The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program is a program of the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government and supported in its implementation by IIE.

SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDY AND INTERNS ABROAD

“Receiving the Gilman Scholarship to study abroad has impacted my academic and professional goals in a tremendous way. This scholarship was pivotal to my success and allowing me to gain experience, knowledge, and the opportunity to not only learn through language immersion, but to also give back by teaching abroad globally.”
—Veverly Hill-Fisher, Costa Rica

“Receiving the Gilman Scholarship program has oriented my academic and professional goals towards a more globally integrated path. I am much more well-rounded in my field now that I have experienced it in very different settings. I have gained skills and knowledge and had access to learning materials that I would not have otherwise have had at my home university. Ultimately I graduated much faster by studying abroad and created many strong relationships with students and professors both at home and abroad.”
—Jason Reyes, The Netherlands

“The research and cultural competency skills I learned in India have been extremely valuable and I have used them throughout my academic and professional life. The Gilman Scholarship allowed me to go to India to learn these skills without having to worry about how I would pay for the experience.”
—Naudia Porter, India

“The Gilman Scholarship impacted my academic trajectory by allowing me to experience a different learning style while studying abroad in Morocco. The stricter, fast-paced, interactive learning I participated in while studying abroad allowed me to succeed academically once I returned to the U.S. I believe that the experiences I obtained while abroad with the Gilman Scholarship not only aided me in eventually gaining my Masters in Global Security and International Affairs but also earning the highest GPA of my department.”
—Chelsey Brown, Morocco

Contact
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About the Gilman Program

The U.S. Department of State’s Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program is reshaping study abroad to make it more accessible and inclusive for outstanding American students, who represent the rich diversity of the United States, to study or intern in a wide variety of international destinations.

Named after late congressman Benjamin A. Gilman from New York, the program was established by the International Academic Opportunity Act of 2000 to broaden the student population that studies abroad by supporting those who might not otherwise participate due to financial constraints.

The Gilman Program also supports students studying languages, especially those critical to U.S. national security, in a diverse array of countries and world regions. Such international exchange is intended to better prepare U.S. students to assume significant roles in an increasingly global economy and interdependent world.

Awards

Recipients are awarded up to $5,000 to be used toward the cost of study abroad or international internship programs. These costs may include program fees, tuition, room and board, international airfare, books, local transportation, insurance, and visa fees.

Critical Need Language Award

Students studying languages of strategic national importance to the U.S. can apply for the Critical Need Language Award (CNLA) for up to an additional $3,000. Recipients will be given the opportunity to certify their newly acquired language skills through the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI), thereby becoming a stronger candidate for prospective employers, businesses, and graduate schools.

Critical Need Languages:
- Arabic
- Azerbaijani
- Bangla
- Chinese (Mandarin)
- Hindi
- Indonesian (Bahasa)
- Japanese
- Korean
- Persian
- Portuguese
- Punjabi
- Russian
- Swahili
- Turkish
- Urdu

Benefits of the Gilman Scholarship

- Non-competitive eligibility for federal government and civil service jobs for up to three years
- Part of a network of over 28,000 Gilman Scholars
- Networking opportunities with the U.S. Department of State International Exchange Alumni Community
- Professional development and leadership workshops and resources
- Medical and security resources and assistance through International SOS during program abroad

Eligibility Requirements

- U.S. Citizen
- Enrolled as an undergraduate student in good academic standing at a two or four-year undergraduate program in the U.S.
- Federal Pell Grant recipient at the time of application or during their program abroad
- In the process of applying for, or accepted to, a credit-bearing study abroad or internship program in a country with an overall Travel Advisory of 1 or 2, according to the U.S. Department of State Travel Advisory System

Follow-on Service Project

Students selected to receive a Gilman Scholarship will be required to carry out a Follow-on Service Project upon their return to the U.S. Follow-on Service Projects should promote the Gilman Program and share the knowledge and skills you gained overseas with your campus and community, thereby broadening the impact of your program.

Application Deadlines:

First Tuesday of March
For summer, fall, and full academic year programs

First Tuesday of October
For spring programs and summer (early decision) applications

The Gilman Program strongly encourages applications from:

- First-generation college students
- Students in STEM fields
- Racial and ethnic minority students
- Students attending minority-serving institutions and community colleges
- Students with disabilities
- Students with limited study abroad experience
- Veterans of the Armed Forces of the U.S.

To apply:

- Complete the application at GilmanScholarship.org
- Contact your campus study abroad advisor as early as possible to inform them you are applying for the scholarship. They are a great resource

For more information on deadlines, visit GilmanScholarship.org

“Study Abroad is a special experience for every student who participates. Living and learning in a vastly different environment of another nation not only exposes our students to alternate views, but also adds an enriching social and cultural experience. It also provides our students with an opportunity to return home with a deeper understanding of their place in the world, encouraging them to be a contributor, rather than a spectator in the international community.”

—Former Congressman Benjamin A. Gilman