training	
Optional (but strongly encouraged): Letters of support from in-country contacts	

For more information, contact the LAII Unit Administrator, Laiibusiness@unm.edu, or the LAII Committees Graduate Assistant, commlaii@unm.edu