

UC SANTA BARBARA Graduate Division

Research Accelerator Award

Every graduate student reaches a point when they must intensely focus on the research that is the foundation for their dissertation or thesis.

The Research Accelerator Award assists students with their research expenses so they may advance in their goal to complete their degree. The Research Accelerator program amplifies the impact of donor gifts by adding \$3,000 from the Graduate Division to the donor's gift of \$5,000, creating a research stipend of \$8,000. Students utilize the funding for research expenses such as travel, housing at their research site, and specialized equipment. After the student completes their research, the donor is typically invited to meet with them and discuss the results of their research experience. This is a unique opportunity to become acquainted with a talented scholar and learn more about the life and studies of a current UC Santa Barbara graduate student. New Research Accelerator Awards must be pre-approved by the Graduate Dean to ensure a pool of qualified applicants in the subject area.

AWARD SUPPORTERS

Alexandra Seros (MA '72) and Walter Ulloa

"We are intent on supporting students focused on Latina/o and LatinX arts and culture, so that this rising demographic can finally see themselves reflected in art, whatever their chosen medium."

AWARD RECIPIENT

Jessica Valadez Vasquez | First Year, MA/Ph.D. Student
UCSB Department of Theater & Dance



"The research accelerator award provided me the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. and attend the Latino Studies Association's Third Biennial Conference. There, I presented the preliminary findings for my current project titled, 'Katherine Dunham: Choreographing Afro-Mestiz@je and Performing AfroLatinid@d (1932-1955).' Not only did I have the opportunity to travel and present at the conference, but I also visited one of the largest Katherine Dunham archives housed at the Library of Congress. This award allowed me to follow the trail for video footage of a dance piece created by Dunham and based on fieldwork she conducted in 1947 in Veracruz, Mexico. The dance is titled, 'Veracruzana' and its basis on Mexican folkloric movement and music renders it critical to my research and goal of highlighting the intersections between blackness and brownness evidenced by this figure's vast bodily archive."

For more information, please contact John Lofthus at (805) 893-2190 or via email at john.lofthus@ucsb.edu.