Program Overview

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 Impact

- 47% were first-generation college students
- 65% represented racial or ethnic minority groups
- 30,000+ U.S. undergraduates of high financial need
- 150+ countries
- 1,300+ U.S. institutions represented
3,000+ Scholarships

Scholarships up to $5,000

- Spring
- Summer
- Fall
- Academic Year
Critical Need Language Award

Up to an additional $3,000, plus access to proficiency testing

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

An additional essay is required to be considered for this award
Eligibility

- U.S. citizen
- Undergraduate student
- Federal Pell Grant recipient
- Credit-bearing program
- Program minimum length of 3 weeks (21 days)
- In a country with an overall Travel Advisory level 1 or 2
How to Apply

1. Online Application
   - Study Abroad Program
   - Essays
   - Transcript(s)
   - Advisors

2. Advisor Certifications
   - Study Abroad Advisor
   - Financial Aid Advisor
Essay #1

Statement of Purpose

- Personal Interview
- You + Program + Goals (academic, professional, personal)
- Meeting Challenges
Community Impact Essay

Being an effective citizen diplomat while abroad

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

On campus or in community?

Design plan of action (audience, tools, timeline)
Optional Motivations for improving language proficiency academically, professionally, and personally

Critical Need Language Award

Is it a critical need language?

Is it predominately spoken in the country you’re going to?

How does your study of the language relate to your academic or career goals?

Motivations for improving language proficiency academically, professionally, and personally
Selection Criteria

- Academic Preparedness & Impact on Student’s Academic & Career Trajectory
- Diversity of Background & Experience
- Choice of Program & Destination
- Community Impact
- Commitment to Proficiency in a Critical Need Language
Timelines & Deadlines

**Cycle 1**
Abroad Program Starts

- Application Opens: Mid-August
- Applicant Deadline: 1st Tuesday in October*
- Advisor Deadline: 2nd Tuesday in October*

**Cycle 2**
Abroad Program Starts
May 2020-April 2021

- Application Opens: Mid-January
- Applicant Deadline: 1st Tuesday in March*
- Advisor Deadline: 2nd Tuesday in March*

*11:59pm Central Time

Check Gilman website for future dates and deadlines.
What makes a strong application?

- Plan Ahead!
- Talk to your Study Abroad Advisor & Student Financial Affairs
- Research Program Options (+ select one that meets Gilman eligibility criteria)
- Invest time in your essays and have them proofread
- Answer all portions of the essay prompts!
- Check your application for accuracy
For more information, contact:

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