Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship

The U.S. Department of State’s Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship (Gilman) Program enables American undergraduate students with high financial need to study or intern abroad through scholarships of up to $5,000. The Gilman-McCain Scholarship for Military Families also supports child and spousal dependents of active duty military members by providing awards of $5,000. Students studying critical need languages are eligible for a supplemental award up to $3,000, and students conducting STEM research abroad are eligible for a supplemental award up to $1,000. Since its inception in 2001, the Gilman Program has provided access and opportunity to study abroad for more than 41,000 exceptional U.S. undergraduate students, who have gained skills critical to their personal and professional development, as well as for our national security and economic prosperity.

Eligibility Requirements

• U.S. citizen or national
• Undergraduate student in good academic standing
• Federal Pell Grant recipient (or for Gilman-McCain, recipient of any type of Title IV federal financial aid)
• Participating in a credit-bearing program abroad up to an academic year in length
• In the process of applying for, or accepted to, a credit-bearing study abroad or internship program in a country with an overall Travel Advisory of 1 or 2, according to the U.S. Department of State Travel Advisory System
• For Gilman-McCain only, dependent (child or spouse) of active or activated U.S. military personnel during time of application

Application Deadlines

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5
For overseas programs that start December 2023-October 2024

THURSDAY, MARCH 7
For overseas programs that start May 2024-April 2025

Visit us at GilmanScholarship.org for more information and to apply.

Contact us at gilman@iie.org with your questions.

Benefits of Being a Gilman Scholar

• Noncompetitive eligibility for federal employment
• Networking opportunities with thousands of Gilman Scholars and alumni via a private platform
• Access to professional development seminars and career-development resources

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 Scholar Highlights

Since the program’s inception in 2001, the Gilman Program has awarded scholarships to more than 41,000 American students historically underrepresented in study abroad from more than 1300 U.S. colleges and universities.

100% of Gilmans have financial need

nearly 70% identify as racial or ethnic minority students

nearly 60% come from small towns or rural communities within the United States

nearly 50% are first-generation college students

Program Impact

Gilman Program participants are more successful in their academic and professional lives as a result of their Gilman experience. Gilman Scholars increase their professional and academic skills and serve as citizen ambassadors representing U.S. culture in over 160 countries around the world. Additionally, alumni promote the program and international experiences on their home campuses and in their home communities.

I've developed a richer perspective of the world I live in after the completion of this community service-learning program. This experience has become an essential part of preparing me to continue to take responsibility as an open-minded and principled member of my global community.” – Gilman Scholar, South Africa

95% gained multicultural communication skills*

80% gained job-related skills*

75% further defined career goals*

97% gained greater self-confidence*

*According to participants surveyed

Students from Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs)

26% of Gilman Scholars attended MSIs

13% of national study abroad students attended MSIs*

28% of the total undergrad population attends MSIs**

7% 10% 15% 20% 25% 30% 35% 40% 45% 50% 55%

*Data from the Open Doors 2021 Report on International Educational Exchange

**Data from ACE, Pulling Back the Curtain: Enrollment and Outcomes at Minority Serving Institutions, 2017

Citation: The Gilman Program 20-year Impact Report