



Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship

Syracuse Abroad &

Center for Fellowship and Scholarship

Advising

What is the Gilman Scholarship Program?

- Study Abroad scholarships for U.S. students with high financial need
- Supports students regardless of major or career goals
- Established by U.S. Congress and funded by the U.S. State Department – this is an “external scholarship”.

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”
- Up to an additional \$1,000 to support STEM research while abroad

Am I eligible to apply?

- U.S. Citizens
- Pell Grant Recipients
- Undergraduate students in good standing
- **No** GPA requirement, but GPA is considered as part of determining academic preparation for study abroad.

Eligible Study Abroad Programs

- No minimum length. Cannot be longer than one academic year
- For March deadline, program must start between May 1, 2026 and April 30, 2027 (i.e. Maymester 2026, summer 2026, fall 2026, and academic year 2026-27, and spring 2027)
- Multi-destination programs are eligible
- Intended study abroad program is in a country with Level 1 or 2 on U.S. State Department's Travel Advisory System
- Must be credit-bearing
- Program that connects well with your future academic and career goals

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 unofficial transcript
- Four essay questions
- Additional essays for critical language applicants and STEM award
- **NO** letters of recommendation



Gilman Selection Criteria

- Impact of the study abroad program and location on student's academic and career trajectory
- Preparedness for abroad program
- Representing the U.S. Abroad and hometown impact
- Critical Need Award: Commitment to proficiency in a critical need language
- STEM supplement: Commitment to a STEM field

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 or total cost of attendance.

Application Essays



STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

ESSAY 1: MOTIVATIONS FOR STUDYING OR INTERNING ABROAD

- Prompt: (500 word max)
 - Make the case for why a global academic or professional experience would contribute to your future academic and/or career goals.
 - Why did you select your specific program or internship and host country?

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

ESSAY 2: KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH STUDYING AND INTERNING ABROAD

- Prompt: (500 word max)
 - Please describe specific examples in which your knowledge, skills, and/or experiences (academic, professional, extracurricular and/or volunteer activities, etc.) have equipped you to effectively adapt to and succeed in your host country.
 - What specific knowledge and skills do you hope to develop through your experience abroad?

REPRESENTING AMERICA ABROAD AND HOMETOWN IMPACT

ESSAY 3: GILMAN SCHOLARS AS CITIZEN DIPLOMATS

Prompt:

- Describe your plans and strategies for engaging your host community and showcasing what it means to be an American.

REPRESENTING AMERICA ABROAD AND HOMETOWN IMPACT

ESSAY 4: CONTRIBUTIONS TO U.S. COMMUNITIES AND FOLLOW-ON SERVICE PROJECT PROPOSAL

Prompts: (500 word max)

- How do you plan to leverage and share the knowledge and skills gained overseas on return to the United States?
- How you will raise awareness of the value of study abroad and highlight support available through the Gilman Program.
- Who is the primary audience for your follow-on service project and why have you selected them?

SUPPLEMENTAL ESSAYS

Critical Need Language Award

- 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.
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STEM Supplemental Award

- Please summarize your STEM-related coursework overseas and how it contributes to your future academic and/or career goals.

ESSAY TIPS 1

- Answer *all* prompts
- Follow *all* formatting requirements:
 - **One page single-spaced, with 1-inch margins, and using Times New Roman 12-point font. Do not exceed the 500-word limit for each essay.**
- Demonstrate strong writing skills: compose coherent paragraphs with a clear topic sentence followed by evidence supporting that topic.
- Proofread
- Your essay should be close to (and not over) the 500-word limit, including spaces

ESSAY TIPS 2

- **It's all about the details!** Make sure your reader leaves your essays knowing your:
 - Major
 - Career goals – be reasonably specific
 - Academic and interpersonal preparation for study abroad
 - Hometown
 - Specific plans for study abroad: destination, duration, living situation, relevant classes and/or internships
 - Specific, feasible plans for follow-on service project: target audience, timing, resources
- **Do not use AI to generate your content!** But you may choose to use it to help you proofread your essay and organize your own ideas.



Hear from a Gilman Recipient!

[Mikah Bein](#)

Fall 2024 Gilman Scholarship
Recipient

Studied abroad in Copenhagen,
Denmark



Gilman Application Timeline

| EVENTS | DATES |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Writing Workshop #1 | Tuesday, February 10 1:00-3:00pm 6 th floor 100 Sims Drive |
| Writing Workshop #2 | Thursday, February 12 10:00-12:00 pm 6 th floor 100 Sims Drive |
| Writing Workshop #3 | Monday, February 23 12:00-2:00 pm 6 th floor 100 Sims Drive |
| Writing Workshop #4 | Thursday, February 26 12:00-2:00pm 6 th floor 100 Sims Drive |
| Writing Workshop #5 | Tuesday, March 3 9:00-11:00 am 6 th floor 100 Sims Drive |
| Writing Workshop #6 | Wednesday, March 4 10:00-12:00 pm 6 th floor 100 Sims Drive |
| Gilman Application Deadline | Thursday, March 5 Online Submission |

Sign up here: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ljykTd9x4ipZsVfAiSn7qh2N1ixtGGmNEnz0wRcu8jo/edit?usp=sharing>

SU Abroad Application Timelines

- Summer 2026 programs and Fall 2026 World Partner Program deadlines were Feb. 1.
- Fall 2026 Center semester programs: November 15 (9:00 a.m. EST) – March 15
- Fall 2026 short-term programs: Early Spring – March 15
- Spring 2027 World Partner semester programs: May 15 (9:00 a.m. EST) – July 1
- Spring 2027 Center semester programs: May 15 (9:00 a.m. EST) – October 1
- Spring 2027 short-term programs: September 10 – October 15

NOTE: Some programs may have deadlines earlier than the ones above. For all program deadlines, including those that are earlier: <https://suabroad.syr.edu/apply>

What is the certification process?

- Advisors must certify the relevant study abroad & financial aid related information
- Study Abroad Advisor
- Financial Aid Advisor
- 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-McCain Scholarship



**Gilman-McCain
Scholarship**

\$5,000 awards for child or spousal dependents of active or activated United States military personnel receiving Title IV federal financial aid to study or intern abroad

The Gilman Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and is supported in its implementation by the Institute of International Education (IIE).

- Am I eligible for the Gilman-McCain?
 - *Almost* the same as Gilman but:
 - Dependent child of an active-duty military member(s) during the time of application in one of the following branches:
 - Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, Army, Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Coast Guard, Coast Guard Reserve, Marine Corps, Marine Corps Reserve, Navy, Navy Reserve, Space Force, NOAA Commissioned Corps, and USPHS Commissioned Corps
 - Recipient of any type of Title IV federal financial aid (Pell, SEOG, etc.)
 - Must provide valid military identity documentation in application

Where to Go for Application Support

Study Abroad Questions:

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

Scholarship Essay Assistance:

- Center for Fellowship & Scholarship Advising – book an appointment

Financial Aid Concerns:

- Your Financial Aid advisor – book an appointment



Our advice?

- Sign up to attend CFSA's 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/>





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International Scholarship

Questions?

www.gilmanscholarship.org/

