Latino Museum Studies Program
Frequently Asked Questions

How do I apply for the Latino Museum Studies Program?

Visit [https://solaas.si.edu](https://solaas.si.edu) and create a user account. You can then search for the Smithsonian Latino Center’s Latino Museum Studies Program. Please follow all instructions, answer the essay questions, upload your resume and unofficial transcripts and provide the contact information for two references.

The strongest applications thoroughly discuss academic 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?

You will be provided housing accommodations at George Washington University as well as a round trip ticket to Washington, D.C. A stipend will be provided to those who participate in the four-week practicum projects. No stipend is provided for the first two weeks of the program. You will need to budget for food, cost of living and any other costs related to your stay, including transportation.

Where will I be living and what should I pack?

Participants will be housed at George Washington University’s Foggy Bottom campus. Rooms include private bath, kitchenettes, refrigerator, and free DSL lines or wireless internet. Don’t 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?

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 students will work in research teams (when available) and conduct research, devise educational programming, design teaching-kits and pose theoretical and pedagogical questions to their research team, 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. For those interested in support for primary research, please see the Smithsonian Office of Fellowships (http://www.si.edu/ofg/fellowopp.htm) for the outstanding research opportunities for graduate students and senior scholars.

Is LMSP a formal graduate research seminar?

No. The program is structured as a forum to introduce and explore the many interrelated divisions and areas in mainstream museum operations and related burgeoning scholarship. Smithsonian 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, emphasis is placed on the process of experiential learning, hands-on skills and crucial discussions of challenges, dilemmas and obstacles confronting Latina/o museum scholars and professionals today.

Do I need to be Latin@ to participate 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?

During the first two weeks typical days average six to eight hours, Monday through Friday. They are composed of lectures, discussions, presentations, 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.

For those participating in the four-week practicum a regular schedule of work will be agreed upon with the fellow and the practicum leader and will average between 6 – 8 hours per day. Work space will be provided and multi-use space will also be available at the Latino Center offices if needed.

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 http://www.wmata.com/.

Where should I have personal mail sent?

Do not have your mail sent to the Smithsonian Latino Center. You can set up mail service directly with George Washington University by visiting http://living.gwu.edu