Overview

Established in 1968, the University of Chicago Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) brings together faculty and students across the University in interdisciplinary and interdivisional research, teaching, scholarly events, and public engagement related to this vital region of the world.

The Center for Latin American Studies:

- works closely with faculty to support their teaching and research, actively sponsors programs for visiting academics, and maintains a quarterly list of courses related to Latin America and the Caribbean (https://clas.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/courses/)
- administers academic programs, including BA major and minor programs (https://clas.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/BA-programs/) and a graduate certificate (https://clas.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/grad-certificate/) for students across MA and PhD programs
- funds study/research and provides teaching opportunities (https://clas.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/funding/) for graduate students across divisions and programs
- promotes interdisciplinary research, education, discussion, and debate around myriad topics relevant to Latin America, through scholarly and public engagement programs (https://clas.uchicago.edu/programs/).

A full description of CLAS programming is available at the Center’s website (https://clas.uchicago.edu/).

Graduate Certificate in Latin American and Caribbean Studies

The University of Chicago is a premier institution for research, teaching, and graduate study in the histories, cultures, politics, economies, and languages of Latin America and the Caribbean. More than 50 faculty members from throughout the graduate divisions and professional schools of the University focus their teaching and/or research on Latin America and the Caribbean, offering a wide range of disciplinary and regional coverage.

Eligibility and Requirements

All students who are enrolled full time in a graduate degree program at the University of Chicago are eligible to apply for the Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACS) certificate. Students may submit a certificate application at any stage of their master’s or doctoral programs, but must do so at least one quarter prior to graduation. This certificate provides proof of area studies specialization, and will be noted on the transcript; all courses may be double counted toward both degree requirements and the LACS certificate. All coursework completed for the certificate must be taken for a quality grade.

A certificate will be granted when an applicant has fulfilled all course requirements in their degree program and the following certificate requirements, explained in more detail on the CLAS website (https://clas.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/grad-certificate/):

- 1 foundational course in Latin American and Caribbean Studies
- 3 additional courses in Latin American and Caribbean Studies
- Demonstrated language proficiency in Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Kreyol, or a relevant indigenous language
- A major research project (typically an MA thesis or doctoral dissertation) on a theme or topic related to Latin America and/or the Caribbean
- Presentation of academic work at the Latin American History Workshop or Workshop on Latin America and the Caribbean (CLAS staff are available to assist with arrangements)
- In addition, doctoral students are required to demonstrate at least one year of active participation in the Latin American History Workshop or the Workshop on Latin America and the Caribbean.

Interested students are strongly encouraged to meet with the LACS program adviser as soon as they decide to pursue the certificate so that CLAS can provide guidance on requirements and monitor progress toward the certificate. Each MA certificate applicant will meet with the program adviser to discuss their plan for completion of certificate requirements, cultivate their research interests, and identify a faculty adviser for the master’s thesis. At any point before, during, or after the completion of certificate requirements, all students are welcome to meet with the CLAS faculty director or the program adviser to discuss their goals and the relevance of the Latin American and Caribbean Studies certificate to their research.

CLAS Staff

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CLAS Website
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Affiliated Faculty

• Michael Albertus - Department of Political Science
• Fernando Alvarez - Department of Economics
• Jessica Swanston Baker - Department of Music
• Maria Angélica Bautista - Harris School of Public Policy
• Natalia Bermúdez - Department of Linguistics
• Christopher Blattman - Harris School of Public Policy
• Dain Borges - Department of History
• Neil Brenner - Department of Sociology
• Larissa Brewer-García - Department of Romance Languages and Literatures
• Claudia Brittenham - Department of Art History
• P. Sean Brotherton - Department of Anthropology
• Chad Broughton - Department of Public Policy Studies (College)
• Leonardo Bursztyn - Department of Economics
• Honey Crawford - Theater and Performance Studies
• Shannon Dawdy - Department of Anthropology
• Frederick A. de Armas - Department of Romance Languages and Literatures
• Oeindrila Dube - Harris School of Public Policy
• Brodwyn Fischer - Department of History
• René D. Flores - Department of Sociology
• Rachel Galvin - Department of English
• Angela S. García - School of Social Service Administration
• Edgar Garcia - Department of English
• Ramón Gutiérrez - Department of History
• Susan R. Gzesh - Human Rights Program
• James Heckman - Department of Economics
• Dwight Hopkins - Divinity School
• Ryan Jobson - Department of Anthropology
• Sarah Jessica Johnson - Department of English
• Rashauna Johnson - Department of History
• Robert L. Kendrick - Department of Music
• Alan Kolata - Department of Anthropology
• Emilio Kouri - Department of History
• Ali Kulez - Humanities
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• Susan Stokes - Department of Political Science
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• Mauricio Tenorio - Department of History
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