

Advisor Best Practices: Critical Need Languages



U.S. Department of State

Promote mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries, and they do so by facilitating opportunities of academic, professional, athletic, and other cultural exchange.

studyabroad.state.gov
exchanges.state.gov



**BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL
AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**



USA Study Abroad



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20 YEARS
★ with Gilman

Gilman Program's 2019-2021 Impact

50% were first-generation college students

60% from areas outside major cities or capitals

70% represented racial or ethnic minority groups

*GILMAN SCHOLARSHIP SURVEY

Since Inception

34,000+ U.S. undergraduates of high financial need

150+ countries

1,350+ U.S. institutions represented



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Scholarships up to \$5,000

- Fall
- Spring
- Summer
- Winter
- Academic Year



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Eligibility



The 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 the Institute of International Education (IIE).

Gilman Eligibility

- U.S. citizen
- Undergraduate student
- Federal Pell Grant recipient
- Credit-bearing program
- In a country or area with an overall Travel Advisory Level 1 or 2, or approved Level 3 exception location

Virtual international programs, virtual internships, & hybrid programs are eligible!



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Gilman Eligibility

Submitting Applications

- Will review programs in locations that are level 3-4 only due to COVID-19

If they become a recipient...

- Location must be level 1-2, or level 3 approved exception before program start date

Travel Advisory Levels

Eligible



1

Exercise normal precautions

2

Exercise increased caution

3

Reconsider travel

4

Do not travel



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Virtual Program Eligibility

- Online courses based outside U.S.
- Institution, exchange, or provider
- Faculty-led programs
- International internships
- Intensive language programs outside U.S.
- Open to proposals
- Eligible through April 30, 2023 start dates



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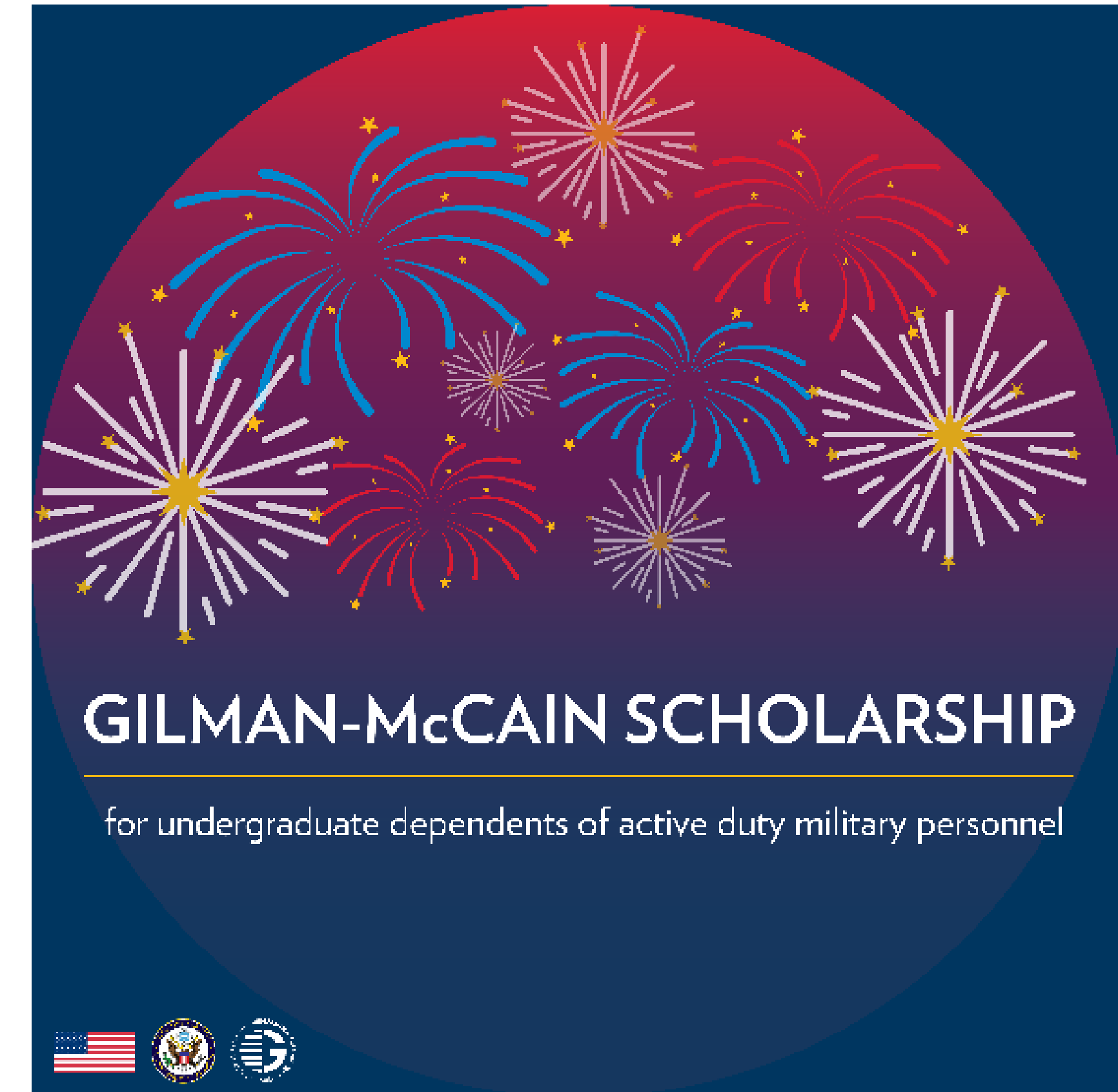
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Gilman-McCain Scholarship Eligibility

\$5,000 for child dependents of active-duty service members

- U.S. citizen
- Undergraduate student
- Credit-bearing program
- In a Travel Advisory level 1 or 2 country with
- No minimum length requirement!
- **Recipient of any type of Title IV federal financial aid**
- **Dependent child of an active-duty military member (Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Coast Guard, Activated Reserves)**



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Critical Need Language Award

Up to \$3,000 supplemental award

LANGUAGES	POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES OR AREAS*
Arabic	Bahrain, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates
Azerbaijani	Azerbaijan
Bahasa Indonesian	Indonesia
Bangla	India

Review the full list of Critical Need Languages and Potentially Eligible Countries or Areas on:
<https://www.gilmanscholarship.org/program/critical-need-languages/>



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Supporting Students to study Critical Need Languages



The 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 the Institute of International Education (IIE).

Presentation Outline

- Connecticut College
- Building a Buzz around (critical) Language Learning
- Motivating Students to Apply
- Helping Students Build a Competitive Application



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Connecticut College

- Residential liberal arts college
- 1800 undergraduate students
 - 23% BIPOC
 - 9% International
 - 15% First-gen
- 50% of the student body receives need-based financial aid (15% Pell)
- Sustained efforts around campus internationalization
- Offer 11 different languages, including Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Hebrew, and Russian
- 50% study away participation rate



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Building a Buzz around (critical) language learning...



Step 1: Find Your Campus Partners!



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Who can help amplify the message about the importance of studying language?

- Language Resource Center
- Office of Study Abroad
- Career Services
- Faculty
- Alumni



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Language Resource Center

(if you have one)

- Resources: print and digital, Mango Languages, Duolingo, etc.
- Programming
- Partnerships

At Conn we....

- Partner with local schools
- Host language lunch tables
- Run a Structured Independent Language Study Program (SILS)
- Offer Winter/Summer non-credit bearing language challenges
- Host occasional events: Poetry Night, World Languages Day, Global Cinema, etc.



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Study Abroad/Study Away

- Work with language faculty to strengthen advising
- Offer additional funding for internships and language study
- Highlight language intensive study away programs

At Conn we've....

- Incorporated language proficiency as a key learning goal for study abroad
- Incentivized applications to Gilman and other scholarships through our internal Global Scholars Fund
- Made language programs searchable on Terra Dotta



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Career Services

- Promote International Internships
- Highlight Gilman as a means of extending learning in a professional setting
- Emphasize importance of language skills for the 21st century workforce

At Conn we've....

- Collaborated with career services to build international internship resources
- Included Career Services in study away preparation
- Gotten a grant (from the US Dept. of Education) to develop languages@work



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Faculty

- Language faculty
- Faculty with international backgrounds/expertise

At Conn we've....

- Conducted inventories of language expertise across campus
- Hosted events showcasing faculty who utilize language in their work
- Encouraged the creation of content-driven FLAC courses
- Promoted language-intensive domestic internships



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Students & Alumni

- Alumni putting languages to work!



At Conn we've....

- Hosted events with alumni whose language skills have opened up doors
- Connected language learning to post-graduate fellowship opportunities
- Made videos celebrating our language learners



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How to convince students to apply...



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1. It's extra funding...
2. Not much more work...
3. They'll get more out of their time abroad...
4. Go off the beaten track...
5. Gain a competitive professional edge...
6. Critical Languages are the world's most widely spoken!



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Studying Critical Need Languages can take you to amazing places!

- **East Asia** - China, Japan and Korea
- **Africa** - Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda (Swahili)
Angola, Mozambique, Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe (Portuguese)
- **Eastern Europe** -Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Ukraine, Russia (Russian)
- **North Africa and Middle East** - Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, UAE, Qatar, Tunisia (Arabic)
- **Central Asia** - Tajikistan (Persian)
- **South Asia** - India (Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu, Bangla)
- **Southeast Asia** -Indonesia (Bahasa Indonesian)
- **Southwest Asia** - Azerbaijan (Turkish)



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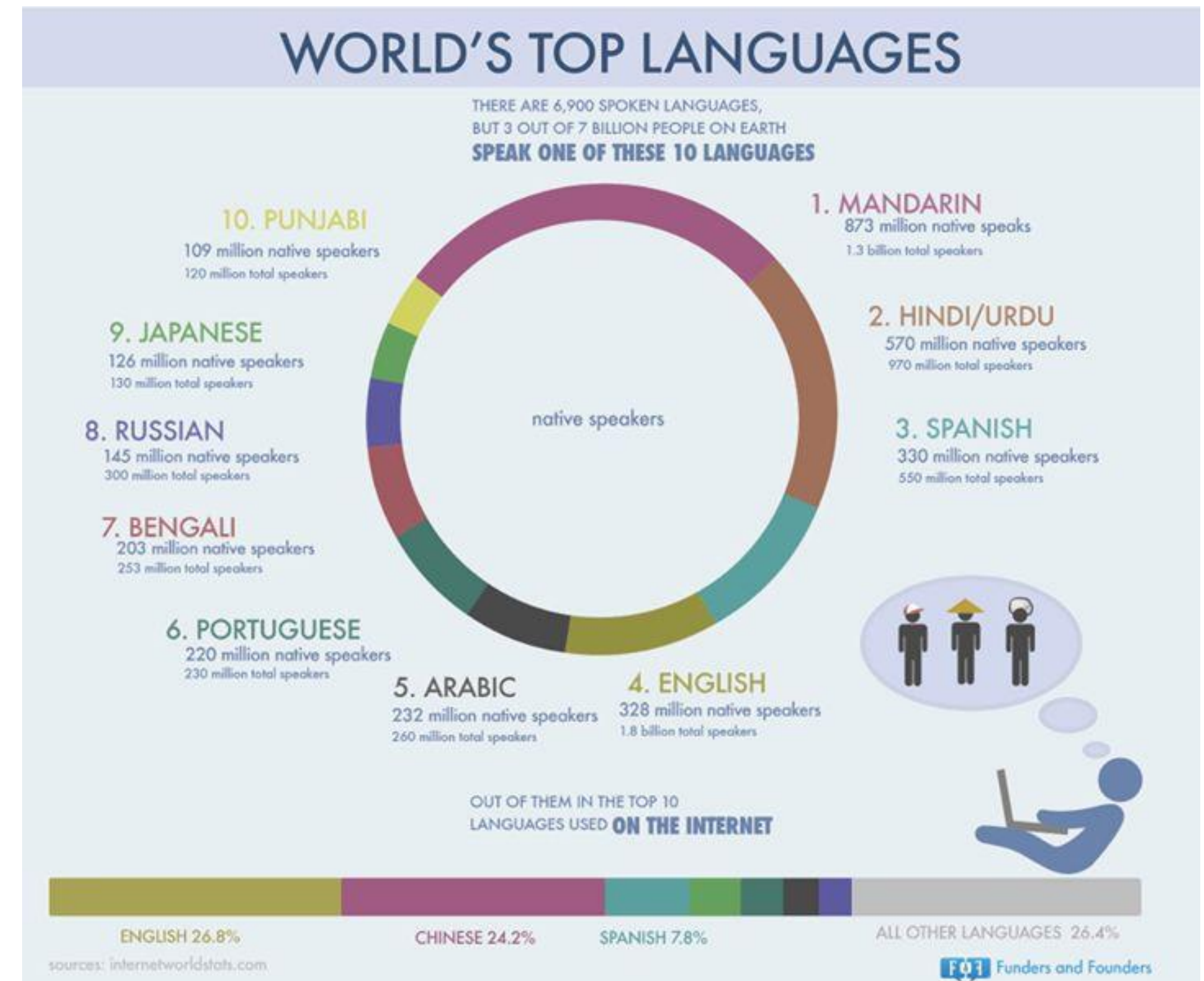


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Critical
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This is what 2000 characters looks like!

If you think about it, why on earth wouldn't your students apply for the CNLA extra award for Gilman? This kind of experience can motivate them to want to continue to bring their language skills to the next level. Plus, it is a fantastic way to motivate students to apply for other postgraduate experiences later on! Successfully winning grants like the Gilman open up a world of possibilities to students and can inspire them to reach for opportunities they may not have even considered. The sense of achievement and confidence they build through the application process is rewarding enough but if they actually win the award they also get the benefit of being part of a network of other scholars that can support and inspire them! This is what 2000 characters looks like. It's also a great way to have students clarify their thinking around studying language and the benefits they will gain. This kind of experience can motivate them to want to continue to bring their language skills to the next level. Plus, it is a fantastic way to motivate students to apply for other postgraduate experiences later on! Successfully winning grants like the Gilman open up a world of possibilities to students and can inspire them to reach for opportunities they may not have even considered. The sense of achievement and confidence they build through the application process is rewarding enough but if they actually win the award they also get the benefit of being part of a network of other scholars that can support and inspire them! This is what 2000 characters looks like. If you think about it, why on earth wouldn't they apply for the CNLA extra award for Gilman? It's also a great way to have students clarify their thinking around studying language and the benefits they will gain. This kind of experience can motivate them to want to continue to bring their language skills to the next level. Show them what 2000 characters looks like to motivate them to write the extra essay!



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Need more inspiration?

[Diversity Abroad](#)



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How does Connecticut College Support Students through the application process?



General Tips for Supporting Students in the Process:

- Connect students with campus (and other) resources to support their language goals
- Leverage all L2/C2 experience, even if other language or culture
- Discuss strategies for language study post-Gilman - including other opportunities (CLS, Boren, Fulbright, PeaceCorps, etc.)



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Tips for Tackling the application itself:

- Supplemental essay is not just an add-on but an extension of the application
- Demonstrate commitment to achieving proficiency
- Connect language goals to academic studies and future career plans!
- *COVID-restrictions: finding virtual options (e.g. CET and SIT, both reputable study abroad program providers, offer virtual programs for Hindi, Swahili, Chinese, and Diversity Abroad is another great place to start)



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Gilman Success Stories



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Hillary Tun '20

A Posse scholar from Chicago, Hillary won a Gilman Critical Need Language Award to study Mandarin in Harbin, China as a junior. Achieved ACTFL OPI score of advanced low!

Now leveraging her Chinese language skills in her work with the Chinese Mutual Aid Association (CMAA) in Chicago, a community-based social services agency targeting the low-income immigrant and refugee community.



QUESTIONS?

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And check out our website

<https://www.conncoll.edu/academics/global-focus/>



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Final Thoughts



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Thank You!



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