



CALL FOR PROJECTS (CFP)

GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIP ON LAND POLICY AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA

The Program on Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy invites applications for its 2017 Master's and Doctoral thesis fellowships. Fellowships will be awarded in the amounts of \$5,000 for Master's theses and \$10,000 for Doctoral theses to students in Latin and North American universities who are in the mid to final stages of their thesis work. The applications will be reviewed competitively based on their relevance to the Lincoln Institute's research priorities and the weighted evaluation criteria indicated below. These criteria favor empirical studies that use reliable data and rigorous quantitative and qualitative analytical methods, employing original field work and/or secondary data.

Applicants will have to demonstrate that their thesis proposals and research timelines have been approved by their departments, preliminary research and literature reviews have been completed, and a clear mentorship and oversight plan has been established with his/her thesis supervisor. A letter of support from the thesis supervisor will be required as proof of thesis approval, project timeline, research progress, and mentorship plan.

Fellowships will **not** be awarded to projects that will be submitted and defended before June 2017.

Fellowship recipients will be given priority placement in future LAC distance education and professional development courses organized in Latin America. Students may also be invited to present their work in one or more LAC-sponsored research seminars and networking events with senior scholars from Latin America and the Caribbean.

Please Note: Applications have to be filed online via the web-based application form. Applications submitted by email or mail will not be accepted.

RESEARCH THEMES AND PRIORITIES

The Institute's Program on Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) will support graduate-level research that reflects and contributes to land and urban policy debates across the region.

Applications should demonstrate clearly how the research objectives address one or more of the priorities and issues articulated in the Topics-Priority-Issue framework presented herewith.

- ***Applications must be submitted under one major topic (e.g. Legal Dimensions of Land Policy) even if its objectives span across more than one topic and issue.***
- ***The research issues listed below are formulated to elicit applications from students who can generate empirical evidence that refutes, supports, or redirects the research issue statement.***

1. LAND-BASED TOOLS TO FINANCE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

LAC Program Priority: Demonstrating the effects of the property tax and/or land charges on land and housing values.

Suggested Research Issue: Charges designed to capture land value increments do (not) transfer to the sale price of housing units in new developments.

2. LEGAL DIMENSIONS OF LAND POLICY

LAC Program Priority: Understanding the limits of property rights and the distribution of burdens and benefits of urbanization.

Suggested Research Issue: By promoting the right to the city, the state should (not) guarantee the right to economic gain associated with a property.

3. PLANNING AND URBAN MANAGEMENT

LAC Program Priority: Promoting inclusionary (affordable) housing.

Suggested Research Issue: Urban planning can (not) mitigate land market dynamics that undermine the creation of centrally located, affordable housing.

4. INFORMAL LAND MARKETS AND REGULARIZATION

LAC Program Priority: Identifying the scope of regularization approaches to redress informal settlements.

Suggested Research Issue: Policies and programs that try to regularize informal settlements do (not) mitigate or forestall the causes of informality.

5. THE FUNCTIONING OF URBAN LAND MARKETS

LAC Program Priority: Understanding the relationship between informal settlements, land markets, and the quality of land use policy.

Suggested Research Issue: Informal settlements or the informal development of land are more (or less) affected by stricter land use regulations than they are by the supply of land and land prices.

6. LARGE-SCALE URBAN REDEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

LAC Program Priority: Demonstrating how large-scale urban projects can be socially progressive.

Suggested Research Issue: The improvements and land value increases associated with large scale urban projects do (not) engender socio-spatial segregation and gentrification.

7. PROPERTY VALUE ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION

LAC Program Priority: Understanding the effect(s) of different tax bases on the performance of the property tax in Latin America.

Suggested Research Issue: Assessments based on the value of buildings should (not) be lower than the market value to avoid penalizing the tax payer for market swings.

8. CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

LAC Program Priority: Identifying the potential relationship between land use policy, value capture mechanisms and climate change.

Suggested Research Issue: Value capture tools can (not) help redress the impacts of climate change.

EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS

The Lincoln Institute will evaluate the applications based on the following criteria:

	Weight
Relevance of the project to the Program on Latin America and the Caribbean's core topic, priorities and research issues.	30
Quality of the proposed methodology and sources of data. Special attention will be given to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clarity of the research question• Strength and relevance of the research method proposed• Identification of three key academic citations that inform the project	40
General academic qualifications of the student and demonstration that s/he has advanced well into the thesis project. The thesis advisor's letter will be a critical piece of documentation to assess these criteria.	30
	100

DEADLINE AND ANNOUNCEMENT

Applications due: April 24, 2017, 11:59PM EST

Awards announcement: On or before May 4, 2017

ABOUT THE LINCOLN INSTITUTE OF LAND POLICY

The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy is an independent, nonpartisan organization whose mission is to help solve global economic, social, and environmental challenges to improve the quality of life through creative approaches to the use, taxation, and stewardship of land.

As a private-operating foundation whose origins date to 1946, the Lincoln Institute seeks to inform public dialogue and decisions about land policy through research, training, and effective communication.

By bringing together scholars, practitioners, public officials, policy makers, journalists, and involved citizens, the Lincoln Institute integrates theory and practice and provides a forum for multidisciplinary perspectives on public policy concerning land, both in the United States and internationally.

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The Lincoln Institute is an equal opportunity institution.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Language: All sections of the application must be submitted in one of the following languages: English, Spanish, or Portuguese. The project abstract must be submitted in English in all cases.

PROJECT ABSTRACTS

The LAC Program cannot stress enough the importance of the thesis abstract in the assessment of applications. We encourage all applicants to submit applications with well written, clear and compelling abstracts that convey the core topic and proposed contribution of the research to the LAC Program's priorities and research themes.

Applications with poorly written or vague abstracts may not pass the first stage of review.

[Apply Online](#)

English: https://LILP.formstack.com/forms/lincoln_laccfp2017_eng

Español: https://LILP.formstack.com/forms/lincoln_lacsdp2017_esp

Remittance of applications: Applications must be filed electronically by April 24, 2017.

Incomplete applications: Applications received after the due date or applications that do not respect the format defined in these Guidelines will not be registered and received by the online application management system.

Application Sections: The online application form will ask you to fill in the following sections:

- 1. Contact Information and Biographical Sketches:** Contact information for the student AND the thesis adviser. All correspondence will be made with the student.
- 2. Project Abstract:** The project abstract should not exceed 1,000 characters and it should clearly convey the context, purpose, relevance and methods of the proposed research topic. **Please see note above about the importance of Abstracts in the selection process.**
- 3. Project Description:** The project description should not exceed 15,000 characters (roughly 3-4 pages of text). The capacity of expressing ideas, objectives and methods clearly and concisely will increase chances of receiving a positive evaluation from the Selection Committee.

NOTE: Candidates for a Master's degree must present the program expectations and requirements for the MA Thesis and indicate how much time is normally provided for students to develop and conduct their project.

The thesis project description should:

- Clearly state the purpose and objectives of the thesis, highlighting the main question to be addressed. Theses without an identifiable and coherent research question will not be considered.
- Specify the relevance of the research topic and question to the LAC Program's key themes, priorities and issue(s) listed in this RFP. If the alignment of the research topic and LAC's priority issues is not very strong, explain how the project's issue focus could be a contribution to the Lincoln Institute's research portfolio.
- Highlight and document the contribution your thesis project is likely to make to the literature and policy debates on your topic.
- Provide the conceptual framework that informs the thesis. List and discuss a **maximum of three** key works that help situate the thesis clearly and easily within the relevant academic and policy literature.
- Present clearly the analytical methods (research design) to be used and their relationship to the conceptual framework adopted for the research.
- Specify sources of empirical data, assurance of access to the data, data collection strategy when warranted, and proposed uses of data to generate and support desired results.
- Indicate how coursework and prior research experience will help to analyze the proposed topic.

- Identify and explain the expected outcome(s) of the research and its relevance for policy and knowledge production. What results are expected, why would they be relevant, and how would they be disseminated and used?

4. Research Timeline and Work Progress

Applicants must submit a timeline of research milestones, indicating:

- Approval date of thesis proposal
- Dates for field work
- Estimated date of thesis defense

Applicants must state the level of progress achieved on the thesis at the time of the application (literature review, field work underway / completed, chapter drafts, etc.).

5. Thesis Adviser Letter

The letter from the thesis adviser must address the following:

- Confirm that the applicant is a student in good standing and that his/her thesis proposal has been formally approved by the relevant authorities.
- State expected date of completion and defense of the thesis.
- Explain the merits of the applicant and the reasons s/he merits the fellowship.
- Outline the mentorship and supervisory plan established between the adviser and student, focusing on the type and degree of engagement expected between the two.
- Confirm that the adviser is willing to be in conversation with the LAC program to assess the progress and merits of the student's work.