

# BENJAMIN A. GILMAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

OIP and OMS Info Session  
Thursday, September 10th, 2020



# OUR ROLES

- Nives Dal Bo-Wheeler, Director, Office of Major Scholarships
- Taylor Cray, Graduate Assistant, OMS
- Erika Clement, Study Abroad Advisor, Office of International Programs

# ELIGIBILITY

## Eligible students must be:

- A citizen of the United States;
- An undergraduate student in good standing at an accredited institution of higher education in the United States (including both two-year and four-year institutions);
- Receiving a Federal Pell Grant during the time of application or provide proof that they will be receiving a Pell Grant during the term of their study abroad program or internship;
- In the process of applying to, or accepted for, a study abroad or internship program or *a virtual international program* of at least three weeks for students from four-year institutions, eligible for credit from the student's home institution.
- Applying for credit-bearing study abroad programs 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.

# TIMELINE

The student deadline for the Gilman Scholarship is Tuesday, October 6th, 2020.

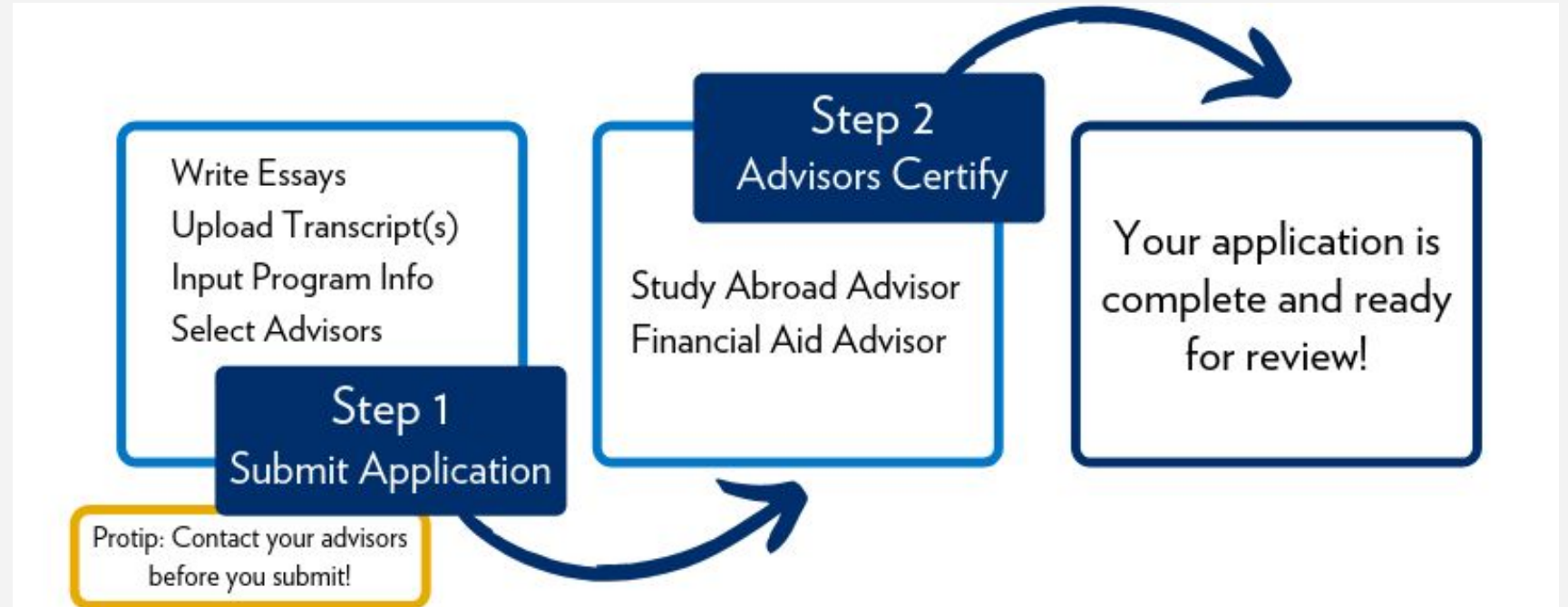
Applications are due at 11:59pm Pacific Time (2:59am EST).



Eligible Programs: In-person and virtual programs that start between January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021

Terms Accommodated: Spring 2021, Summer 2021, Fall 2021, and Academic Year 2021-2022

# APPLICATION MATERIALS



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## ESSAYS:

- Statement of Purpose Essay

In this essay, be specific in describing your individual reasons for studying abroad, keeping in mind that this is a scholarship for academic study abroad or credit bearing international internships. Aim to answer the following questions:

- 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?

# APPLICATION MATERIALS

## ESSAYS:

- Community Impact Essays

### 1. Building Mutual Understanding Essay -

Gilman Scholars are expected to contribute to the goal of building mutual understanding by sharing what it means to be an American, learning about the host culture, and building meaningful relationships.

### 2. Follow-On Service Project Proposal -

Gilman Scholars are expected to complete the Follow-on Service Project which is to increase awareness of study abroad and the Gilman Scholarship among their peers in their home or campus communities.

# APPLICATION MATERIALS

## TRANSCRIPTS:

The Gilman Scholarship requires an updated academic transcript from your current University, or a University from which you have recently transferred.

## PROGRAM INFORMATION:

This is the information pertaining to the eligible study abroad program that you have chosen.

## ADVISORS:

Your advisors for the program will be Nives Dal Bo-Wheeler, Erika Clement, and Connie Smith. They will assist you with eligibility questions, essay writing, and financial aid.



# FIRST

- Read and explore the Gilman Scholarship Website
- Understand the mission of the Scholarship:

*The U.S. Department of State's Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program enables students of limited financial means to study or intern abroad, providing them with skills critical to our national security and economic prosperity.*

# BEFORE YOU START WRITING

- Prepare: make an outline of what you would like to write.

# BASE YOUR OUTLINE ON SELECTION CRITERIA

## ACADEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND IMPACT ON STUDENT'S ACADEMIC AND CAREER TRAJECTORY

- Academic performance, particularly in the applicant's major is important, though there is no minimum grade point average for this scholarship.
- Study abroad advisors at applicants' home institutions deem students eligible to participate on a study abroad program based on their academic standing at their home institutions.

# BASE YOUR OUTLINE ON SELECTION CRITERIA

## ACADEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND IMPACT ON STUDENT'S ACADEMIC AND CAREER TRAJECTORY

- Applicants:
  - Must demonstrate the maturity needed to benefit from their experience abroad.
  - Should be able to describe the expected outcome of their program participation towards their future academic and career objectives.
- Students should disclose academic challenges and choices for consideration of their application evaluation.

# BASE YOUR OUTLINE ON SELECTION CRITERIA

## DIVERSITY OF BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE

- By supporting students who have high financial need, the program has been successful in supporting students who have been historically underrepresented in education abroad, including but not limited to:
  - First-generation college students
  - Students in STEM fields
  - Racial and ethnic minority students
  - Students with disabilities
  - Students attending minority-serving institutions and community colleges
  - Students from U.S. states with less study abroad participation

# BASE YOUR OUTLINE ON SELECTION CRITERIA

## DIVERSITY OF BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE

- This information is considered in the context of the **overall impact** the proposed study abroad experience will have on the student and the **student's ability to be a strong representative of the Gilman Program** during the study abroad program.
- Candidates who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States will be given preference, provided their qualifications are approximately equivalent to those of other candidates.

# BASE YOUR OUTLINE ON SELECTION CRITERIA

## DESTINATION

- A successful applicant will:
  - Demonstrate a coherent link between their proposed program abroad activities and their future academic and/or career plans, as well as personal development goals.
  - Detail the different aspects of their program and articulate how their participation and receipt of the Gilman Scholarship would support the achievement of their goals.

# BASE YOUR OUTLINE ON SELECTION CRITERIA

## DESTINATION

- The program encourages students to study and intern in a diverse array of countries and world regions. Candidates who are **studying in underrepresented countries will be given preference**, provided their qualifications are approximately equivalent to those of other candidates.

### **Underrepresented countries are in the following regions:**

- Eastern Europe, Middle East & North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa
- East Asia and the Pacific (with the exception of Australia, China, Japan and South Korea), South and Central Asia



# BASE YOUR OUTLINE ON SELECTION CRITERIA

## IMPACT TO COMMUNITY

- The mission of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs' is to **increase mutual understanding** between the people of the United States and the people of other countries by means of educational and cultural exchange.

# BASE YOUR OUTLINE ON SELECTION CRITERIA

## IMPACT TO COMMUNITY

- Through the Gilman Program's required Follow-on Service Project, both cultural and international exchange awareness is promoted by successful and diverse spokespersons.
- The goal of the Follow-on Service Project is for Gilman Scholars to increase awareness of study abroad and the Gilman Scholarship among their peers on their campuses and/or in their home communities.
- The proposed Follow-on Service Project should be feasible, utilize the student's experience abroad, and incorporate ties to student populations that are representative of the United States.

# BASE YOUR OUTLINE ON SELECTION CRITERIA

## CRITICAL NEED LANGUAGE AWARD

- The supplemental essay completed by students applying for the Critical Need Language Award will be considered using the following additional criteria:
  - Applicants are considered for this category if while abroad they are taking a course taught in a critical need language, studying a critical need language, or both, in a country that predominantly speaks the language.
- A successful applicant should demonstrate a **strong motivation to achieve proficiency in the language** that extends beyond their study abroad experience, and into their future academic and career goals.

# AFTER OUTLINE IS WRITTEN

- **Write** first draft, then second
- Show it to friends and family for feedback
  - **Rewrite**
- Look at example essays (only after you have a solid draft!)
- Make appointment with Writing Center
  - **Rewrite**
- Show it to OMS
  - **Rewrite**
- Double-check format and spelling
  - **Submit!**

# WHAT ABOUT THAT FOLLOW ON PROJECT?

- Worksheet

# SOO...WHO DO I ASK?

- General questions, eligibility, submission -> Office of International Programs (OIP)
- Financial statement -> Financial Aid Office
- Essay -> Office of Major Scholarships (OMS)

GOOD LUCK!

- Don't hesitate to ask questions:

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