



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE EMBASSY OF ISRAEL TO THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTS THE BENJAMIN A. GILMAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

*American students seeking to study or intern in Israel can apply now through March 2, 2021*

**February 19, 2021** – The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs is proud to announce a new partnership in support of the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program. Through this new arrangement, the Embassy of Israel to the United States will fund at least five additional scholarships for U.S. undergraduate students to study and/or intern for academic credit in Israel through the Gilman Program. The Embassy of Israel to the United States will also fund Gilman Scholars to study Hebrew under the Critical Need Language Award (CNLA), which is a supplemental award for in-country language study under the Gilman Program.

The Gilman Program, funded by the U.S. Government, expands the U.S. population that studies and interns abroad by providing scholarships to outstanding American undergraduate students who, due to financial constraints, might not otherwise have this opportunity. Since the Gilman Program's inception in 2001, more than 33,000 Gilman Scholars, representing all U.S. states and territories, have studied or interned in nearly 150 countries around the globe.

This additional funding for the Gilman-Israel scholarship supports a wider effort between the United States and Israel to increase and diversify international student mobility among Israeli and American higher education institutions. This partnership expands study abroad opportunities for American students to gain critical skills.

The Embassy of Israel to the United States joins the governments of New Zealand, France and Wales and Portugal's Luso-American Development Foundation, whose generous support for the Gilman Program increases and diversifies American student mobility to these countries.

The Gilman Program is now open for applicants whose programs start between May 1, 2021 and April 30, 2022, which currently includes accredited virtual programs. The Gilman Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) with funding provided by the U.S. government and is supported in its implementation by the Institute of International Education (IIE).

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*The U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs' (ECA) mission is to build relations between the people of the United States and the people of other countries through academic, cultural, sports, professional and private exchanges, as well as public-private partnerships and mentoring programs. These exchange programs improve foreign relations and strengthen the national security of the United States. ECA programs, funding and other activities encourage the involvement of American and international participants from traditionally underrepresented groups, including women, racial and ethnic minorities and people with disabilities. Artists, educators, athletes, students, youth and rising leaders in the United States and more than 160 countries around the globe participate in academic, cultural, sports and professional exchanges. For more information about ECA programs, initiatives and achievements, visit [eca.state.gov](http://eca.state.gov).*

*The Institute of International Education (<http://www.iie.org/>) works with policymakers, educators, and employers across the globe to prepare students and professionals for the global workforce and equip them to solve the increasingly complex challenges facing our interconnected world. An independent, not-for-profit organization founded in 1919, IIE has a network of 18 offices and affiliates worldwide and over 1,300 member institutions.*