



# Program Information

[gilmanscholarship.org](http://gilmanscholarship.org)

*The U.S. Department of State's Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program is an undergraduate grant program for U.S. citizens of limited financial means to enable them to study abroad, thereby internationalizing their outlook and better preparing them to thrive in the global economy.*

*The program aims to serve students who have been traditionally underrepresented in education abroad, including but not limited to, students of high financial need, students of diverse ethnic backgrounds, first-generation college students, students with disabilities, veterans of military service, students attending community college or minority serving institutions, and students studying in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) fields.*

## BACKGROUND:

- Congressionally funded, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) through the USA Study Abroad Office
- Administered by the Institute of International Education
- Named after retired Congressman Benjamin A. Gilman from New York, the program was established by the International Academic Opportunity Act of 2000.
- Since inception in 2001, over 22,000 U.S. undergraduates of high financial need awarded a Gilman Scholarship from more than 1,100 institutions and going to over 140 countries.

## ENCOURAGES U.S. UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS:

- Who have been traditionally underrepresented in education abroad (see left box).
- From a diverse range of public and private institutions from all 50 states, Washington, DC, Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories.
- To choose academic and internship programs in diverse and non-traditional study abroad destinations.

## ELIGIBILITY:

To apply for a scholarship, an applicant must:

- Be a citizen of the United States;
- Be an undergraduate student in good standing at an accredited institution of higher education in the United States (including both two-year and four-year institutions);
- Be receiving a Federal Pell Grant or provide proof that he/she will be receiving a Pell Grant during the term of his/her study abroad program or internship;
- Be in the process of applying to, or accepted for, a study abroad or internship program of at least two weeks for community college students and three weeks for students from four-year institutions, in a single country, and eligible for credit from the student's home institution.
- Proof of program acceptance is required prior to award disbursement;
- Be proposing to study in a country not currently under a Travel Advisory issued by the U.S. Department of State\* or otherwise determined ineligible for program participation.

\* Students applying to programs in Mexico may only apply for scholarships to support study in Mexican states where no travel advisory is in effect according to the U.S. Department of State's Travel Advisories



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## AWARD BENEFITS/AMOUNTS:

- Award amounts up to \$5,000 – will vary depending on the length of study and student’s financial need
- Critical Need Language Award up to \$8,000 and access to post-program
- ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) – must be studying one of these languages in a country where it is predominately spoken (indicate interest in application)

## ELIGIBLE SPENDING - DEFRAY ELIGIBLE PROGRAM RELATED COSTS INCLUDING:

- Program tuition/fees
- Room and board, meals
- Books and required class supplies
- Local transportation and international airfare (comply with [Fly America Act](#))
- Health/travel insurance
- Passport and visa fees

### Critical Need Languages:

Arabic	Persian
Azerbaijani	Portuguese
Bangla	Punjabi
Chinese	Russian
Hindi	Swahili
Indonesian	Turkish
Japanese	Urdu
Korean	

## APPLICATION PROCESS - ONLINE, WITH FOLLOWING COMPONENTS:

- Personal information
- University/academic information, including selection of two advisors (one study abroad, one financial aid)
- Study abroad program information (acceptance not required to apply for Gilman Scholarship)
- Upload transcript (either official or unofficial) for current institution and any previous institution attended
- Complete two essays (three if applying to Critical Need Language Award)
  - 1) **Statement of Purpose:** “personal interview on paper” clearly identifying the following:
    - Who you are, your background that lead to your academic, professional and personal interests, and disclosing any diversity information
    - Inspiration and impact of study abroad on your academic, professional and personal growth and goals
    - How the Gilman Scholarship can help you accomplish these goals
    - Challenges you have faced in education and studying abroad, such as lack of family support, work obligations, or disabilities (apparent or non-apparent)
  - 2) **Follow-on Service Project Proposal:** propose a potential project to complete within 6 months from return to the U.S. that will encourage others to study or intern abroad and spread awareness of the Gilman Scholarship, which can be completed on home campus or in local community. Strong proposals identify the following:
    - Target audiences that would benefit from learning about the Gilman Scholarship
    - Collaboration with groups or organizations already involved with
    - Creative, but feasible plan
  - 3) **Critical Need Language Award:** \*only for students applying for the Critical Need Language Award. A brief supplemental essay would explain how you intend to improve your language skills, your motivations for doing so, and how this particular language study will further your academic and career goals.



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- U.S. Department of State Exchanges: <https://exchanges.state.gov/>
- USA Study Abroad: <https://studyabroad.state.gov/>
- Searchable program database: <https://iiepassport.org/>



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