



Inter-American Foundation

Grassroots Development Fellowship Program

No. 38

The Inter American Foundation (IAF) is an independent agency of the U.S. government that funds the self-help initiatives of the organized poor in Latin America and the Caribbean. To complement its effort, the IAF has reinstated its fellowship support for dissertation research in Latin America and the Caribbean by candidates for Ph.D. degrees from United States universities.

IAF's fellowships are intended to build a community of professionals and scholars knowledgeable about grassroots development. Fellows examine the efforts of the rural and urban poor to improve their lives, their methods of organization and production, and the policies and programs designed to alleviate their poverty. The IAF disseminates research findings to a broad audience concerned with development.

Fellowship Awards

Fellowship awards provide round-trip international transportation to the field research site, a \$3,000 research allowance and a \$1,500 monthly stipend covering a maximum period of 12 months. For research beyond 12 months, funds must be obtained from other sources. Fellows will be required to attend a "mid-year" meeting to discuss their progress with members of the IAF's academic review committee. The meeting time will be announced; travel and attendance will be funded by the IAF. Fellows are also required to submit to the IAF within six months of completing their grant period, a final report on their research of between 1,250 to 2,500 words.

General Eligibility

Fellowships are available to currently registered students at U.S. universities who, by the time they undertake their IAF-funded research, will have advanced to candidacy for the Ph.D. in the social sciences, physical sciences, technical fields and the professions as related to grassroots development issues. However, candidates undertaking clinical research in the health field will **not** be considered.

- * The competition is open to U.S. citizens and citizens of independent Latin American and Caribbean countries (except Cuba).
- * IAF fellowships fund field research in independent Latin American and Caribbean countries (except Cuba). Proposals for field research in Puerto Rico or the Dutch, French and British territories are not eligible.
- * Applicants must speak and read the language(s) appropriate to the research proposal.

Awards Criteria

Fellowships awards are based on both development and scholarly criteria. Proposals should offer a practical orientation to field-based information. Only in exceptional cases will the IAF support proposals reflecting a primary interest in macro questions of politics and economics as they relate to the environment of the poor. Because the Fellowship Program complements IAF's support for grassroots development projects in Latin America and the Caribbean, preference is given to those applicants whose careers or research projects are related to topics of greatest interest to the IAF. Current priority topics include the following:

- * Organizations promoting grassroots development among poor and disadvantaged people in Latin America and Caribbean;
- * the financial sustainability and independence of development organizations;
- * trends affecting historically excluded groups, such as African descendants, indigenous people, women, people with disabilities and young people;
- * transnational development;
- * the role of corporate social responsibility in grassroots development;
- * the impact of globalization on grassroots development;
- * the impact on the quality of life of the poor of grassroots development activities in such areas as sustainable agriculture and natural resource management; housing; primary health care; education; urban development; training and technical assistance; technology transfer; jobs creation; and marketing and small enterprise development.

For application instructions and materials, visit www.iie.org/iaf.