Latino Museum Studies Program
Frequently Asked Questions

I am interested in getting involved in LMSP how do I apply?

Application materials are typically available through the Smithsonian Latino Center website (http://latino.si.edu/programs/programs_LMSP.htm) and posted in February for an April deadline. The strongest applications thoroughly discuss academic and professional credentials, interests and goals as well as genuine interest in advancing Latina/o related endeavors in the museum field and cultural institution-related work.

Will I receive a stipend or any other financial compensation for travel, housing, food or cost of living?

The LMSP program provides the cost of housing accommodations in university housing as well as one roundtrip ticket. Fellows need to personally budget for food, cost of living, and any other expenses related to their stay in Washington, D.C. including transportation. Stipends are not provided.

Where will I be living and what should I pack?

Traditionally, LMSP fellows live in George Washington University graduate housing. Rooms include private bath, kitchenettes, refrigerator, and free DSL lines or wireless internet. Do not forget to pack the usual amenities from home including, twin size sheets for bedding, towels, pillows, clothes hangers, eating/kitchen utensils and alarm clock. Although your dorm room is kitchen equipped, you will have to provide relevant kitchen wares (i.e. utensils, plates, pots, coffeemaker etc.) or make arrangement with roommates and other fellows. You will be provided with LMSP fellows’ contact information prior to your arrival to make these arrangements.

Will I have a roommate?

Yes. All fellows will live with another participant from the program.

Can LMSP support my dissertation research?

For those interested in support for primary research, the Smithsonian Office of Fellowships (http://www.si.edu/ofg/fellowopp.htm) provides outstanding research opportunities for graduate students and senior scholars.

LMSP is an interdisciplinary program highlighting the varying factors contributing to the documentation, interpretation and preservation of Latina/o art, history and culture. In the practicum component fellows will conduct research, devise educational programming, design teaching-kits and pose theoretical and pedagogical questions to SI staff and most importantly, to each other. The interrelated curriculum and practicum components allow
for an interdisciplinary and exploratory professional experience with Smithsonian collections and staff.

**Is LMSP a formal graduate research seminar?**

No. The LMSP is structured as a forum to introduce and explore the many interrelated divisions and areas in mainstream museum operations and related burgeoning scholarship. Seasoned SI staff in addition to museum curators, scholars and directors from across the country present lectures, workshops and tours and ultimately serve as affiliated faculty for LMSP. Whereas, critical ideas and questions of methodology are discussed, formal textbooks and traditional lectures are not the goal of the program. Rather, we emphasize the process of experiential learning, hands-on skills and crucial discussions of challenges, dilemmas and obstacles confronting Latina/o museum scholars and professionals today. A great deal of the learning comes from the time participants devote to exploring the ideas and topics discussed outside of a structured setting.

**Do I need to be Latina/o to be in LMSP?**

No. Over the years we continue to admit the very best scholars and professionals in the museum field while cultivating new leaders and advocates in Latina/o arts, history and culture. Anyone who meets the aforementioned criteria is welcome to apply.

**How long is a typical day?**

When we are in the first two weeks of LMSP, we have 6-8 hour days, Monday through Friday, composed of lectures, workshops and tours. While we work hard to factor in necessary breaks and extended lunches, some days can have heavier foot traffic than others. It is best to plan on two weeks of intensive discussion and training. Weekends will be yours.

**Will there be personal shuttle service from student housing to the Smithsonian?**

No. All student commutes will be on subway so please budget for metro card fare. More information about the D.C. Metro system can be found at [www.wmata.com](http://www.wmata.com).

**Where should I have personal mail sent?**

Please do not send mail directly to the Smithsonian Latino Center due to the delay within the Smithsonian mail system. You will have a better turn around time with the residence hall service. Please see [http://living.gwu.edu](http://living.gwu.edu) for more details.