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## **Virginia Tech to Host U.S. Department of State Virtual Workshop for Study Abroad Advisors**

On February 19, Virginia Tech will host a virtual workshop for approximately 60 study abroad advisors on best practices in supporting candidates for two prestigious U.S. Department of State programs, the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program and the Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program. This workshop is part of the State Department's continuing efforts to increase and diversify the institutions and students participating in both the Gilman and CLS programs.

Workshop attendees will share best practices for promoting the Gilman and CLS Programs, supporting applicants, and crafting competitive essays. The workshop will also provide advisors with in-depth resources for the Gilman and CLS Programs and give advisors the opportunity to discuss how to best advise students during COVID-19.

The Gilman and CLS Programs are programs of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, with funding provided by the U.S. Government. Both programs are part of the State Department's ongoing efforts to increase and diversify the number of U.S. students studying abroad. As Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said, "People-to-people exchanges bring our world closer together and convey the best of America to the world, especially to its young people."

The Gilman Program awards over 3,000 scholarships annually to outstanding American undergraduate students who, due to financial constraints, might not otherwise study abroad. The CLS Program provides fully funded overseas opportunities for 550 exceptional American undergraduate and graduate students to study one of 15 languages that are critical to national security and economic prosperity. The Gilman and CLS Programs are supported in their implementation by the Institute of International Education (IIE) and American Councils for International Education, respectively. The Gilman Scholarship is now accepting applications for students whose in-person or virtual programs start between May 1, 2021, to April 30, 2022. The CLS Program will next open its application in the fall for the Summer 2022 program.

For further information about the Gilman Program, CLS Program, and other exchange programs of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, please contact [ECA-Press@state.gov](mailto:ECA-Press@state.gov) and visit our website at <https://studyabroad.state.gov/>.

For further information on study abroad programs and opportunities at Virginia Tech, please contact [info](#).