

**BENJAMIN A. GILMAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP**

**SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

The Gilman Scholarship Program offers 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 between $1000 and $3000 higher if one receives a Critical Need Language Award or STEM Supplemental 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 Federal 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 program in a country or area with an overall Travel Advisory Level 1 or 2 according to the [U.S. Department of State's Travel Advisory System](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html/)

There is no GPA requirement for the Gilman Scholarship Program.

**SELECTION**

The Gilman Program prioritizes representation from all U.S. states and territories and a broad range of overseas destinations, with a preference for countries where it is less common for U.S. students to study abroad. Students can study abroad or participate in internships abroad in a wide array of countries to build their career-readiness skills which supports U.S. national security and economic prosperity.

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.). Veterans of military service and applicants who have not previously studied abroad are encouraged to apply, and preference is given to them when other factors are equivalent.

**APPLICATION**

Application components include:

* completed online application form
* transcript(s) (official and unofficial transcripts are accepted)
* four essays

**BRIEF TIMELINE**

**The October deadline is for abroad programs starting between December 1, 2025 and October 31, 2026 (winter 2025-26, spring/Maymester 2026, summer 2026, fall 2026, and academic year 2026-27).**

**October 3, 2025:** Submission Deadline for Online Application. Must submit application by 11:59pm PT.

**Late November/Early December**: Applicants notified of the status of their application via email

**HOW TO APPLY**

* Log in and access the online application:  
  <https://apply.gilmanapplication.org/apply/?sr=2b20d2e5-ac9a-47af-a637-1e346eab7a63&aw=1>
* Upload your official or unofficial 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 four required short 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 (Sarah Nebhut).
* Indicate an SU financial aid advisor from the drop-down menu (Frank Parilla).
* No letters of recommendation are required

**MEET 1-ON-1 WITH AN ADVISOR AND ATTEND THE GILMAN WRITING WORKSHOPS**

Staff at the Center for Fellowship and Scholarship Advising and SU Abroad are happy to arrange individual appointments to review your application essays. Please email [cfsa@syr.edu](mailto:cfsa@syr.edu) to arrange an individual advising appointment.

Prior to the deadline, our team also offers writing in-person writing workshops so you can receive guidance and constructive feedback on your application essays. Writing workshops will be held on the following dates in 208 Bowne Hall:

* **Wednesday, September 17: Writing workshop #1, 11:00-12:30**
* **Tuesday, September 23: Writing workshop #2, 3:00-4:30**
* **Friday, September 26: Writing workshop #3, 11:00-12:30**
* **Monday, September 29: Writing workshop #4, 3:30-5:00**
* **Thursday, October 2: Writing workshop #5, 10:00-11:30**

If you attend an in-person writing workshop, please be prepared to share your essay drafts with your assigned advisor.

General questions about the Gilman Scholarship should be directed towards Adam Crowley in CFSA:

[cfsa@syr.edu](mailto:cfsa@syr.edu).

**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. 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), Hebrew, 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 **300 words**, please address the following questions:

* What are your motivations for learning and/or improving proficiency in your targeted language for your academic and/or career success?
* Describe your plan to develop your language skills while studying abroad, both inside and outside of the classroom setting.

**STEM SUPPLENTAL AWARD**

The U.S. Department of State is dedicated to supporting students who are focused on Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics (STEM) fields (defined as agriculture, engineering, health professions, math and computer science, and physical and life sciences) during their higher education. Applicants are considered for this category if while abroad they are conducting STEM-related coursework or internship as part of their overseas program. The coursework must be formally integrated into their credit-bearing program.. Applicants who are planning to apply for the STEM supplemental award submit an additional short essay (no more than **300 words**) explaining:

* the nature of the coursework that they are planning to pursue in association with their study abroad program; and
* how the proposed coursework will contribute to their future academic and/or career goals.