

FACT SHEET: BASIC FLAS INFORMATION & FAQs

NOTE: Students turn in application materials to their Department's Graduate Coordinator. The student's Graduate Coordinator oversees the nomination.

FLAS Fellowships support graduate students who seek to establish expertise in area studies and in language proficiency (Canadian Studies and in French). FLAS is a US government program to promote the training of students who intend to make their careers in college or university teaching, government service, or other employment where knowledge of French language and francophone cultures is essential.

Enrolled, full-time graduate students in academic departments or professional schools, who are US citizens or permanent residents, are eligible to apply. FLAS Fellowships are administered by the Canadian-American Center at UMaine, and are awarded on a merit basis through annual competitions.

The recipient of a FLAS award receives tuition and a stipend:

Academic Year (AY) FLAS: up to 9 credits tuition, \$15,000 living stipend, and 50% waiver of health insurance *if* health insurance is purchased through UMaine

Summer FLAS: up to \$5,000 in tuition and \$2500 living stipend

Each year, contingent on Federal funding, the Canadian-American Center will offer **Academic Year (AY) FLAS Awards** and **Summer FLAS Awards**. FLAS Fellowships are funded by the US Department of Education, Office of International Foreign Language Education, under the provision of Title VI of the Higher Education Act. The amount of funding and number of awards each year are contingent upon annual US DOE program approval, federal regulations, as well as continued congressional funding.

Summer FLAS Awards are specifically aimed at developing language proficiency. These awards are open, on a competitive basis, to students wishing to improve their proficiency in French as a tool for graduate research. Native speakers of French are not eligible to receive a Summer FLAS award.

Priorities

Higher Priority will be given to applicants:

- with strong academic skills and previous language training in French
- who are most likely to pursue government service, work at a college or university, or enter a professional field
- who show potential for meeting critical national security needs
- who are at the dissertation stage of their program and planning to conduct research in Canada

Lower Priority will be given to applicants:

- who have already achieved superior fluency in French
- who are at the proposal stage of dissertation research or writing, and/or who are conducting research on campus

Refer to <https://umaine.edu/canam/students/graduate-programs/foreign-language-and-areas-studies-flas-awards/> for links to the due dates, application forms and the cover sheet.

Please also read the **FACT SHEETS** for the AY FLAS and SUMMER FLAS and use the application checklist.

Direct questions about FLAS Fellowships to the FLAS Coordinator:

Dr. Frédéric Rondeau, Associate Professor of French, Canadian-American Center, 154 College Ave, Orono, ME 04473. frederic.rondeau@umaine.edu

FAQs

For what time period is a FLAS awarded?

A FLAS can be awarded for either an academic year or for a summer (6 weeks).

Can I apply for a single semester FLAS award?

No, AY FLAS fellowships can only be awarded for an academic year. Summer FLAS awards are limited to 6-weeks in the summer.

ACADEMIC YEAR FLAS

For what purposes can I use the academic year FLAS?

Academic year FLAS fellowships are awarded to students engaged in:

1. A formal domestic program of full-time language and area study coursework

OR

2. Full-time dissertation research on/in Canada. The use of French language in dissertation research must be extensive enough to consider the language improvement facilitated by the research equal to the improvement that would be obtained from a full academic year's worth of formal classroom language training.

How much money does the Academic FLAS Fellowship award?

For the academic year, FLAS will pay up to 9 credits of the student's tuition and will provide a stipend of \$15,000.

What are the course requirements for academic year FLAS fellows?

Students must take 1 graded FLAS-approved French language course and 1 graded Canadian studies course per semester for two semesters.

SUMMER FLAS

How can I use the summer FLAS?

Summer FLAS fellowships are intended exclusively for improving language proficiency; they are not intended to be used for research. They support students enrolled in formal Canadian programs of intensive French language study at the intermediate or advanced level.

Is there a minimum summer program length?

All summer courses must be a minimum of 6 weeks in length. Intermediate-level courses must have a minimum of 140 contact or credit hours; advanced level courses must have a minimum of 120 contact or credit hours.

GENERAL

Can a student receive both a FLAS and another fellowship during the same award period?

Additional fellowships may be a conflict. Fellows are advised to contact the FLAS Coordinator to discuss options.

Can I send any of my application materials by e-mail or fax?

Applicants may submit materials electronically only for the purposes of meeting the deadline. Any materials submitted in this manner must still be followed up with paper copies. In any case, all application materials for AY FLAS awards must be evaluated and submitted by the Graduate Coordinator of the student's department.

Can I send an Internet version of the brochure for my Summer Language Program?

Yes. Downloaded versions are fine. However, you should be sure to indicate which program you are planning on attending, and check that your pamphlet includes such information as the length in weeks, number of instructional hours, cost of tuition and fees, start date, and end date.

Who is eligible to receive a FLAS Fellowship?

All FLAS awards are open to UMaine graduate students who are US citizens, permanent residents, or nationals.

Is there a limit to the number of FLAS fellowships that I can receive?

More than one is possible, depending on student's program. However, it is possible that preference will be given to those students who have not held Center Fellowships before.

Can I apply for the FLAS fellowship if I am graduating?

No.

What happens after I submit my application?

Recipients, alternates, and non-recipients will receive notification of their status by the end of March.

Is a FLAS fellow allowed to work during the fellowship period?

Yes, but keep in mind that FLAS fellows must be engaged in full-time French language and area or international studies course work or dissertation research during the academic year or in intensive language study during the summer award period.

Can I request a pass/fail grade for my courses?

No; the U.S. Department of Education requires that Canadian Studies and French language courses be taken for a letter grade.

How do I obtain approval for my language program from the U.S. Department of Education?

The FLAS Coordinator is responsible for seeking approval from the U.S. Department of Education after you have been provisionally accepted by the Canadian-American Center.

Is there a report I must complete at the end of the Fellowship?

All FLAS fellows must complete an electronic Pre Self-Assessment Report and then a Student Performance Report at the end of the fellowship. FLAS fellows must accept the FLAS with the understanding that submitting these reports and undertaking the assessments on time is imperative.