

Mellon Undergraduate Award

The **Mellon Undergraduate Award** recognizes excellence in undergraduate work by rising juniors and seniors engaged in study or research in Latin America or the Caribbean. The award is designed to offset expenses incurred by students participating in an organized study or self-designed research program that lasts a minimum of six weeks.

Priority: Priority will be granted to students participating in the UNC-Duke Consortium in Latin American and Caribbean Studies Yucatec Maya Program <https://isa.unc.edu/>. For Latin American Studies majors the course (six credits) may count toward their degree requirements. **Note:** Admission to the program requires a separate application filed through the Study Abroad Office (<http://studyabroad.unc.edu/>).

Eligibility:

- Be rising juniors or seniors enrolled at UNC-CH with a demonstrated interest in Latin America or the Caribbean.
- Demonstrate a strong academic record

Competition: The competition is merit-based. Awards will be made on the basis of: (1) overall quality and originality of the proposal, (2) demonstrated usefulness of the proposed activity to the student's major, (3) likelihood of successful completion, (4) strength of letter of recommendation, (5) student's overall qualifications and (6) an assessment of the degree to which the funds sought are necessary for the completion of the project.

Funding: The number of awards, and the amount of each, will be determined by the number of meritorious applications received and the availability of funds. We expect to make one to two awards of \$1500-3000 each. Funds may be requested *only* to cover or partially cover expenses directly related to the proposed course or project and may be spent only for the purpose for which the funds have been awarded. Any changes must be approved by the Institute for the Study of the Americas in advance of expenditure of award funds.

Reporting: A final report is required after completion of the grant period. Students are also required to attend one student orientation event to share their experience with future applicants.

Where to Submit:

Institute for the Study of the Americas, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 3200 Fed Ex Global Education Center, CB 3205, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3205, Attention: Mellon Undergraduate Award

How to Apply:

- Step 1: Meet with the Latin American Studies Associate Director Beatriz Riefkohl Muñiz (riefkohl@email.unc.edu) to discuss your plans.
- Step 2: Submit **two** copies of the completed and signed application by the deadline at the ISA office:
- a) Application Form
 - b) Current UNC-CH transcript (print out from Student Central or an official transcript "issued to student" allowed)
 - c) An itemized budget and list of other sources of support solicited
 - d) Current resume
 - e) A letter of recommendation
 - f) For **study** (including language study): please submit a statement of purpose (no more than one single-spaced page of text that addresses the relevance of the activity to your degree objectives). For **research**: please submit a proposal (no more than three double-spaced pages of text that includes relevant information about the research to be conducted and necessary institutional affiliations, if applicable)
- Step 3: A committee of ISA-affiliated faculty will rank the applications.
- Step 4: Notifications will be sent to applicants.
- Step 5: The award will be presented at the annual Latin American Studies Graduate and Award Ceremony held on the Saturday before May graduation.

Please be aware that any research involving human or animal subjects must be approved by the Institutional Review Board. No funds can be paid for this award until documentation of proper IRB training and project approval or exemption. **Contact:** Beatriz Riefkohl Muñiz, Associate Director (riefkohl@email.unc.edu)