



BENJAMIN A. GILMAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The Gilman Scholarship Program aims to diversify the kinds of students who study and intern abroad and the countries and regions where they go by offering awards to U.S. undergraduates who might otherwise not participate due to financial constraints.

The Gilman Scholarship Program is sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State. The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs fosters mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries to promote friendly, sympathetic, and peaceful relations.

Gilman Scholarships range in amount from \$1000-\$5000, and can be as much as \$8000 if one receives a Critical Need Language Award (see below) in addition to the standard Gilman Scholarship.

ELIGIBILITY

To be considered for nomination, a student:

- must be a U.S. citizen
- must be an undergraduate student in good standing at a U.S. institution
- must receive a Pell grant (federal financial aid) or provide proof that you will be receiving a Pell grant at the time of application or during the study abroad period
- can apply to fund an accredited summer, semester, or year-long program

There is no GPA requirement for The Gilman Scholarship Program.

SELECTION

As The Gilman Scholarship Program's central aim is to bring diversity to study abroad programs, the program is particularly interested in selecting:

- students from underrepresented ethnic and racial backgrounds
- students with disabilities
- first-generation college students and first-generation Americans
- student veterans
- students in underrepresented academic fields in study abroad (such as engineering or the sciences)
- students going to non-traditional destinations (Asia, Africa, Middle East, Latin America)
- students studying critical need languages (Chinese, Arabic, Turkic, Indic, Russian, etc.)

Many students win Gilman Scholarships to fund study abroad opportunities in Europe, but their applications generally emphasize some other non-traditional aspect of their study plan (personal diversity, underrepresented academic field, academic rationale, etc.)

****You cannot obtain Gilman funding to study abroad in a country on the U.S. State Department's Travel Warning list. ****

APPLICATION

Application components include:

- completed online application form
- official transcript(s)
- two essays

BRIEF TIMELINE

For abroad programs that start between December 2019 and October 2020:

Mid-August: Application Opens

October 1, 2019: Submission Deadline for Online Application. Must submit application by 11:59pm CDT.

End of November 2019: Applicants notified of the status of their application via email

For abroad programs that start between May 2020 and April 2021:

Mid-January: Application Opens

March 3, 2020: Submission Deadline for Online Application. Must submit application by 11:59pm CDT.

End of April 2020: Applicants notified of the status of their application via email

HOW TO APPLY

- Log in and access the online application:
<https://gilmanapplication.iie.org/Applicant/Default.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fApplicant%2f>
- Upload your official transcript. (If you have transferred to Syracuse University, you must also submit an official transcript from the other institutions you have attended.)
- Write responses to two required essay questions
- Provide accurate information on the cost of your study abroad program
- Indicate an SU advisor to certify your application from the drop-down menu. (Rick Cieri or Marie Kulikowsky)
- Indicate an SU financial aid advisor from the drop-down menu (Kristen Wagner).
- No letters of recommendation are required

PROMPTS AND TIPS FOR WRITING SUCCESSFUL GILMAN ESSAYS

There are two essays required as part of the Gilman Scholarship application: the Statement of Purpose Essay and the Community Impact Essay. The Statement of Purpose essay has a 7000 character limit – including spaces – and the Community Impact Essay has a 6000 character limit, including spaces. While drafting your application, keep in mind that each essay is equally important to the application and, therefore, should both be written with care. Check out the Gilman website--

<https://www.gilmanscholarship.org/applicants/essays/> --for a detailed explanation of what each essay entails.

Please approach the following tips as suggestions for information you should consider including in your essays. They are not intended to serve as an outline for your essay, but rather as prompts to get you thinking and writing. Your essay must reflect your own goals, experiences, and ideas.

Essay #1 (Statement of Purpose—7,000 character limit, including spaces)

Be specific in describing your individual reasons for studying abroad, keeping in mind that this is a scholarship for academic study abroad. Your essays should address the following questions:

- How will studying or interning abroad help you achieve your future academic or professional goals?
- Why did you select your specific program and host country?
- What aspects of studying or interning abroad do you expect to be the most challenging for you?
- What knowledge, skills, and experiences will you draw on to meet these challenges?

If you are part of one of the Gilman Scholarship's target demographics, be clear about that in your essay.

Be specific and give concrete examples whenever possible. Show passion and excitement!

Essay #2 (Community Impact Essay—6,000 character limit, including spaces)

The Community Impact Essay is your chance to explain 1) how you will represent the United States as a citizen diplomat abroad in your host community, and 2) how you will give back by inspiring others to pursue their own experiences abroad once you return.

While 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. Upon their return, all Gilman Scholars are required to carry out a follow-on service project 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.

Therefore, the Community impact essay must answer the following questions:

- When you are overseas, how will you contribute to the mission of building mutual understanding between the people of your home community and the people of your host community?
- What are the specific goals of your follow-on service project? What is your target population and how will your project impact this group?
- Who is your target population/audience and why did you select them?
- How will you integrate the impact of your experience abroad into your project?
- What, if any, campus departments, student organizations, or community organizations will you collaborate with in bringing awareness to study abroad and the Gilman Scholarship?

Upon completion of your project you will be required to submit a two-page final report summarizing your experience abroad and the impact of your Follow-on project.

Remember, your project should be feasible and reasonable in its scope. Examples of follow-on service projects can be found on the Gilman website:

<https://www.gilmanscholarship.org/applicants/essays/#1550605600451-43ec4d1b-4692>

CRITICAL NEED LANGUAGE AWARD

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 **\$ 3000**, for a combined total award of **\$ 8000**. 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). To be considered for the Critical Need Language Award, **a brief supplemental essay is required** and must be submitted in the same Gilman application.

Some key points to keep in mind:

- Be sure that the language you are studying while abroad is considered a Critical Need Language by the U.S. Department of State. Critical need languages include *Arabic, Azerbaijani, Bangla, Bahasa Indonesian, Chinese (Mandarin), Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Swahili, Turkish* and *Urdu*. 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.

Critical Need Language Award Essay (Only applicable to those who are studying a critical need language while abroad)

In no more than **2,000 characters** (including spaces), please address the following questions:

- What are your motivations for improving your language proficiency academically, professionally, and personally? Why is learning this language important to you?
- 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?
- How do you intend to use the language after you study abroad, and how will the Critical Need Language Award prepare you for this?
- If you plan to study in a country where the language does not appear in the list above, what are the benefits of and resources for studying abroad in your proposed country?

ATTEND THE GILMAN WRITING WORKSHOPS

Writing workshop #1: Thursday, Sept 19 – 1:30pm – 3:00pm in Hinds 121 (WITH COOKIES)

Writing workshop #2: Wednesday, Sept 25 – 3:30pm-5pm in Eggers 111

Writing workshop #3: Friday, Sept 27 – 12:30pm-2pm in Bowne 306D

Bring **three printed copies** of your Gilman essay drafts to receive critical feedback from the Center for Fellowship & Scholarship Advising and SU Abroad. You may attend one or all the sessions.

In addition to these workshops, SU abroad will also have walk-in hours for Gilman applicants from **1:00 pm – 4:00 pm** on the following dates:

Monday, September 23; Tuesday, September 24; Thursday, September 26.

Bring a copy of your application essays to receive feedback from SU Abroad staff.

Questions about the Gilman Scholarship? Contact Rick Cieri fwcierii@syr.edu.

You may also email CFSA's advisors, Jolynn Parker and Melissa Welshans, for help with your essays:
cfsa@syr.edu.