

## **Tinker Field Research Grants**

### **Call for Applications 2019-2020**

The University of Miami Institute for Advanced Study of the Americas is pleased to once again award Tinker Foundation Field Research Grants for masters, doctoral and professional school graduate students conducting pre-dissertation fieldwork. As early career grants, the Tinker FRGs are aimed at helping graduate students at UM to develop cutting-edge research projects and gain firsthand knowledge of Latin America and the Caribbean. These experiences increase significantly the ability of graduate students to secure external funding for their subsequent research. Equally important, we feel that they are absolutely fundamental for the type of engaged scholarly work that UMIA seeks to encourage.

Tinker FRGs provide funding for graduate students in all disciplines to conduct research in Latin America and the Caribbean (defined by Tinker as “the Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking countries of the Western Hemisphere and excluding Puerto Rico”). The goals of the Tinker Field Research Grants are to: 1) offer students an opportunity to acquire a comprehensive knowledge of language, terrain, and culture; 2) to familiarize themselves with information and sources relevant to their studies; 3) to conduct pilot work and preliminary investigations; and 4) to develop contacts with scholars and institutions in their fields of study. UM graduate students at all levels can benefit from this funding opportunity.

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#### **Eligibility**

Graduate students from all University of Miami Schools, Colleges, and Departments are welcome to apply. Non-US citizens are eligible to apply. Citizens of Latin American countries enrolled at UM can receive awards to conduct research in their home countries provided they have no previous field research experience in that country.

Awards will not exceed \$2,000 per student. The research trip must be completed and reimbursement processed by September 1st, 2020.

**Please note:** Awards can be made to graduate students pursuing degrees at the Master’s, doctoral, and other levels. The goal is to support varied types of introductory and pre-dissertation field research. Doctoral students are welcome to apply, but these pre-dissertation grants are not intended for students close to finishing their degrees or working on dissertation research.

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#### **Application Submission**

Students will submit a full application electronically no later than **March 1, 2020**. The application will consist of the following items:

- Tinker Field Research Grant Application Form (below)
- Statement describing the research travel and project to be undertaken and how it relates to degree program (Max. 5 pages long, 12 pt. font, double spaced)
- Proposed itinerary and itemized budget
- Current University of Miami graduate transcript (unofficial is fine)
- CV
- Letter of recommendation from advisor under separate cover

Please send your full electronic application package in one single .pdf file to [mia@miami.edu](mailto:mia@miami.edu) with the following reference line “Tinker FRG Application.” Please have your advisor separately submit a letter to [mia@miami.edu](mailto:mia@miami.edu) with the reference line “Tinker FRG Recommendation.”

For useful guidelines on writing proposals for research funding, we suggest Adam Pzeworski and Frank Salomon, *On The Art of Writing Proposals* (Social Science Research Council, 1995 rev., 1988).

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## **Selection Process**

UMIA will convene an interdisciplinary committee of faculty with expertise in Latin American and Caribbean Studies from across UM. The committee will select the awardees and determine whether any adjustments or changes should be made to the proposed budget. (Please take care to adequately justify the budget.)

UMIA will notify applicants of the committee's decision by early April. Awardees will be required to attend an orientation meeting before conducting their research to review the program requirements, UM policies and program rules for spending research funds, and guidelines for reimbursement.

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## **Reporting Requirements**

A narrative and financial report of the research trip must be submitted to MIA prior to student reimbursement and within two weeks of concluding the research trip. The narrative report of three pages will include a description of the activities undertaken, research results, and an explanation of the next stages of the research project. A one-page financial report will present a complete account of expended funds.

Upon their return, awardees are expected to submit an abstract for participation in the Annual South Florida Latin American and Caribbean Studies Graduate Student Conference. In addition to presenting their findings at this conference, students will present their research results to students and faculty members at a symposium organized by UMIA during the academic year

following their fieldwork. Awardees will be requested to submit to UMIA any papers or other materials developed as a result of the award. These materials or a portion of them may be featured on the MIA website.

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### Guidelines for Disbursement

Grant recipients will be reimbursed through UM's Office of Financial Aid and Student Employment (OFASE) upon their return from the field. There could be an impact on financial aid received and it is the responsibility of the student to review with OFASE. Students will be responsible for completing all the necessary paperwork. UMIA staff will assist them in filing the reimbursement if necessary. Original receipts will be required.

## 2019-2020 Tinker Field Research Grant Application Form

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ C-Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduate degree sought: \_\_\_\_\_ Year in program: \_\_\_\_\_

UM School and Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of research project: \_\_\_\_\_

Keywords describing research: \_\_\_\_\_

Travel destination(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Language competence for proposed research: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount and source of other funding during the grant period: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Campus address: \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor's email and campus address: \_\_\_\_\_

Summarize your previous fieldwork experience including destination, purpose and dates of travel:

Please include the following materials with this application form:

- Statement describing the research project to be undertaken, its significance, the research steps or methodology of the project including why you must travel to the site, and how the project relates to your degree program (Max. 5 pages long, 12 pt. font, double spaced)
- Proposed itinerary, itemized budget and budget justification
- Current University of Miami graduate transcript
- CV
- Letter of recommendation from advisor

**Applications are due by March 1, 2020.**

Please send your full electronic application package to [mia@miami.edu](mailto:mia@miami.edu) in **one single** pdf file.

I certify that the information provided by me on this form is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any misrepresentations may be cause for cancellation of my award.

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Applicant signature

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Date