



## Gilman Scholarship Fact Sheet

[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 study or intern abroad, providing them with skills critical to our national security and economic prosperity. By supporting undergraduate students who have high financial need, the program has been successful in supporting students who have been historically underrepresented in education abroad.

### AWARD BENEFITS

- Up to \$5,000 for participation in a study or intern abroad program or a [virtual international program](#) – amount varies depending on program cost, student's financial need, and strength of student's application in the selection process
- Critical Need Language Award of up to \$8,000 and access to post-program ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview for study of a [critical need language](#)
- [Non-Competitive Eligibility](#) hiring status for federal government jobs
- Networking and professional development events and opportunities

### 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 and established by the International Academic Opportunity Act of 2000
- Since inception in 2001, more than 34,000 U.S. undergraduates of high financial need have been awarded a Gilman Scholarship, representing more than 1,350 institutions and 155 host countries
- Approximately 1 in 4 applicants are selected to receive Gilman

### ENCOURAGES U.S. UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

- Who have been traditionally underrepresented in education abroad, including but not limited to veterans, first-generation college students, ethnic minority students, students with disabilities, students attending HBCUs or other minority-serving institutions, and students attending community colleges
- 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



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## ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for Gilman, an applicant must be:

- A citizen of the United States
- 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)
- Receiving a Federal Pell Grant during the time of application or provide proof that they will be receiving a Pell Grant during the term of their study abroad program or internship
- In the process of applying to, or accepted to, a credit-bearing study abroad or internship program, or a virtual international program. Proof of program acceptance is required prior to award disbursement
- Applying for a credit-bearing study abroad program in a country or area with a State Department Travel Advisory Level 1 or 2. For more information and for exceptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, [click here](#)

## ELIGIBLE SPENDING

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

## ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS

- Personal and university information
- Selection of two advisors (one study abroad and one financial aid)
- International program information (acceptance not required to apply for Gilman)
- Transcript for current institution and any previously enrolled institution
- [Essays](#)
  - ✓ **Statement of Purpose:** personal interview on paper describing your individual reasons for studying abroad and the impact on your future academic and professional goals.
  - ✓ **Building Mutual Understanding:** as a U.S. citizen, how will you represent and share what it means to be an American during your program?
  - ✓ **Follow-on Service Project Proposal:** upon returning to the U.S., Gilman Scholars are expected to complete a Follow-on Service Project to increase awareness of study abroad and the Gilman Scholarship among their peers in their home or campus communities. Strong proposals identify target populations that would benefit from learning about Gilman, collaboration with groups or organizations to which the applicant is already connected, and a creative but feasible plan.
  - ✓ **(Optional) Critical Need Language Award:** description of your academic and professional motivations for improving your language proficiency and how you intend to improve your language skills while abroad.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- USA Study Abroad: [www.studyabroad.state.gov](http://www.studyabroad.state.gov)
- Department of State Exchanges: [exchanges.state.gov](http://exchanges.state.gov)
- Searchable program database: [www.iiepassport.org](http://www.iiepassport.org)



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