LATINO MUSEUM STUDIES PROGRAM - GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP
Frequently Asked Questions

About the program
What is the Latino Museum Studies Program Graduate Fellowship?
The Latino Museum Studies Program (LMSP) Graduate Fellowship is a summer fellowship hosted by the National Museum of the American Latino, in partnership with various Smithsonian museums and centers. The program takes place annually during the months of July and August. LMSP is a professional development program for graduate students interested in museum careers, with a focus on **U.S. Latina/o/x** Studies. Each fellow works closely with a Smithsonian content expert on an ongoing Smithsonian project.

Eligibility
What are the program's eligibility requirements?
All applicants must be currently enrolled in a masters or doctoral program in the United States at the time of application. If you have been recently accepted into a graduate program and will enroll in the fall of the year you are applying, you are eligible to apply. Please provide documentation of your acceptance when submitting your application materials.

Are recent graduates eligible to apply?
If you are graduating the semester before the program begins (Spring), you are eligible to apply. If you graduated the winter or any period before, you are unfortunately not eligible. You must be enrolled in a masters or doctoral program at the time of applying. For other Smithsonian internship and fellowship opportunities, please visit the following website: https://www.smithsonianofi.com/

Is there a background check for SI Identification Badges and Network accounts?
The Smithsonian requires that everyone complete a favorable background check prior to obtaining access to Smithsonian network systems. ID badges are provided for in-person appointments of more than 30 days and are contingent upon successful clearance of a background security investigation.

Do I have to be Latino to apply?
You do not have to be Latino to apply. You do have to have an academic focus and interest in Latina/o/x Studies. Your focus should be on the **U.S. Latina/o/x** experience.

Do I have to be bilingual in English and Spanish to participate?
Fluency in English and Spanish is strongly preferred, but not required. Spanish fluency requirement may be needed on specific practicum projects. Please read each project description carefully to verify the language requirements. All programming is conducted in English.

Do I need to be a US citizen to participate in the program?
You do not need to be a US citizen to apply. Applicants must be authorized to work in the United States. This includes US Citizens, Green Card holders, DACA recipients, and international students.

<u>General Information</u>

How often do you accept applications?
Applications are accepted annually in the early part of the year. No submissions are accepted outside of the call for application period.

How many fellows are accepted for the program?
We select 12 fellows every year, unless otherwise noted.

How do I apply to the program?
The application is made available through the Smithsonian's Online Academic Appointment System (SOLAA). You will need to submit two essays, transcripts, resume/cv, and two letters of reference. For more information, reference the LMSP Graduate Program Application Checklist on the program's website.

When are applications made available?
Applications are generally made available between January and February every year, unless otherwise noted. The call for applications is distributed through our website, social media channels, and various listservs.

When do applications close for the program?
Application deadlines are listed on our website. **Late submissions are not accepted. No exceptions are made.**

When are selections for announced?
Announcements are generally made approximately 6 weeks after the application deadline. All applicants are notified of their selection status through the SOLAA system.

Am I able to apply in the future if not selected?
Yes, please consider reapplying if you are still eligible to do so.

Am I responsible for the costs of travel and lodging to participate in the Latino Museum Studies Program?
Roundtrip economy air or regional rail transportation from within the United States to Washington, D.C. is provided**. Please do not purchase your own travel as it will not be refunded**. Fully furnished apartments are provided to enrolled fellows and common spaces are also shared with other members of the cohort.

Is a stipend provided?
Fellows will be provided a modest stipend to offset costs of meals and local transportation. **If selected, any violation of the code of conduct will result in forfeit of stipend.**

What is the time commitment to participate in the program?
The program is a full-time commitment. You must be able to be in Washington, D.C. for the duration of the program.

What are the program dates for the program?
The program dates are listed on our website.

How is the program responding to the COVID-19 pandemic?
The Smithsonian's Occupational Health Services (OHS) still requests that anyone in the SI community who tests positive for COVID report their case. When a positive case is reported, OHS will provide that person with instructions for isolation and return-to-work protocols. OHS will also include advice for them to pass along to anyone who may have been exposed.

COVID-19 Safety Training must be completed within 30 days of your start date.

I have other questions not answered in this document. Whom should I contact?
Any questions related to the program should be referred to LMSPInfo@si.edu.