Advisor Best Practices: Essays pt 1
Statement of Purpose and Critical Need Language Award Essays
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

Advisor Best Practices:

Essays Part II:
Community Impact Essays: Building Mutual Understanding and Follow-on Service Project Proposal
August 25, 2022
4:00pm Eastern Time

Financial Aid Advisors Tips and Tricks
September 15, 2022
3:00pm Eastern Time

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

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).
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
Eligibility
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!
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)
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Statement of Purpose

Personal Interview

You + Program + Goals
( academic, professional, personal)

Meeting Challenges
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is it a critical need language?</th>
<th>Is it predominantly spoken in the country you’re going to?</th>
<th>How does it relate to your academic or career goals?</th>
<th>Motivations for improving language proficiency (academic, professional, personal)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Sandra Cortez
City University of New York, Lehman College
Associate Director, International Programs & Community Engagement
Lehman College
City University of New York

- 4 Year HSI Public Institution
- 15,000 Students
- 57% First-Gen Students
- 33% Born Outside the U.S.
- 54% Household Income under 30k
- 86 Gilman Finalists

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Presentation Outline

I. Statement of Purpose Essay
   a) Student Challenges & Panelist Perspective
   b) Putting it Into Practice
   c) Guiding Questions

II. Critical Need Language Award
    a) Student Challenges & Panelist Perspective
    b) Guiding Questions

III. Q&A

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Statement of Purpose Essay
Statement of Purpose Questions

1. How will studying or interning abroad help you achieve your future academic or professional goals?

2. Why did you select your specific program and host country?

3. How are you academically prepared to be a successful scholar abroad? If you have faced significant academic difficulties, tell us about those and how you are overcoming them.

4. What examples of knowledge, skills, and experiences will you draw on to meet the challenges of going abroad?
Student Challenges & Panelist Perspective

Program Selection

Academic Goals

Career Goals

Career Goals

How?

Why?

Diversity of Background & Experience

Family

Life Experiences

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Putting it into Practice: Student Example

Academics & Study Abroad Program
- Business Major at Lehman College
- Study Abroad Program in Costa Rica
- Courses: Entrepreneurship & Small Business; Creative Leadership Skills

Background & Goals
- Born in Honduras, Garifuna Community
- Preservation of Garifuna Culture, Knowledge & History
- Researching and learning about Afro-Indigenous/Afro-Latine groups
- Business Plan: Exporting arts and goods that are made by Afro-Indigenous/Afro-Latine communities

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Putting it into Practice: Student Example

Academic Preparedness & Meeting Challenges

Non-Traditional Student
- Multiple Colleges
- Older Demographic
- Academic Challenges

Afro-Latine Experience
- Being Othered
- Feeling Out of Place
- Finding Community
Statement of Purpose: Guiding Questions for Students

How will studying or interning abroad help you achieve your future academic or professional goals?

Academic Goals
- What is/are the name(s) of the courses you’re taking abroad?
- How does this course(s) relate to your studies at X College?
- What themes, topics, or skills are you learning in this course?

Professional Goals
- What career are you interested in pursuing?
- What led you to pursue this career? For example, if you want to become a doctor, what kind of doctor and why?
- How is the knowledge and skills you are gaining in this course going to impact your work in the future?
- Why is it important that you take this course through this program. What makes this program/course special?

Advisor Tips
- Ask students to research career paths & create a list
- Tell students about opportunities like Fulbright, Boren, CLS and Graduate School

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Statement of Purpose: Guiding Questions for Students

Why Did You Select Your Specific Program & Host Country?

Program Selection
• What interests you about the specific school/center/program you will be attending?
• What activities will you be able to participate in? (clubs, excursions, volunteering etc.)
• Does the program offer a homestay?

Country Selection
• Did you do some research on the country? What interests you about the country? This could be language related, culture related, and career related
• Is this a country you have connections with? (ancestral home, parents home country?)
Statement of Purpose: Guiding Questions for Students

How are you academically prepared to be a successful scholar abroad?

- What are some of the ways you have been successful in your course work?
- Do you work and attend school at the same time? How have you been able to manage both activities?
- If you are studying a language abroad, how have you prepared yourself beforehand OR how are you preparing to study some basic language skills?

What examples of knowledge, skills, and experiences will you draw on to meet the challenges of going abroad?

- What obstacles have you overcome and what have you learned from those experiences?
- What skills do you currently have that will help you make connections, build community, and succeed in the classroom while you’re abroad?
Statement of Purpose: Guiding Questions for Students

Additional Considerations: Diversity of Background and Experience

- Cultural/Ethnic Background/Race
- Representation in Career Field
- First-Gen Student
- Person with a Disability
- LGBTQIA+
- Immigrant Household
- English Language Learner
- Religion
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Critical Need Language Award: Guiding Questions for Students

What are your motivations for improving your language proficiency academically, professionally, and personally?

- Do you need to learn this language in order to accomplish something for your academic goals? Do you plan to pursue a PhD or Graduate program in the future where you would like to use this language to conduct research?
- Do you plan to use this language for your career? Will it help you build connections or serve a particular community?
- Do you have connections to this language on a personal level?

How do you intend to improve your language skills while studying abroad? How will you increase your proficiency in the language inside and outside of the classroom setting?

- What courses are you taking that will help you learn this language abroad?
- How are you studying the language outside of the classroom for example, volunteering, speaking with your host family, conducting research, visiting organizations through the program etc.?
- Is there a language mentor pairing through the program?
Critical Need Language Award: Guiding Questions for Students

How do you intend to use the language after you study abroad, and how will the Critical Need Language Award prepare you for this?

- How will you continue practicing the language once you return? Are there any language centers you can utilize? Language buddy programs?
- Do you plan to use this language in your career field? How and why?
- Can you volunteer somewhere where this language is spoken and connect to a community there?
Q&A
Connect with Gilman

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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  Gilmanscholarship.org/advisors