

Frequently Asked Questions
2026-2027 Crossing Latinidades Mellon Fellowship
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Summer Institute
June 12-21, 2026
University of Illinois Chicago

ELIGIBILITY

Who can apply to the Summer Institute and Mentorship Program?

Any doctoral student who will be completing their second or third year of studies in a humanities or humanistic social science PhD program in May 2026 and planning to work on a U.S. Latino/a/x Dissertation Proposal or Research Project. If you are in an MA/PhD program, you must be in the third/fourth year of studies by May 2026. To be eligible, students must be enrolled in R-1 HSIs and members of the Alliance for Hispanic Serving Research Universities (HSRU):

Arizona State University
CUNY Graduate Center
Florida International University
Texas A&M University
Texas Tech University
University of Arizona
University of California-Irvine
University of California-Riverside
University of California-Santa Barbara
University of California-Santa Cruz

University of Central Florida
University of Houston
University of Illinois Chicago
University of Nevada-Las Vegas
University of New Mexico
University of North Texas
University of Texas at Arlington
University of Texas at Austin
University of Texas at El Paso
University of Texas at San Antonio

Do I need to be a U.S. Citizen to participate in the program?

Doctoral students who are U.S. citizens; U.S. nationals; U.S. permanent residents (holders of a Permanent Resident Card); individuals currently granted deferred action status under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program and who meet all the USCIS guidelines for DACA inclusive of a valid work permit.

Will First-Year PhD applicants be considered?

No. The Summer Institute is an intensive program designed for third- and fourth-year students (Fall 2026 standing) to support completion of comprehensive examinations, initial work on dissertation proposals and prospectuses through a series of workshops geared towards these efforts.

If I am in an MA/PhD Program, can I apply?

Yes, if you have already received your MA and are in the third/fourth year of the MA/PhD by May 2026 and entering the fourth and fifth year in the fall 2026.

Do I have to identify as an ethnic U.S. Latino/a/x to apply?

No. The program is open to all, and you must have a U.S. Latino/a/x Humanities Studies academic focus and U.S. Latino experience in your dissertation topic.

Do I have to be bilingual in English and Spanish to participate?

The Official language is English. Fluency in English and Spanish is not required. However, there may be times when participants may ask questions and engage in follow-up discussions in Spanish, depending on the instructors.

GENERAL INFORMATION

How does Crossing Latinidades define the humanities?

We followed the definitions by the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965: *The term 'humanities' includes, but is not limited to, the study and interpretation of the following: language, both modern and classical; linguistics; literature; history; jurisprudence; philosophy; archaeology; comparative religion; ethics; the history, criticism and theory of the arts; those aspects of the social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods; and the study and application of the humanities to the human environment with particular attention to reflecting our diverse heritage, traditions, and history and to the relevance of the humanities to the current conditions of national life.*

And the American Academy of Arts and Sciences:

Arts, American and area studies, archaeology, communication, cultural, ethnic, and gender studies, languages, history, literature, jurisprudence, philosophy, religion, and other selected interdisciplinary studies.

How do applicants submit their applications?

The Crossing Latinidades Humanities Research Initiative works directly with directors of Hispanic and Latino/a research centers, programs, and departments at HSRU member universities to recruit candidates. Applications should be submitted to the directors of these centers, who will review them and rank them, determining the top applications.

What is the selection process?

Eligible students apply to the designated center in their universities. Directors and faculty of these centers rank applications, select the top three, and forward their applications to the Crossing Latinidades staff. We review applications to ensure all eligibility requirements are met. We make the final selection and announce participants on **March 10, 2026**.

Can a university select more than two doctoral students?

Yes, a participating institution can select and nominate up to three students, with a final selection of two. In cases where universities only nominate one student, we will fill the extra slots with third selection.

What does the \$3,000 stipend cover?

Participants receive \$3,000 toward expenses related to attending the institute, including airfare, local transportation, a few meals not covered by the Institute, and incidentals and personal expenses they may incur while in Chicago.

When is the stipend paid?

Per the standard business practice of the University of Illinois Chicago where the Crossing Latinidades Humanities Research Initiative is housed, stipends **are paid after** the successful completion of the Summer Institute. However, we do offer participants the opportunity to purchase their airline tickets,

and we discount the cost of these tickets from the total of \$3,000, so that they do not incur extra charges on their credit cards.

How many fellowships will you award?

We will award 34 fellowships in the 2026-2027 academic year.

How do I maintain good standing?

All fellows must meet all eligibility requirements, including attending and participating in **all sessions and activities** of the Summer Institute and professionalization program.

How many hours am I required to spend conducting research each week?

Fellows must conduct research for 10 hours per week under the guidance of a humanities faculty member at their university.

Who selects the faculty mentors for research projects?

Fellows and the Crossing Latinidades Principal Investigators and Managing Director select the faculty at the fellow's university to conduct research in the humanities. We rely on a wide network of faculty members from 20 universities, members of the Alliance of Hispanic-Serving Research Universities (HSRU).

Can I hold other fellowships and assistantships while a Crossing Latinidades fellow?

No. You must forego all other employment, such as TAs, GRAs, student hourly employment, jobs at the university, and all external employment, to be in good standing with the fellowship.

How does this fellowship count towards existing financial awards and aid?

The fellowship is an extra year of funding separate from any other pre-existing financial support. During the fellowship period, we expect fellows to also work toward comprehensive examinations, dissertation prospectuses/proposals, and progress smoothly along the PhD pipeline.

How is the \$30,000 stipend paid?

UIC pays the \$30,000 directly to fellows in monthly stipends of \$3,333.33 for a period of 9 months beginning on September 16, 2026. Their universities cover their tuition, health insurance, and fees.

When do I receive my first stipend payment?

UIC pays the fellows monthly beginning on September 16, 2026.

Who reads the confidential letters of recommendation in the applications?

Directors of centers where students apply to the program, Crossing Latinidades managing staff; and prospective mentors.

What are the enrollment requirements while a Fellow?

You must register **full-time** to maintain your status as a fellow. Please check with your own university to determine what full-time status entails, specifically whether it is six or nine hours. We do conduct enrollment verification each semester and quarter.