

## GILMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDY ABROAD

By Noor Borbieva O'Neill, Ph.D.

PFW Office of Major Scholarship Advising

<https://www.gilmanscholarship.org/program/program-overview/>

**Putting together a Gilman application is time consuming. Gilman requires three or four essays. Students should budget one month of concerted work (30-45 minutes daily) plus weekly meetings with the OMSA director (or the equivalent spread across several months) to put together a competitive application. Before starting the application, students should reflect on their time commitments and determine whether this level of time investment is feasible for them.**

### Overview.

- **WHAT:** Up to **\$5000** to support residence at a credit-bearing study or internship program outside the United States for fall, spring, summer, winter, or academic year..
- **ELIGIBILITY:** Must be a US Citizen or national and a Pell grant recipient. Must be an undergraduate in good standing.
- **DEADLINES:** **October** for starting a program between December and the following October. **March** for starting a program between May and the following April. Students who apply in October can apply again in March if not selected and if their program is not starting earlier than the following May.
- Recipients are expected to complete a service project after return
- **CLNA:** The Critical Need Language Award offers an additional \$3000 to Gilman recipients studying designated languages. One additional essay is required.

### Selection criteria. Also, see Gilman website, [here](#).

- Potential impact of study abroad experience on student's academic and career trajectory.
- Potential student impact on community abroad.
- Feasibility and impact of "Follow-on Service Project."
- Academic preparedness.
- Diversity of background and experience.
- **CNLA:** Commitment to proficiency in the designated language.

### Application elements.

- Information about study abroad program
- Three essays (4 for CNLA)
- Unofficial transcripts. If needed, order transcripts for PFW from Parchment, [here](https://www.parchment.com/u/registration/34591/institution).  
<https://www.parchment.com/u/registration/34591/institution>
- Certification from PFW Study Abroad Advisor and Financial Aid Advisor.

### Essays: General info.

- See more information on essays [here](#)
- Essays must be no more than one page single-spaced, with 1-inch margins, and using Times New Roman 12-point font. Do not exceed 500-words limit for each

essay. Applications with essays exceeding the stated word limit may be deemed ineligible.

**Essays: Prompts. Bulleted questions are part of the prompts.**

Essay 1: Motivations for Studying or Interning Abroad (max of 500 words)

- Make the case for why a global academic or professional experience would contribute to your future academic and/or career goals.
- Why did you select your specific program or internship and host country?

Essay 2: Knowledge and Skill Development through Studying and Interning Abroad (max of 500 words)

- Please describe specific examples in which your knowledge, skills, and/or experiences (academic, professional, extracurricular and/or volunteer activities, etc.) have equipped you to effectively adapt to and succeed in your host country.
- What specific knowledge and skills do you hope to develop through your experience abroad?

Essay 3: Gilman Scholars as Citizen Diplomats (max of 500 words). Gilman Scholars represent the United States overseas as citizen diplomats and are expected to build meaningful connections in their host communities. While studying or interning abroad, Gilman Scholars will have the opportunity to share what it means to be an American citizen with their host communities.

- Describe your plans and strategies for engaging your host community and showcasing what it means to be an American. Articulate any specific plans that involve showcasing America's 250th anniversary while in your host community.

Essay 4: Contributions to U.S. Communities and Follow-on Service Project Proposal (max of 500 words). Gilman Scholars return to their communities across the United States with global networks and foreign language skills that support U.S. prosperity. As part of this effort, Gilman Scholars are expected to complete a Follow-on Service Project, which aims to highlight the critical role of study abroad in enhancing U.S. national competitiveness and security and the benefits of the Gilman Program.

- How do you plan to leverage and share the knowledge and skills gained overseas on return to the United States?
- How you will raise awareness of the value of study abroad and highlight support available through the Gilman Program?
- Who is the primary audience for your follow-on service project and why have you selected them?

Optional essay: CLNA essay. Applicants are considered for a CLNA if, while abroad, they are taking a course conducted in a critical need language, while studying in a location where the critical need language is predominantly spoken. Find more info and a list of languages [here](#). If

they are studying in a country in which the language is not predominantly spoken, it should be clear why their program and location will support their language learning. In no more than 300 words, address all the required prompts below:

- What are your motivations for learning and/or improving proficiency in your targeted language for your academic and/or career success?
- Describe your plan to develop your language skills while studying abroad, both inside and outside of the classroom setting.

Optional essay: STEM supplemental. The U.S. Department of State is dedicated to supporting students who are focused on Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics (STEM) fields (defined as agriculture, engineering, health professions, math and computer science, and physical and life sciences) during their higher education. Applicants are considered for this category if while abroad they are conducting STEM-related coursework or internship as part of their overseas program. In no more than 300 words, address the required prompt below:

- Summarize your STEM-related coursework overseas and how it contributes to your future academic and/or career goals.