

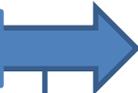
Gilman Scholarship

For Study Abroad

About the Gilman:

- For **U.S. Citizens** who are **Pell Grant** recipients in **good academic standing** and are planning to participate on a study or intern abroad program
- Over 2,800 scholarships of up to \$5,000 were awarded in 2016-17!
 - Nationally 1 in 3 applicants are awarded
- Award amounts will vary depending on the length of program and student need
 - **Average award = \$4,000**
- About 70 Critical Need Language Supplements awarded for a total possible award of up to \$8,000. Critical need languages include:
 - Arabic
 - Azerbaijani
 - Bangla
 - Chinese
 - Hindi
 - Indonesian
 - Japanese
 - Korean
 - Persian
 - Punjabi
 - Russian
 - Swahili
 - Turkish
 - Urdu

www.iie.org/Programs/Gilman-Scholarship-Program

See second page for more advice! 

Statement of Purpose

Do's:

- Address all of the questions in the essay prompt. Make sure your essay gets to the point.
- State why you chose this particular country/program at this particular time. Be specific! Provide reasons related to the points below.
- Explain how the program or location impacts your major and or future career/grad school goals.
- Describe any unique aspects of the program, if applicable (*internships, volunteer opportunities, research, courses not available at UCI, homestays, etc.*).
- Briefly mention what inspired you to study abroad on a personal level.
- Self-disclose your diversity. Explain if you have faced challenges in your decision to study abroad because of this, and if so, how you met those challenges and the impact you believe they will have on your experience abroad. Examples include:
 - Ethnic Diversity
 - 1st Generation College Student
 - STEM major
 - LGBTIQ
 - Disability
 - Non-Traditional Student
 - Transfer Student
 - Veteran

Statement of Purpose

Don'ts:

- Don't be wordy or add "fluff". This is **not** a paper for a class. You don't need a long intro paragraph. Remember that the Gilman staff are reading many essays, and *getting to the point quickly* will help you keep your reader focused on important content.
- Don't include your whole thought process as to how you chose your country/program.
- Watch out for broad and generic statements. Writing something like "*I've always dreamed of studying abroad because I want to experience a different culture*" does not distinguish you from other applicants.
- No more than a paragraph on hardships.
 - All applicants are financial aid students. It is hard to compare everyone's hardships.
- No spelling or grammatical errors.

Follow On Project

- What is the impact of *your* project in your community?
 - UCI (department, dorm, club), high school, church, neighborhood, etc.
- How likely is it to complete the project?
- Originality is great but you aren't expected to reinvent the wheel
- Think of it as taking your experiences and *paying it forward*
- Is there a way to connect your major with your location abroad and your home community?
- Consider utilize an existing campus or community organization, club, etc.

Follow On Project Ideas

- Become a *Generation Study Abroad* Ambassador for the Study Abroad Center
- STEM majors can give study abroad presentations to their peers since they are less likely to go abroad
- Paint a mural related to your experience in your city
- Keep a detailed blog or vlog
 - Consider focusing on a specific subject: like a culture blog, food blog, travel around the country blog, etc.
- Send postcards to yourself throughout your time abroad and then turn it into a book for the Study Abroad Center
- Make a cookbook based on recipes you learned in your country for the Study Abroad Center
- Learn a local dance and teach it on campus
- Create a video of your experience for the Study Abroad center to use for outreach

The State of California requires that you be told the following: Federal student loans are available to most students regardless of income and provide a range of repayment options including income-based repayment plans and loan forgiveness benefits, which other education loans are not required to provide.