

Advisor Best Practices: Essays Part 2

Building Mutual Understanding and Follow-on Service Project Proposal



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 the Institute of International Education (IIE).

Upcoming Advisor Events

Advisor Orientations:

Eligible Programs and Global Partners

Wednesday, August 31
2:00pm-2:45pm ET

Resources for Applicants and Promoting Gilman

Wednesday, September 7
3:00pm-3:45pm ET

<https://www.gilmanscholarship.org/news-events/events-2/>

Advisor Best Practices:

Financial Aid Advisors Tips and Tricks

September 15, 2022
3:00pm Eastern Time



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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Gilman Program's 2020-2021 Impact

58% were first-generation college students

69% represented racial or ethnic minority groups

69% came from rural/small towns

*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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Critical Need Language Award

Up to an additional \$3,000 + access to proficiency testing

- Arabic
- Azerbaijani
- Bahasa Indonesian
- Bangla
- Chinese (Mandarin)
- Hebrew*
- Hindi
- Japanese
- Korean
- Persian
- Portuguese
- Punjabi
- Russian
- Swahili
- Turkish
- Urdu

Studying any of these languages in sign language is also eligible for CNLA



Requires an additional essay to be considered



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Eligibility



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Gilman Eligibility

- U.S. citizen or national
- 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
- No minimum length requirement!



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Gilman-McCain Scholarship Eligibility

\$5,000 for child or spousal dependents of active or activated military personnel

- U.S. citizen
- Undergraduate student
- Credit-bearing program
- In a Travel Advisory level 1 or 2 country, or level 3 approved exception
- No minimum length requirement!
- **Recipient of any type of Title IV federal financial aid**
- Dependent (child or spouse) of active or activated United States military personnel during the time of application (including Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, Coast Guard, Coast Guard Reserve, Marine Corps, Marine Corps Reserve, Navy, Navy Reserve, Space Force, NOAA Commissioned Corps, and USPHS Commissioned Corps)



Application



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2 Steps

1

Student Application

- Abroad Program Info
- Essays
- Unofficial Transcript(s)
- Select Advisors

2

Advisor Certifications

- Study Abroad Advisor
- Financial Aid Advisor



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Essay #2
Required
Max. 3000 characters

Community Impact: Building Mutual Understanding Essay

What it means to be a U.S. citizen while abroad

How you will seek opportunities to be culturally engaged

Seeking opportunities to have meaningful interactions



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Essay #3
Required
Max. 3000 characters

Community Impact: Follow-on Service Project Proposal

Being an effective
citizen diplomat
while abroad

How will you give
back by inspiring
others to study
abroad?

On campus or in
home community

Design plan of action
(audience, tools, timeline)



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Dr. Maggie Mahoney
University of Houston
Director, Global Engagement



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Advising for Essays



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Presentation Outline

- Community Impact Essays
- Building Mutual Understanding Essay
- Follow-on Service Essay
- General Gilman Program advisor tips



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Building Mutual Understanding Essay



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Building Mutual Understanding

- Newer essay
- Gilman Scholars represent the United States as **citizen diplomats** in their host communities; they reflect a diversity of values, beliefs, and opinions that is fundamental to providing a balanced representation of the United States abroad.
- Gilman Scholars are expected to contribute to the goal of **building mutual understanding** by sharing what it means to be an American, learning about the host culture, and building meaningful relationships. (max of 3000 characters)

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Break down the prompt

- As a U.S. citizen, how will you represent and share what it means to be an American during your program?
- How will you seek opportunities to become more culturally engaged and have meaningful interactions with people and cultures different from your own during your abroad program?



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Using the Gilman Program's resource

3 Questions to Ask Yourself: Building Mutual Understanding Essay

Do you articulate how you will represent the United States as a citizen diplomat while abroad?

Do you explain how you will contribute to the goal of building mutual understanding?

Do you discuss how you will look for opportunities to build meaningful relationships and become more culturally engaged?

3 Questions to Ask Yourself: Community Impact Essay 1 Building Mutual Understanding

- Do you articulate how you will represent the United States as a citizen diplomat while abroad?
- Do you explain how you will contribute to the goal of building mutual understanding?
- Do you discuss how you will look for opportunities to build meaningful relationships and become more culturally engaged?



Follow-on Service Project Proposal



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Follow-on Service Project

- Don't let students get intimidated
- No need to recreate the wheel
- Keep it realistic
- Opportunity to spread awareness and knowledge about the Gilman Program, strategically leveraging a student's strengths and existing connections

Gilman Scholars are expected to complete the Follow-on Service Project which is to increase awareness of study abroad and the Gilman Scholarship among their peers in their home or campus communities. (max of 3000 characters)

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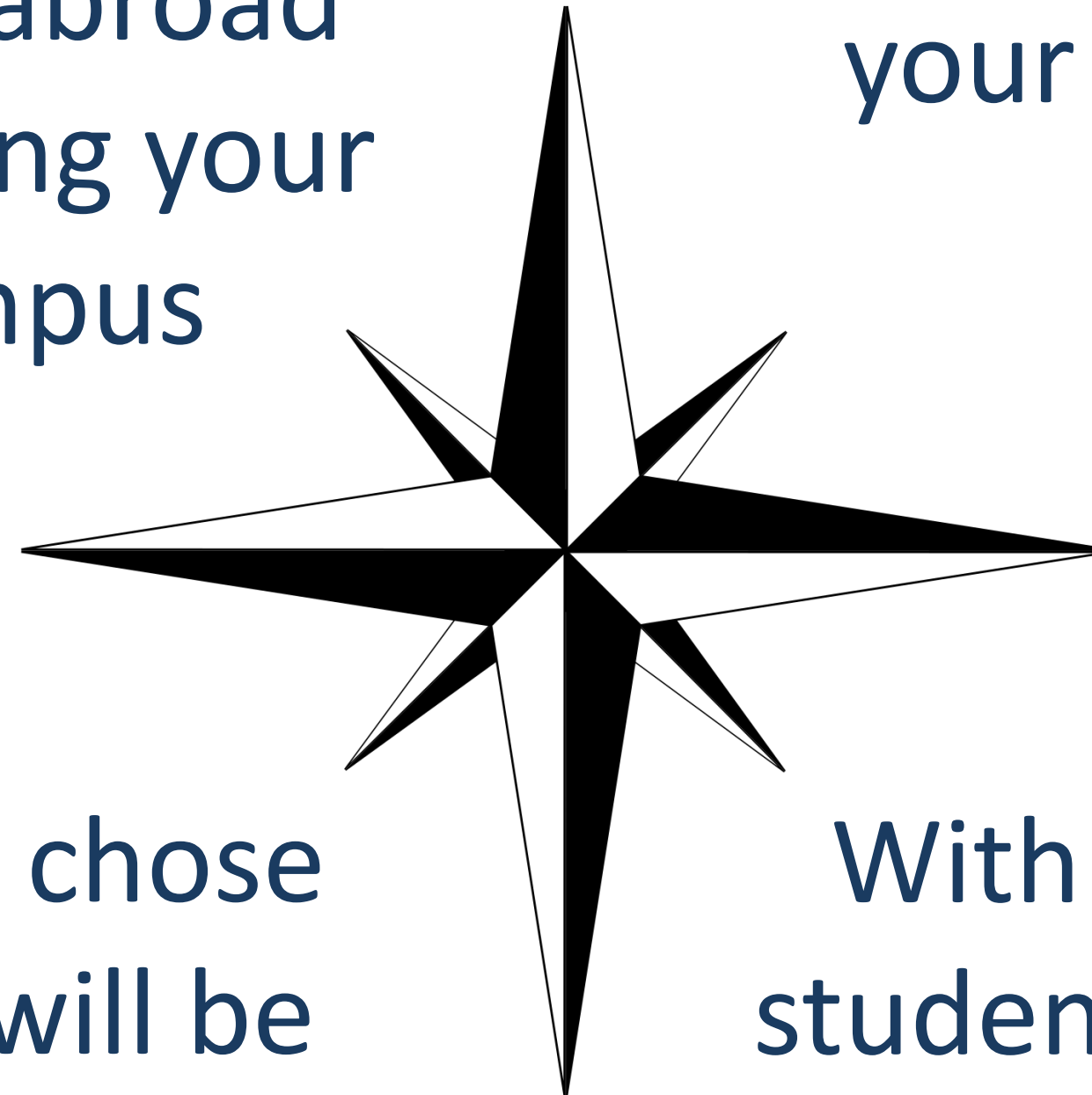
Break down the prompt

What is your project and how will it increase awareness of study abroad and the Gilman Program among your peers in your home or campus community?

How will you integrate the impact of your experience abroad into your project?

Identify and explain why you chose the specific community you will be reaching.

With which campus departments, student organizations, or community organizations will you collaborate?



Using the Gilman Program's resource

5 Questions to Ask Yourself: Follow-on Service Project Proposal

Does your FOSP increase awareness of the Gilman Scholarship and study abroad?

Is your project feasible?

Do you give a detailed plan for your project?

Do you include your study abroad experience into your project?

Do you have an intended audience? Who will you collaborate with to reach this community?

5 Questions to Ask Yourself: Community Impact Essay 2 Follow-on Service Project Proposal

- Does your FOSP increase awareness of the Gilman Scholarship and study abroad?
- Is your project feasible?
- Do you give a detailed plan for your project?
- Do you include your study abroad experience into your project?
- Do you have an intended audience? Who will you collaborate with to reach this community?



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Gilman Success Stories



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CoogsAbroad Alumni & Gilman Scholar: Marina S.

- B.S. in Honors Biomedical Science, B.A. in Spanish, University of Houston
- Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program alum and 2022-2023 Gilman Alumni Ambassador
- Current MD candidate at UT McGovern Medical School
- Spanish language, originally applied for Spain, completed virtual semester in Mexico spring 2021
- Gilman Alumni Ambassador, returning to UH to complete info workshops & table at Learning Abroad Fair



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CoogsAbroad Alumni & Gilman Scholar: Hamad K.

- B.B.A. in Management, minor in Arabic Studies
- Current Fulbright ETA 2nd year in Turkey
- Summer study & intern program in Jordan, summer 2019
- Applied in fall 2018 cycle, was not selected, reapplied in spring 2019 and was successful
- UH Global Guide 2019-2021, completed his service through classroom & student organization presentations and service through the organization



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Final Thoughts



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Cross-train others on Gilman Program advising

- Campus writing center
 - Writing workshops
 - Individual writing consultations
 - Get included on the website & presentations
- Office of Fellowships
- Honors College
- Faculty leaders
 - Get to the point quickly, they have limited bandwidth



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Share your success at all levels

- Make the Gilman Program a strategic goal in your area
- Track data on applications, awards, awards declined
- Share award winners each cycle
 - Press release
 - Social media
 - College/department/university newsletters
 - Share with future students



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Thanks for supporting our students abroad!

Maggie Mahoney, Ed.D.
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Thank You!



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Contact for Gilman Advisors

Gilmanadvisors@iie.org

800.852.2141 Ext. 2

Official Website

Gilmanscholarship.org

Advisors Portal

Gilmanapplication.iie.org/advisor

Gilman-McCain

Gilmanscholarship.org/program/gilman-mccain-scholarship

Advisors Page

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