

Student Name: _____
Graduation Year: _____
Major 1: _____
Major 2: _____
Major 3: _____
Minor(s): _____
Academic Advisor(s): _____

Student ID: _____

Hometown: _____
Concentration: _____
Concentration: _____
Concentration: _____

Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship

Award Details:

Emphasis:

Academic

Research

Language

Experiential

International

Brief Description:

The U.S. Department of State's Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship is a grant program that enables students of limited financial means to study or intern abroad, thereby gaining skills critical to our national security and economic competitiveness. The Institute of International Education has administered the program since its inception in 2001.

The Gilman Scholarship Program broadens the student population that studies and interns abroad by supporting undergraduates who might not otherwise participate due to financial constraints. The program aims to encourage students to study and intern in a diverse array of countries and world regions. The program also encourages students to study languages, especially critical need languages (those deemed important to national security). By supporting undergraduate students who have high financial need, the program has been successful in supporting students who have been historically underrepresented in education abroad, including but not limited to first-generation college students, students in STEM fields, ethnic minority students, students with disabilities, students attending HBCUs or other minority-serving institutions, students attending community colleges, and students coming from U.S. states with less study abroad participation.

Award amounts will vary depending on the length of study and student need. Applicants who are studying a critical need language while abroad in a country in which the language is predominantly spoken can apply for a supplemental award of up to \$3,000, for a combined total of \$8,000. This award is competitive and offered to a limited number of Gilman scholars each year. Not all students who are studying these languages will receive \$8,000. In addition to receiving additional funds for language study, students who are awarded the Critical Need Language Award and complete their Gilman Scholarship requirements will be offered the opportunity to take the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI). This test and the results will serve as both an evaluation measure of the award and as a credential for the award recipient.

Critical Need Languages Include:

Arabic	Azerbaijani	Bangla	Chinese	Hindi
Indonesian	Japanese	Korean	Persian	Punjabi
Russian	Swahili	Turkish	Urdu	

Under Executive Order 13750, Gilman scholars are also eligible for 12 months of noncompetitive eligibility (NCE) hiring status within the federal government, with the possibility of extensions if certain criteria are met. NCE allows U.S. federal government agencies to hire eligible exchange program alumni outside of the formal competitive job announcement process and to compete for certain federal employment jobs that are only open to federal employees. Additional information is available on the U.S. Department of State's Exchange Alumni website.

Can The Award Be Deferred? No

Can The Award Be Renewed? No

Scholarship Conditions:

To be eligible for a Gilman Scholarship, an applicant must:

- Be a citizen of the United States;
- Be an undergraduate student in good standing at an accredited institution of higher education in the United States (including both two-year and four-year institutions);
- Be receiving a Federal Pell Grant or provide proof that the student will be receiving a Pell Grant during the term of the study abroad program or internship;
- Be in the process of applying to, or accepted for, a study abroad or internship program of at least two weeks for community college students and three weeks for students from four-year institutions, in a single country and eligible for credit from the student's home institution. Proof of program acceptance is required prior to award disbursement;
- Be proposing to study in a country not currently under a Travel Warning issued by the United States Department of State* or otherwise determined ineligible for program participation.

Eligibility Note:

Gilman Scholarship recipients can only receive the scholarship once. If a student previously declined the Gilman Scholarship, they are welcome to re-apply, as long as they still meet all eligibility requirements as listed above. If you are unsure about your eligibility status, please consult our Frequently Asked Questions.

*Students applying to programs in Mexico may only apply for scholarships to support study in Mexican states where no advisory is in effect according to the U.S. Department of State Travel Warning list.

Eligibility:

Applicant Education Level:	Undergraduate
Open to (Non-US) International Students:	No
Required to Demonstrate Financial Need:	Yes
Specified Majors:	None
Minimum GPA:	None

Candidate Profile: Key Characteristics Sought By Review Committee

Applications are reviewed holistically, with consideration of the following:

- Academic preparedness and impact on student's academic and career trajectory
 - Academic performance, particularly in the applicant's major is important, though there is no minimum grade point average for this scholarship. Study abroad advisors at applicants' home institutions deem students eligible to participate on a study abroad program based on their academic standing at their home institutions. Applicants must demonstrate the maturity needed to benefit from their experience abroad, and they should be able to describe the expected outcome of their program participation towards their future academic and career objectives. Students' transcripts are reviewed to certify the academic information provided in their applications. Students should disclose academic challenges and choices for consideration of their application evaluation.
- Diversity of background and experience
 - The program seeks participation by the broadest group of American undergraduate students with financial need who will benefit from the knowledge and skills they acquire when studying abroad. By supporting students who have high financial need, the program has been successful in supporting students who have been historically underrepresented in education abroad, including but not limited to, first-generation college students, students in STEM fields, racial and ethnic minority students, students with disabilities, students attending minority-serving institutions and community colleges, and students from U.S. states with less study abroad participation. This information is considered in the context of the overall impact the proposed study abroad experience will have on the student and the student's ability to be a strong representative of the Gilman Program during his/her study abroad. Candidates who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States will be given preference, provided their qualifications are approximately equivalent to those of other candidates.

- Choice of program & destination
 - A successful applicant should show a coherent link between the proposed program abroad activities and future academic and/or career plans, as well as personal development goals. Students should detail their program components and articulate how their participation and receipt of the Gilman Scholarship would support the achievement of their goals. The program encourages students to study and intern in a diverse array of countries and world regions, including studying languages, especially critical need languages (those deemed important to national security).
- Impact to community
 - The mission of the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs’ is to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries by means of educational and cultural exchange. Through the Gilman Program’s required Follow-on Service Project, both cultural and international exchange awareness is promoted by successful and diverse spokespersons. The goal of the Follow-on Service Project is for Gilman Scholars to increase awareness of study abroad and the Gilman Scholarship among their peers on their campuses and/or in their home communities. The proposed Follow-on Service Project should be feasible, utilize the student’s experience abroad, and incorporate ties to student populations that are representative of the United States.
- Additional review criteria for students applying for the Critical Need Language Award:
 - The U.S. Department of State is dedicated to supporting students who are studying a critical need language (those deemed important to national security). Applicants are considered for this category if while abroad they are taking a course taught in a critical need language, studying a critical need language, or both, in a country that predominantly speaks the language. A successful applicant should demonstrate a strong motivation to achieve proficiency in the language that extends beyond their study abroad experience, and into their future academic and career goals.

Selection:

Number of Candidates Awarded Each Year:	3000
Interview:	Not Required
Approximate Date Selected Candidates Are Notified:	Spring Terms: Late-November Summer Early Application: February Summer Terms: April Fall/Full Academic Year: July

The spring application cycle is for programs that generally start between December 15 and April 15, and coincide with your home institution’s or your international program’s spring calendar. This cycle encompasses spring semester, quarter, calendar year, winter inter-session and January term programs that are a minimum of three weeks, two weeks for current community college students, in length.

The Gilman Program offers two summer application cycles for programs that generally start between May 1 and August 1 that are a minimum of three weeks, two weeks for current community college students, in length and coincide with your home institution’s or your international program’s summer calendar. Summer cycles encompass summer and May term programs.

The fall application cycle is for programs that generally start between July 15 and October 15, and coincide with your home institution’s or your international program’s fall calendar. This cycle encompasses fall semester, quarter, and academic year programs that are a minimum of three weeks, two weeks for current community college students, in length.

Contact Information:

Name: Ms. Kelsey Ullom
Position: Application and Selection Analyst
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Information Sessions:

Webinars for Candidates: Yes
Webinars for Advisors: Yes

Website:

Official Website: <https://www.gilmanscholarship.org/>
Application Timeline: <https://www.gilmanscholarship.org/applicants/deadlines-and-timeline/#1484345524587-e1f5cc07-2eb1>
Application Website: <https://gilmanapplication.iie.org/>

Application:

Date Application is Available: Spring: Mid-August
Summer EA: Mid-August
Summer: Mid-January
Fall/Full: Mid-January

Application Due Date: Spring: October 3, 2017 at 11:59pm CDT
Summer EA: October 3, 2017 at 11:59pm CDT
Summer: March 6, 2018 at 11:59pm CDT
Fall/Full: March 7, 2017 at 11:59pm CDT

Application Must Be Submitted By: Candidate*

Institutional Endorsement Required: No

Institutional Cover Letter Required: No

*Candidates must submit application through online application system. They cannot submit applications directly to IIE or the Department of State. The study abroad advisor and financial aid advisor must certify the student's application. This is more of confirmation that the student is in good standing with their institution and receiving the Pell grant, not necessarily an endorsement.

Online Application:

<i>The online application includes the following sections</i>	Deadline	Date Completed	
Register and create online application account.		_____	
Upload Transcripts		_____	
Advisor Certification		_____	
Name	Position	Date Notified	Date Completed
_____	Study Abroad Advisor	_____	_____
_____	Financial Aid Advisor	_____	_____
Statement of Purpose Essay ^{1*}		_____	
Follow-On Service Project Proposal ^{2*}		_____	
Critical Need Language Award ³		_____	

1. The Statement of Purpose Essay is your chance to personalize your application. When composing the Statement of Purpose Essay it is important to address the impact that your study abroad program or internship will have on your academic, professional, and personal goals. You should also address the impact that receiving the Gilman Scholarship would have on your achievement of these goals. Some key points to keep in mind are:

- Why do you wish to study or intern abroad and what factors led you to this decision? What do you hope to gain from and what do you anticipate will be the impact of your experience abroad? What impact will my choice of country have on my experience abroad? What initially inspired me to want to study abroad in this particular country or learn this language? What factors led to my choice of country of study?
- Describe your study or intern abroad program. What factors led you to select this program and length of study?
- Why have you chosen your country of study? What factors led you to select this country?
- How will this study or intern abroad program and the coursework you take abroad impact your academic and future professional goals?
- Are there any distinctive components to this program, beyond coursework, that will impact your overall learning experience abroad? (i.e. home-stays, internships, field research, volunteer activities, extra-curricular activities, etc.)
- What challenges, if any, did you face in your decision to study or intern abroad? How did you meet these challenges and what impact do you foresee them having on your experience abroad? These could include, but are not limited to, being a parent, being a non-traditional student, having a learning or physical disability, being in a field of study for which it is difficult to incorporate study abroad, etc.

2. The Follow-on Service Project Proposal is your chance to explain how you will give back by inspiring others to pursue their own experiences abroad. To help expand the impact of the Gilman Scholarship Program, all Gilman Scholars are required to carry out a Follow-on Service Project upon their return from abroad that helps to promote international education and the Gilman International Scholarship. This project can be done on your home campus or in your local community and must be completed within six months of your return to the United States. All applicants must submit a project proposal within the online application and this proposal is closely reviewed during the selection process. Please see our **Frequently Asked Questions** and **Follow-on Service Project Overview Video** for additional information on your Follow-on Service Project Proposal. Some key points to keep in mind are:

- Briefly outline your proposed project to promote the Gilman Scholarship and international education. How will this project impact your home university or home community? What are your project goals?
- What is your target population and how will your project impact this group?
- How will you integrate the impact of your experiences abroad into your project?
- What, if any, campus departments, student organizations, and/or community organizations will you collaborate with in promoting the Gilman Scholarship and international education? Have you already made contact with these groups?

Upon completion of your Follow-on Service Project you will be required to submit a final report summarizing and assessing its impact.

3. Critical Need Language Awards Applicants who are studying a critical need language while abroad in a country in which the language is predominantly spoken have the option to be considered for the Critical Need Language Award of up to \$8,000. In addition to receiving the highly competitive award, recipients of the Critical Need Language Award will be offered the opportunity to evaluate and certify their language skills acquired during their program through a recognized oral proficiency language test. To be considered for the Critical Need Language Award, a brief supplemental essay is required and can be submitted in the same Gilman application. Some key points to keep in mind are:

- Be sure that the language you are studying while abroad is considered a Critical Need Language by the U.S. Department of State. You can see the list of Critical Need Languages **here**. Any other language study is not eligible for the Critical Need Language Award.
- Be sure that you are studying the Critical Need Language in a country where it is predominately spoken.
- Explain how you intend to improve your language skills, your motivations for doing so, and how this particular language study will further your academic and career goals.

*The most critical advice for these and any other essays for a nationally competitive scholarship is to ensure that your essays address the prompt/theme and they are proofread prior to submission. Applicants that do not follow these two simple recommendations will compete poorly during the selection process and generally will not be awarded a scholarship. We recommend you compose your essays first in a word processing program and then copy and paste your essays into the text boxes provided in the online application. This will allow you to save your essays and ensure that your information is not lost due to session timeout (approximately 15 minutes of inactivity). Your essay should be composed in paragraph format (not as numbered responses to the questions in the application). Keep in mind that you are limited to 7,000 characters (including spaces) per essay. This limit is approximately 1.5 pages, single-spaced in a word processing program. When you are ready to transfer your essays to your application make sure to double check your essays for the possibility of being cut off due to exceeding character limit. Additionally, do not format (i.e. bold, underline, italics) your essays in the word processing program because your formatting will not be retained upon transferring. We have provided limited formatting to reconstruct your essays once you have pasted them into the text boxes in the online application.