



## Gilman International Scholarship Informational Video - Transcript

### Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program:

Thank you for your interest in the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program. The Gilman Scholarship is a congressionally funded program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and administered by the Institute of International Education through its Southern Regional Center in Houston, Texas.

### Gilman Program Overview:

Named after retired congressman Benjamin A Gilman from New York, the program's goal is to diversify the kinds of students who study abroad and the countries and regions where they go. Specifically, the Gilman program offers scholarships for students who have been traditionally underrepresented in education abroad. Underrepresented students include but are not limited to students with high financial need, students from diverse ethnic backgrounds, students going to non-traditional study abroad destinations, especially those outside of Western Europe, Australia and New Zealand, students attending community colleges, students in fields of study underrepresented in study abroad and students with disabilities. The Gilman program supports undergraduate students with high financial need and awards scholarships of up to \$5000 for study abroad of a minimum of four weeks and up to one academic year.

### Eligibility Requirements:

To be eligible for the Gilman Scholarship, applicants must be a US citizen undergraduate student and must be studying abroad for a minimum of 4 weeks in one country. Students must be receiving a Federal Pell Grant either at the time of application or have confirmation that they will be receiving a Pell Grant at the time of their study abroad program. The study abroad program must be approved for undergraduate academic credit at their home institution.

### Eligibility Requirements (Cont.):

In addition, applicants must be undergraduate students in good academic standing in at their home institution and must be studying abroad during the fall, spring or academic year terms. Summer only study abroad programs are not eligible. Students can study on

programs to any country in the world other than one that is currently under a U.S. Department of State travel warning or Cuba. Applications are accepted twice a year and are due in April and October. For exact application deadlines, please visit the Gilman website at [www.iie.org/gilman](http://www.iie.org/gilman).

#### Gilman Scholarship Awards:

Gilman scholarship recipients receive up to 5000 dollars to be used to defray eligible costs of their chosen study abroad programs including tuition, fees, books and airfare. The average award is 4000 dollars. There are a limited number of Critical Need Language Supplements available to students who are studying a Critical Need language and are awarded the Gilman Scholarship.

#### Critical Need Language Supplement:

Students who apply for and receive the Gilman Scholarship are eligible to receive an additional \$3000 Critical Need Language Supplement for a total possible award of up to \$8000. Applicants who are studying a critical need language while abroad will automatically be considered for the Critical Need Language Supplement. A limited number of supplements are available each year. Please visit the Gilman website for an exact number of awards available.

#### Critical Need Language Supplement (Cont.):

Critical need languages include the following list:

- Arabic
- Chinese
- Turkic
- Persian
- Indic
- Korean
- Russian

#### Preference Factors:

Award recipients are chosen by a competitive selection process. Selection panels are held at the IIE office in Houston, Texas. Selection panels are composed of faculty and administrators in international education from campuses across the U.S.

The following preference factors are taken into consideration during the review of applications. Preference is given to students who are studying in non-traditional

countries, especially those outside of Western Europe, Australia and New Zealand. Preference is also given to students who are studying a critical need language and for students participating in longer term study abroad programs.

In addition, selection panelists will examine the diversity of the student and the type and diversity of institution. The goal of the program is to increase underrepresented students' participation in study abroad. Panelists will also examine the potential for the impact of the study abroad program on the student as well as the student's academic progress and performance.

#### How to Apply:

Applications for the Gilman Scholarship are available online. There are four components to the Gilman scholarship application. The first component is the student's submission of the online application. Once the student has submitted an online application, the study abroad advisor and financial aid advisor listed in the application must complete the online certification. Finally, the student must submit paper copies of transcripts from their current institution as well as any transfer institutions. Please consult the frequently asked questions section of the Gilman website for more information.

#### What goes into the application?:

There are two primary components to the online application. These are the statement of purpose essay and the Follow-on Project proposal. In the statement of purpose essay, the student should address the impact that the study abroad program will have on their academic, professional and personal goals. They should also address the impact that receiving the Gilman scholarship will have on their achievement of these goals. The statement of purpose essay is a chance for the student to describe their study abroad program and why they have chosen their country of study.

All Gilman scholars are required to carry out a follow-on project upon their return from abroad that helps to promote study abroad and the Gilman scholarship. The project can be done on the student's home campus or in their local community and must be completed within 6 months of their return to the United States. For more information on both of these essays, please visit the frequently asked questions section of the Gilman website. Each essay should be no more than 7000 characters in length, including spaces.

#### Examples of Follow-on Projects:

Gilman scholars have proposed and carried out a wide range of follow-on projects. Each cycle, a variety of follow-on projects are submitted and there is no right or wrong proposal. We encourage all applicants to propose a unique follow-on project that

highlights their individual backgrounds, experience abroad, talents and skills. The following is a list of resources students have used to carry out their follow-on projects.

#### What makes an application competitive?:

In order for an application to be competitive, it should address many of the preference factors discussed earlier. If a student is studying in a traditional location, that student should pay particular attention to addressing why the location is critical to the achievement of their goals. Students should have a well-written, coherent and thoughtful essay. Students should also make sure that their study abroad advisor has proof read the essay prior to submission. Essays should address the impact that the student's study abroad program will have on their academic, professional and personal goals. In addition, the applicant should have a well-developed, creative and achievable follow-on project.

#### Award Statistics: Regions of Destination:

The following information provides statistics for the number of Gilman Scholarship applicants and recipients to each world region for the 2008-2009 academic year.

#### Deadlines:

The Gilman scholarship program accepts applications twice a year. For students participating in fall semester or academic year long study abroad programs, applications are due in early April. For students participating in spring semester study abroad programs, applications are due in early October. For the exact deadlines and to review a full timeline of the application process, please visit the Gilman website at [www.iie.org/gilman](http://www.iie.org/gilman).

#### Questions and Discussion:

The Gilman website provides more information on program requirements and the application process as well as an extensive list of frequently asked questions for students and advisors. Please feel free to contact the Gilman office either by email or phone with any further questions.