Tinker Grant Application Guideline

About Tinker Foundation Field Research Grant

The Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) at SDSU is proud to have been awarded Tinker Foundation Field Research Grants. The field Research grant “is designed to provide budding scholars with a first-hand experience of their region of study, regardless of academic discipline.” Tinker Grants fund the travel and partial logistic cost for graduate students who are doing preliminary research in Latin America and who are pursuing or intend to pursue a Ph.D. The objective of this grant if to provide students with the opportunity to immerse themselves into their prospective fields to attain language knowledge, cultural background, initiate research contacts, network with institutions and possible informants and/or research participants, and gather preliminary research data. The grant is not intended to begin research but rather to provide the opportunity to determine the feasibility of long-term research and to establish the necessary connections to do so effectively. All awardees are required to complete a final report and/or presentation upon their return that details their intended research projects, the contacts established for long-term research, and the final outcomes of their research trips.

The Center for Latin American Studies will award Tinker Founds to qualified students doing preliminary research in Latin American (not including U.S. Latino populations) on a competitive basis. Faculty mentors must be affiliated with the Center for Latin American Studies. The research should last a minimum of two weeks but no more than four months. In order to be considered for this award the applicant must either be a doctoral student or have the intention to pursue a Ph.D. The intended travel should provide the foundation for the research associated with the doctoral degree. Students can apply for research grants of up to $1,000 to the US-Mexico border region, up to $1,650 to southern Mexico and Central America, or up to $2,000 in South America. The amount awarded will be based upon the total cost of travel, lodging, and daily meals. The amount received will be based on the submitted budget and determined by the Research Funding Committee of the Consejo Consultivo to the Center for Latin American Studies. If awarded the Tinker grant, ALL FUNDS MUST BE USED BY DECEMBER 31ST of the same year.

Students awarded a Tinker grant will receive 80% of the grant at the beginning of their research period; the other 20% will be disbursed once the students have returned, completed the travel expense claims, and presented their reports or presentations to the Consejo.

Working in Mexico on the US/Mexico Border

Students working on the US/Mexico Border qualify for the funding provided that their research takes place on the Mexico side of the border. Students must prove collaboration with a professional of academic institution within the Mexico border and must demonstrate the same time commitment to in-Mexico travel as students traveling to other parts of Latin America.

Additional Requirements

In order to be eligible for the grant, the applicant must attend one informational meeting where an advisor will go over the application requirements and will provide tips in order to complete a successful application. The Center for Latin American Studies will offer two meetings in the early spring of each funding year to ensure that all interested students have the opportunity to attend.

If your faculty mentor or adviser is not an affiliated faculty member, he or she may send an email requesting affiliation along with a current curriculum vitae to classtdy@mail.sdsu.edu.
Tinker Grant Application Check-List

The application can be found at: http://latinamericanstudies.sdsu.edu/

Please submit ALL required documentation on or before the deadline (check with Center for Latin American Studies for current due dates.) Late applications will not be considered.

Awardees will be notified the first week of May.

Requirement Checklist:

___ Grant Application Cover Page

___ Essay (Two Pages Maximum)
In the essay, you must provide an outline of intended research and explain the following points:

   a. Professional Goals & Experience
   b. What is your research? Include a clearly articulated thesis statement in the form of a research questions or clearly outlined research statement.
   c. Where will you do research and/or at which institutions in the Latin American location?
   d. How does the requested travel contribute to informing your preliminary research?
   e. What kinds of contacts do you intend to make?
   f. How will your research contribute to your discipline?
   g. Discussion of Language Qualifications
      i. Fluency is not necessary but the appropriate level will be required as it is relevant to your research
   h. Certification that you will complete a formal report to the Center of Latin American Studies that detail the outcome of each section above.

___ Curriculum Vitae (Two Page Maximum)
   a. List of courses appropriate to your research

___ Budget and Budget Justification (One Page Each)
   a. Amount requested
   b. Detailed justification of expenses

___ Academic Advisor Form

___ Unofficial Transcripts
Tinker Grant Application
Cover Page

Last name: _____________________ M.I. ______ First Name: __________________________

Address: ______________________________________________________________________

City: ______________________________  State: _________ Zip Code: _______________

Phone Number(s):  ______________________ E-mail:  ________________________________

Red ID: _______________________________ Department: _____________________________

Graduate Program: ______________________ Faculty Advisor: _________________________

Expected Graduation Date: ________________ Overall GPA: ___________

Latin American Research Region:  _________________________________________________

Title of Research Project:  ________________________________________________________

Amount Requested: $___________________  Total Budget: __________________
ACADEMIC ADVISOR FORM

Name of Tinker Applicant:

I hereby __do/__ do not waive my right to access this form and the letter of recommendation provided by the reviewer below.

_________________________________  __________________________________
Applicant Signature   Date   Print Applicant Name

Dear Faculty:

The above-named applicant has indicated that you are his or her faculty adviser for preliminary research to be conducted under Tinker Foundation Research Travel Grant. As an academic advisor, we anticipate that you will work with the student on the development of his or her application and the final report on the project. In addition, the Center for Latin American Studies at SDSU is interested in your opinion regarding the intellectual capacities, academic development, and potential to succeed at the doctoral level of the applicant listed above. Before continuing please note whether or not the applicant has waived his or her right to access this recommendation as indicated above. If the applicant has waived his or her right to the access of this document, any information provided in this form will be confidential. If the applicant has not waived his or her right to access then the applicant may request the opportunity to review his or her file including your letter of recommendation.

Faculty Name and Title: _______________________________________________________
Department: ________________________________________________________________
E-mail: ___________________________________________________________________
Telephone: (___) ______________________  Years known applicant:_______

Based on graduate students at the ___ level that you have worked with over the last ___ years, how would you rate the above applicant’s ability to succeed at the doctoral level? ___

(1=Highly Likley; 2= Most Likely; 3=Likely; 4+Probable; 5=Unlikely).
Use the space below or attach a separate letter explaining your ranking. Please be sure to note not only the characteristics of the application but also the intended research of the applicant, his or her ability to success in the project area, and his or her language fluency and the level needed to be successful. Please also indicate your willingness to work with the applicant on his or her proposal and final report to be completed upon return.

____________________________________   __________________
Signature        Date

You can submit your letter of support via e-mail to the Center for Latin American Studies at clasgrad@mail.sdsu.edu or via mail to the Center for Latin American Studies (MC 6038) at:

College of Arts and Letter  
San Diego State University  
5500 Campanile Drive  
San Diego, CA 92182-6038  
*If you choose regular mail, please have the envelope sealed and signed. All letters must be signed by recommending faculty.