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

• About 3,276 scholarships of up to $5,000 were awarded in 2017-18!
  • Nationally 1 in 4 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
  • Portuguese
  • Punjabi
  • Russian
  • Swahili
  • Turkish
  • Urdu

www.gilmanscholarship.org/program/programoverview/

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’s unique aspects or location impacts your major and or future career/grad school goals (internships, volunteer opportunities, research, courses not available at UCI, homestays, etc.).
• Describe any aspects of studying abroad you expect to be most challenging and how can you draw from your own knowledge, skills or experiences to face them (Language, culture, etc.).
• Self-disclose your diversity. Explain if you have faced challenges in your decision to study abroad because of this, and if so, how you overcame those challenges and the impact you believe they will have on your experience abroad. Examples include:
  o Ethnic Diversity
  o 1st Generation College Student
  o STEM major
  o LGBTIQ
  o Disability
  o Non-Traditional Student
  o Transfer Student
  o Veteran

See second page for more advice!
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.

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.

Community Impact Essay

- Address all the questions in the prompt on how you will serve as an effective citizen diplomat abroad (Contribute to understandings between your home community and host community).
- What are your follow-on project goals and 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 utilizing an existing campus or community organization, club, etc.

Community Impact Essay 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
- More Follow-on Service Project ideas are on the Gilman website under Applicants → Essays.