

Syracuse University

Syracuse Abroad & the Center for Fellowship and Scholarship  
Advising

# Gilman Scholarships Interest Session

Rick Cieri

*International Program Advisor: Madrid Programs*

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September 4, 2020



# Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships

*How much funding might I receive?*

Award Amounts:

- Up to \$5,000 for a semester or summer program
- Up to an additional \$3,000 for study of a “critical language”

Funded by the U.S. State Department



# Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships

## *Am I eligible to apply?*

- U.S. Citizens
- Pell Grant Recipients
- Undergraduate students in good standing
- No GPA requirement

## *Target populations*

- First generation (college students/Americans)
- Racial & ethnic minorities
- LGBTQ students
- Veterans
- Students with disabilities (learning, physical)
- STEM students
- Adult learners
- Underrepresented backgrounds (rural, inner cities, states with lower representation in study abroad)



# Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships

## *Does my intended program fit the requirements?*

- Minimum of 21 days
- Multi-destination programs might be eligible
- Intended study abroad program is in a country with Level 1 or 2 on U.S. State Department's Travel Advisory System
- [COVID-19 exception](#) for 2021 apps

## *Ideal Destinations*

- Destinations less common for study abroad (Asia, Africa, South America)
- Countries with languages of critical interest to the U.S. State Department
- Programs that connect well with your goals

# Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships

## *How do I apply for Gilman?*

- Start your application on the Gilman Scholarship Website
- Program details (dates, cost, estimated SU financial aid package)
- Copy of transcript
- Three essay questions
- Additional essay for critical language applicants
- **NO** letters of recommendation



# Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships

*How might receiving the Gilman Scholarship affect my financial aid?*

- Gilman applications must be certified by the Office of Financial Aid
- Adjustments might be made to your aid package **only if** your total funds exceed your need-level
- Receiving Gilman will **not** reduce your on-campus grants & scholarships

# Part #1: “Statement of Purpose” – Essay 1

# Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE ESSAY (Part #1)

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



# Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships

## ESSAY TIPS

- Answer all questions. The readers will rate you on your answers to each question. If you don't answer a question you can't get any points for it.
- Be sure to mention all the ways in which you meet the broad Gilman definition of diversity at some point in this essay.
- Find a way to connect all the required answers into a cohesive essay rather than just listing the answers to the questions – find a common thread or theme.
- Be sure you specify the country and program to which you plan to go in your introductory paragraph. Reviewers should have this information by the time they finish the first paragraph of your essay.
- Compose coherent paragraphs, each with a clear topic sentence followed by evidence supporting that topic. Rather than mentioning the same point in multiple places throughout the essay, focus on the point once in the essay, say everything you need to say about it, and then move on to the next point.
- Your essay should be close to (and not over) the 6,000 character limit, including spaces.

# Part #2: “Community Impact” – Essays 1 & 2

# Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships

## COMMUNITY IMPACT ESSAYS (Part #2)

Make a case for how you will serve as an effective citizen diplomat

- As a U.S. citizen, how will you represent and share what it means to be an American during your program?
- How will you seek opportunities to become more culturally engaged and have meaningful interactions with people and cultures different from your own during your abroad program
- Describe the follow-on service you plan when you return
- What are your project goals? Who is your target population/audience?
- How will you integrate the impact of your experience abroad into your project?
- What organizations will you collaborate with to build awareness of study abroad the Gilman Scholarship?

# Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships

## ESSAY TIPS

- Answer all questions. The readers will rate you on your answers to each question. If you don't answer a question you can't get any points for it.
- Consider how you will engage with your host community while you are overseas. Be clear if there are points of connection between your home community and your host country that you intend to engage or build.
- Propose a well-developed follow-on service project. Strong proposals often involve working or connecting with a campus or community organization through which you're already involved.
- Propose multiple modes of connection to engage your target population.
- Make sure your proposed project is feasible.
- Be clear that you will promote not just the study abroad experience, but also the Gilman Scholarship specifically.
- Each essay should be close to (and not over) the 3,000 character limit, including spaces.

# Application Timeline

EVENTS	DATES
Writing Workshop #1	Thursday, September 24   12:30-2:00 PM   via Zoom
Writing Workshop #2	Wednesday, September 30   2:00-3:30 PM   via Zoom
Syracuse Abroad Spring 2021Deadline	Thursday, October 1, 2020   Online Submission
Writing Workshop #3	Friday, October 2   12:00-1:30 PM   via Zoom
Writing Workshop #4	Monday, October 5   11:00 AM-12:30 PM   via Zoom
Gilman Application Deadline	Tuesday, October 6, 2020   Online Submission
Syracuse Abroad Summer 2021 Deadline	Wednesday, February 10, 2021   Online Submission
Syracuse Abroad Fall 2021 Deadline	Monday, March 15, 2021   Online Submission



# Writing Workshop Sign-Ups

- Visit our “Outside Scholarship” page to access the sign-up sheet & Zoom links
  - <https://suabroad.syr.edu/grants-and-aid/outside-scholarships/>
- On the Google Sheet, sign up by providing your preferred first name and SUID in a time slot. And remember to mark your calendar!
- Ahead of your Writing Workshop time, please email your drafts to your assigned workshop advisor – as a Microsoft Word document or Google Doc.
- For Writing Workshop #1, send us drafts or even just a list of ideas!

# Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships

## *What is the certification process?*

- Advisors must certify the relevant study abroad & financial aid related information
- Study Abroad Advisor – Rick or Marie
- Financial Aid Advisor – Kristen
- Please **do not** email your advisors to inform us of your submitted application. Rest assured, we will certify your application within 1 week of the deadline!



# The Gilman Experience – Alumni Perspectives

## Ashley Hudson



# Gilman-McCain Scholarship



# The Gilman-McCain Scholarship

*Am I eligible for the Gilman-McCain?*

- Same requirements as Gilman, with greater scope
- Dependent child of an active duty military member(s) during the time of application in one of the following branches: Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Coast Guard
- Recipient of any type of Title IV federal financial aid (Pell, Perkins, SEOG, etc.)
- Must provide valid military identity documentation in application





# Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships

*What resources do I have available to me?*

## Study Abroad Questions:

- Syracuse Abroad Website
- Meet with an International Program Advisor
- Chat with a Global Ambassador

## Scholarship Essay Assistance:

- Make an appointment with the Center for Fellowship & Scholarship Advising

## Financial Aid Concerns:

- Book an appointment with your Financial Aid advisor



# Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships

*What advice do you have for us?*

- Sign up to attend the writing workshops
- Start drafting your essays as soon as possible
- Visit the Gilman website for essay tips, examples of follow-on projects, and more!  
<https://www.gilmanscholarship.org/>



# Congratulations to our past recipients!

Janna Balek, Spain  
Christopher Adanech, England  
William Harrington, Italy  
Parris Kelly, France  
Molly Gibbs, Uganda  
Ashley Hudson, South Korea  
Andrew Le, New Zealand  
Aaquilah Wright, England  
Can Chen, Australia  
Maria Victoria Polanco, England  
Shamar Niang, Spain  
Kailey Smith, France  
Jessie Carbajal, Germany  
Brienna Flewelling, Italy  
Derek Gutierrez, Hong Kong  
Santiago Hernandez, Hong Kong  
Erick Lojano-Quispe, Italy  
Kiara Molina, England

Aislyn Murray, Czech Republic  
Eronmwon Osagie, Spain  
Diana Quesada, Italy  
Christopher Ozomgi, Chile  
Eden Tafesse, Hong Kong  
Nicole Cruz, Chile  
Ghufran Salih, Jordan  
Dylan Bryant, Chile  
Samuel Hoffman, England  
Kayin Bankole, Ghana  
Aliya Elsayi, France  
Natalia Rice, Spain  
Zachary Wilson, England  
Lluvia Lopez Garcia, Italy  
Ezekiel Wilson, Australia  
Lania Roberts, South Africa  
Karissa Horsford, England  
Adiba Alam, Hong Kong

Shantel Bailey, Spain  
Danielle Dacres, Spain  
Charlotte Howard, Italy  
Mazaher Kaila, France  
Bijal Patel, South Africa  
Adiba Alam, Hong Kong  
Karissa Horsford, England  
Lania Roberts, South Africa  
Khemiah Burke, Australia  
Amy Chasse, Italy  
Abigail Covington, Italy  
Whitney Ize-Iyamu, Hong Kong  
Jasmine Kim, Hong Kong  
Minjung Kim, England  
Kristine Klein, Chile  
Sidne Norman, China  
Phebeana Ojomoses, China  
Daniel Salomon, Denmark





**Benjamin A. Gilman**  
International Scholarship

[www.gilmanscholarship.org/](http://www.gilmanscholarship.org/)

Questions?