



Gilman Scholarship Overview 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.

The Institute of International Education:

IIE is an independent nonprofit founded in 1919. IIE is among the world's largest and most experienced international education and training organizations. We are committed to delivering program excellence to a diverse range of participants, sponsors, and donors.

The Institute of International Education also administers other students exchange programs, like the Boren Awards Program and the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. For more info please visit our website.

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.

Program Overview & Critical Need Language Supplement:

Gilman Scholarship recipients receive up to \$5000 to be used to defray eligible costs of their chosen study abroad programs including tuition, fees, books and airfare. The Gilman Scholarship Program will support more than 2,300 undergraduate students to study abroad.

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. Critical need languages include the following:

Arabic
Chinese
Bahasa Indonesia
Japanese
Turkic
Persian
Indic
Korean
Russian
Swahili

A limited number of supplements are available each year. Please visit the Gilman website for an exact number of awards available.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for the Gilman International Scholarship, applicants must be US citizen undergraduate students at an institution in the United States. All applicants 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 the applicant's home institution. In addition, in order to be eligible for this award, applicants cannot graduate before the start of their study abroad program. 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. Lastly, programs must be at least four weeks in length to be eligible for the Gilman International Scholarship. For exact application deadlines, please visit the Gilman website at www.iie.org/gilman.

Award Statistics - Regions of Destination:

The following information provides statistics for the number of Gilman Scholarship applicants and recipients to each world region.

Application Deadlines:

The Gilman scholarship program accepts applications twice a year. Students Participating in Spring study abroad programs must submit their applications online by the October deadline prior to their term abroad. Students Participating in Summer, Fall and academic year study abroad programs must submit their applications online by the March deadline prior to their term abroad.

For more information and to review a full timeline of the application process, please visit the Gilman website at www.iie.org/gilman.

How to Apply:

Applications for the Gilman Scholarship are available online at www.iie.org/gilman.

There are three easy steps to completing an online application. The first component is to complete and submit the online application. Within the online application, the applicant will have to upload a copy of their transcript from their current institution as well as any transfer institutions. Transcripts must be uploaded into the application in order to submit the application by the deadline. Once the student has

submitted an application online, the study abroad advisor and financial aid advisor listed in the application must complete an online certification.

Please consult the online resources, including Frequently Asked Questions and the Transcripts page, provided on the Gilman website for more information.

Essays:

- Statement of Purpose Essay:

There are two essays required as part of the Gilman Scholarship application. The first is called the Statement of Purpose Essay and it is the applicant's chance to personalize their application. In this 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 applicant to describe their study abroad program and why they have chosen their country of study.

- Follow-On Service Project Proposal:

All Gilman scholars are required to carry out a Follow-on Service Project upon their return from abroad that helps to promote study abroad and the Gilman International 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. The proposal for this project must be submitted with each student's Gilman Scholarship application.

When designing a Follow-On Service Project, applicants should keep in mind the target audience for their project and how this audience will be impacted. Students should also have a timeline in mind for the project that is fitting for the target audience. If the applicant plans to use any tools, such as websites or newspapers, to carry out the Follow-On Service Project, this should be mentioned in the proposal. Finally, every applicant is encouraged to be creative with their Follow-On Service Project Proposal and the proposed projects should also be feasible.

Gilman scholars have proposed and carried out a wide range of Follow-On Service Projects. Each semester, a variety of Follow-On Service Projects are submitted and there is no right or wrong proposal. We encourage all applicants to propose a unique Follow-On Service 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 Service Projects.

Tips:

Plan ahead and start today. Detailed information on the application and required essays is available on the Frequently Asked Questions portion of the Gilman website and all applicants are strongly encouraged to begin writing their essays well in advance of the application deadline. The time and effort spent on an essay, whether it is three weeks or three hours, can often be detected when the essay is read.

Talk to your advisors. Make sure you inform your study abroad and financial aid advisors that you are applying for the Gilman Scholarship. It is in your best interest to stay in communication with your

advisors throughout the application process. Not only will they be certifying your application but, they can also provide good insight into crafting a competitive application.

Begin your essays early and have them proofread. In order for an application to be competitive, it should be organized and thought out. Please be careful not to study abroad or to tell the selection committee that you would like to submerge yourself in another culture while earning your bachelorette degree. Understanding that proofreading your essays before submitting them seems like common sense, this is a reminder to look for the mistakes that spell check will not catch. These examples were given because all of them have been written in a Gilman Scholarship application. Essays should be proofread not only by the applicant but also by an advisor or writing center.

Finally, stay updated with your applicant newsletters sent to your email address. There are many resources for Gilman Scholarship applicants, including electronic newsletters designed to help students through the application process. These newsletters are sent by email to all applicants with deadline reminders, application tips and Gilman Alumni experiences.

Multimedia Resources:

There are a variety of multimedia resources on the Gilman website such as webinars, podcasts and videos designed to assist students and advisors through application and certification process. Additionally, applicants can choose to receive Gilman Scholarship updates and reminders via Facebook and Twitter or view student experiences on the Gilman Scholarship YouTube channel.

Other Resources for Study Abroad:

For information on other scholarships for study abroad, please visit the Other Resources for Study Abroad page of the Gilman website as well as www.studyabroadfunding.org.

Contact Information:

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.