



CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES

Fosters engagement and exchange between the people of Michigan and the Latin American and Caribbean scholars, activists, and artists who make up our global community

The Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACS) at the University of Michigan is committed to promoting a broader and deeper understanding of the region—its histories, cultures, and peoples. The center provides a venue for faculty, students, the community, and overseas partners to learn and share knowledge. A U.S. Department of Education National Resource Center, LACS is also home to U-M's new Brazil Initiative. LACS offers an undergraduate major and minor in Latin American and Caribbean Studies and a graduate certificate program. It sponsors three active student organizations, each of which works to develop community-based partnerships in the region.

The center trains outstanding scholars, professionals, and citizens, providing opportunities for students to pose and investigate pressing questions related to Latin America and the Caribbean. LACS works to connect our campus to scholars and communities in the region, supporting our students and faculty who do research abroad and bringing partners to Ann Arbor to teach, collaborate, and take advantage of our outstanding libraries and research facilities. We are national leaders in many fields, including Quechua and Portuguese language training, cultural studies, the study of race, ethnicity, gender and sexuality, and the law and human rights. LACS is distinctive among leading peer institutions as no other university works consistently across such a wide range of schools and programs. In addition to departments and programs in LSA, the center has strong ties with schools and colleges across the university, including Medicine, Law, Engineering, Public Health, Music, Theater and Dance, and Environment and Sustainability. Also, LACS has active partnerships with several Brazilian universities and foundations.

Gifts to LACS will help guarantee that U-M students have an opportunity to study and engage with the cultures, histories, languages, and peoples of this region.

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

There are over 20 student-led, interdisciplinary teams that organize regular co-curricular trips to Latin America and the Caribbean. Hundreds of students visit the region through these organizations to work with local community partners on projects ranging from clean water and health education to theater productions. LACS is a crucial resource for enriching the work of this growing group of dedicated, entrepreneurial, and globally engaged students. Nearly 80 percent of U-M student-led overseas projects take place in Latin America or the Caribbean, suggesting that LACS can become a leader in rethinking area studies curriculum around globally engaged learning. We seek annual funding of \$10,000 to \$50,000 to build new programming, support systems, and courses to integrate training in indispensable linguistic and cultural competencies into the exciting and expanding arena of student-led, project-based learning.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

The very best way a student can gain a thorough knowledge of a language and a culture is to spend time studying abroad to experience full linguistic and cultural immersion. LACS seeks annual contributions of \$10,000 to \$50,000 to provide students with fellowships to support language study, research, workshops, and internships/collaborations in the region.

VISITING FACULTY PROGRAM

A visiting faculty program would bring scholars from Latin America and the Caribbean to U-M for a semester to teach our undergraduate and graduate students in the professor's area of expertise. These visitors would also have the opportunity to collaborate with our faculty on research. An endowed investment of \$1M or \$50,000 annually is needed for this vital program.

WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities change lives. Wills, estate, and planned gifts allow you to create a lasting legacy that will enable the best and brightest minds to experience a liberal arts education, solve problems in a changing world, and yield ideas and innovations that will make a difference in Michigan and around the globe.

“I chose to study Portuguese due to my interest in Brazilian music and culture. Also, Brazil has one of the largest developing economies of the world, so I hope to potentially utilize Portuguese later on in my career.”

—*Matthew Krasner, LSA Class of '22.*
Matthew plans to study law and specialize in international finance and international mergers and acquisitions. While many international lawyers speak Spanish, he has observed a need for lawyers proficient in Portuguese, especially given the importance of Brazil's emerging investment market.

CONTACT INFO

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