

Statement of Purpose

The FLAS Fellowship is a crucial component of both my current academic plans and future career goals. As a [redacted] student in the [redacted] program and a candidate¹ for the University of Illinois's [redacted] program, this fellowship will allow me to further develop my language skills in [redacted] and [redacted], which are both essential to my academic work regarding third sector policy of the European Union (EU). Upon completion of both the [redacted] program² and the [redacted] program, I will be able to accomplish my professional goal, which is to return to [redacted] as a [redacted] employed by a non-profit organization engaged in anti-trafficking work. Since both [redacted] and [redacted] are critical languages for my academic and professional goals, I am applying for a Summer FLAS Fellowship [redacted] to study Advanced [redacted] and an Academic Year FLAS Fellowship [redacted] to study Intermediate [redacted].

My [redacted] thesis is focusing on EU anti-trafficking policy and its relationship to non-profit organizations (as a part of the third sector) engaged in anti-trafficking work. Since this is quite a broad topic, I will limit the scope of my research to the [redacted] non-profit sector, specifically non-profit organizations located in [redacted]. Prior to beginning the [redacted] program, I secured an opportunity to conduct research with a small non-profit organization, located in [redacted], during the summer of [redacted]. In [redacted] I was awarded a [redacted] Travel Grant in order to assist with the overall cost of carrying out this research project. At this time, I am scheduled to conduct my research during the month of [redacted].

This topic is directly related to the academic study of the EU, specifically to the areas of third sector policy, the issue of human trafficking, and the role of non-profit organizations. The EU has an arsenal of anti-trafficking policy, including a recently introduced strategic plan for [redacted]. This plan boasts over forty "actions", each designed to address a specific aspect of the pressing concern of human trafficking. While this is both commendable and necessary, much of the anti-trafficking work is carried out by small non-profit organizations, of which many are characterized by having limited resources (both financial and human capital). My [redacted] research will examine the nature of the relationship between EU anti-trafficking policy and the daily activity of small non-profit organizations in [redacted], with a particular emphasis on whether or not EU policy is supporting the work of these organizations.

As a student in the [redacted] program, I intend to build on my [redacted] thesis by incorporating research on the [redacted] non-profit sector engaged in anti-trafficking work. In addition, my dissertation will allow me to further examine factors which hinder non-profit

¹ I intend to start this program in the [redacted] academic year and will be informed about the status of my application in [redacted].

² I will complete the credits for this degree by the end of the [redacted] semester and I am planning to defend my thesis during the [redacted] with an anticipated graduation date of [redacted].

³ The EU Strategy is online at: <http://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking>

organizations (in [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]) from having a greater impact on society. For example, I intend to study such factors as the limited human capital available to this sector and how this correlates to the debatable quality of research being carried out by non-profit organizations. Furthermore, non-profit organizations with limited human capital are limited in the quality of services they can provide. By researching this topic, I hope to be a part of developing solutions designed to strengthen and broaden the positive impact of this sector on society, as well as solutions designed to address the issue of human trafficking.

My initial interest in [REDACTED] came about as a result of my [REDACTED] thesis and program work. Once I knew I would be conducting research in [REDACTED], I decided to enroll in [REDACTED] (as an audit) for the [REDACTED] in order to begin language study. I have continued my language study by auditing [REDACTED] this semester [REDACTED]. My time in [REDACTED] this summer will enable me to have a more informal language learning experience by immersing myself in the language as a result of daily life tasks as well as my research. Next year, I plan to enroll in [REDACTED] in order to continue developing my language skills, as proficiency in [REDACTED] is not only essential to my [REDACTED] thesis, but also to my dissertation research.

My study of [REDACTED] began in [REDACTED], when I moved to [REDACTED] in order to work for a small non-profit organization. I engaged in both formal and informal language learning, with a balance between formal classroom settings with other students and private language instruction. I studied [REDACTED] throughout my time in [REDACTED] - [REDACTED] with perhaps one of my most enjoyable and memorable experiences being a recent opportunity to return to [REDACTED] in order to complete my degree at [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. In [REDACTED] I successfully defended my thesis (written in [REDACTED] defended orally in [REDACTED]) on the topic of the American academic interest in the [REDACTED] agricultural sector.

As a recipient of the FLAS Fellowship for the current academic year [REDACTED] to study [REDACTED], I have continued to improve my [REDACTED] skills, specifically in the area of vocabulary building and speaking. This has been particularly valuable, such as when I was preparing to defend my [REDACTED] thesis, yet my study of [REDACTED] will continue to be important because of my social work dissertation and future career goals. In order to incorporate the [REDACTED] non-profit sector into my dissertation, I will need to be able to read broadly and also synthesize large amounts of information in [REDACTED]. Also, I anticipate needing to conduct interviews with [REDACTED] professionals in [REDACTED]. A Summer FLAS Fellowship will help me in the process of preparing for this challenging work by allowing me to further develop my skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. I have not only benefited, but also enjoyed my Academic Year FLAS Fellowship to study [REDACTED] and I am looking forward to the challenge of enrolling in a summer intensive course.

From a linguistic perspective, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are quite different from each other. Yet, greater proficiency in both these languages will assist me in achieving my academic and professional goals. [REDACTED] will be of particular importance for my [REDACTED] thesis, however both languages are important for my dissertation research. I have witnessed and experienced firsthand the advantages which come from the ability to function in another language. I am thoroughly enjoying the challenge of simultaneously studying [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and look forward to using both these languages in my research this summer, future dissertation research, and my future career as a [REDACTED] engaged in anti-trafficking work in [REDACTED].