

## Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship

The [Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship](#) is a federally funded scholarship managed by the [U.S Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs](#) and awarded to Pell Grant recipients who study abroad. Awards offered range from \$1000 to \$5,000. Additionally, student studying a critical need language are eligible for a critical need language award for extra funding up to \$8,000. The final award amount will be determined by financial need, program length, overall program costs and the strength of the application.

## Gilman Scholarship Deadlines

Scholarships are awarded twice throughout the year for programs in fall and academic year, spring and calendar year, winter and two summer cycles. Typically, the deadlines are in **early October** for spring, the early summer cycle and fall of the following year and **early March** for regular summer/fall/full-year or Spring of the following year. Visit the [Gilman Deadlines & Timeline](#). Plan ahead - don't wait until after you've applied to your program to begin the Gilman process - it may be too late.

## Gilman Selection Criteria

The goal of the scholarship is to enable students of limited financial means to study or intern abroad, thereby gaining skills critical to the United States' national security and economic prosperity. Students must study abroad for a minimum of 21 days. The award rate is around 25% for semester program applicants and 20% for summer program applicants. Applications are reviewed with consideration of the following:

- Academic preparedness and impact on student's academic and career trajectory
- Diversity of background and experience
- Choice of program and destination
- Community impact
- Commitment to proficiency in critical need languages

## CU Boulder Students Completing Gilman Applications

- Listing the required contacts. **It is not required to contact them or meet with the CU campus contacts, nor do you need to send them an email once you complete your application** – the Gilman system will notify them automatically once you submit your application and they will certify your application by the certification deadline. However, if you would like assistance with the application and/or your essays please reach out to these contacts:
  - Your study abroad contact is Angie Chavez ([Angelica.Chavez-1@Colorado.edu](mailto:Angelica.Chavez-1@Colorado.edu)). Choose Angie as your Study Abroad Advisor Certifier in the Gilman portal.
  - Your financial aid contact is Steven Saiz ([Steven.Saiz@Colorado.edu](mailto:Steven.Saiz@Colorado.edu)). Choose Steven as your Financial Aid Advisor in the Gilman portal.
- You may upload an unofficial transcript that you can get directly from your Buff Portal. The transcript must include the completed term before your Gilman application.
- Entering your program costs: Look up your [program costs here](#).

## Starting Your Gilman Application

- To access the application and additional information visit the [Gilman](#) website.
- When you are ready to begin your application go to the [Application Overview](#) page.
  - Select 'Apply here' and create an account.

## Making a More Competitive Application

- **Dedicate time to this.** A well-polished Gilman Application should take some time and effort to draft, edit, review, and finalize. Don't write the essays online at the last minute.
- **Hook the reader from the beginning.** Scholarship reviewers read hundreds of essays from students who are all writing about study abroad. Catch their attention with an interesting, short anecdote or quote, or start with information about why you are unique. Align your essays, and think of them as one long argument. Be careful about being repetitive across the three essays.
- **Revise before you submit:** Have someone look over your essays to check spelling and grammar. Thoroughly address all questions asked. Don't let easily fixed spelling and grammar mistakes distract from the content of your writing
- **Review the Gilman website:** Gilman provides tips on the [Gilman Essay](#) and they even provide [Videos](#) (See the Composing Competitive Essays video and refer especially to minutes 3:08-6:19).

## Tips for the Statement of Purpose Essay

- Why have you chosen this study abroad program over all others? Make a clear case for how/why your program is relevant to your major, career goals, future plans or all of the above. Think long term. How will this program help you reach graduation and how will it improve your life even after graduation?
- Talk about your unique identity and the strengths it brings. One of the goals of Gilman is to broaden study abroad participation, particularly for students who have been historically underrepresented in education abroad. This is including but not limited to, first-generation college students, students in STEM fields, racial and ethnic minority students, veterans, and students with disabilities. Explore your own identity. What is unique about you as a person? Are you involved with something on campus or in your community? Do you have a unique interest or hobby? What have you learned because of your identity that can be an asset to your study abroad program?
- Talk about your academics. Why did you chose the major you chose? Is your GPA below a 3.0? If so, explain why. What courses do you hope to take on your education abroad program and how do those courses align with your academic goals?
- If you are studying in a traditional destination (Western Europe, Australia, New Zealand), explain in detail why you selected your program (from an academic or career-planning perspective). Remember the goals of the Gilman and make sure your reasons for choosing this location are objectively aligned with those goals.

## Tips for the Community Impact Essay

- The Gilman organization believes that study abroad is a form of diplomacy. Through the Gilman scholarship, the U.S. Department of State hopes to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries by means of educational and cultural exchange.
- Gilman scholars are expected to, learn about their host cultures, share what it means to be an American and build meaningful relationships through that learning and sharing. In this essay you need to make a case for how you will do this abroad.
- How does your identity showcase the diversity of values, beliefs, and opinions in the U.S.? You may be the first person from your background that somebody in your host country has ever met. How can you leverage your identity to make connections with people abroad?
- Do some research. What are some of the issues your host country is working through? How do they relate to the issues in your own community? How can you make a positive impact in your host country? This could be through volunteer work, interning, or simply immersing yourself completely.

## Tips for the Follow-on Service Project

- Read the example projects completed by [Gilman Alumni](#). Most of them are outreach-oriented, which is essentially what Gilman is asking for. The purpose of the project is to promote both study abroad and the Gilman scholarship.
- When describing your follow-on project, consider partnering with clubs or organizations with which you are already involved. Consider creative uses of technology, media, photography, etc.
- Describe what impact the project will have on your audience. What is your intended outcome with the audience?

## Other Opportunities

### Critical Need Language Award

Applicants who are studying certain languages have the option to be considered for this award. The award can be up to \$8,000 of additional funding. A brief supplemental essay is required and can be submitted in the same Gilman Application.

**Essay Questions:**

- What are your motivations for improving your language proficiency academically, professionally, and personally?
- How do you intend to improve your language skills while studying abroad? How will you increase your proficiency in the language inside and outside the classroom?
- How do you intend to use the language after you graduate?

**Eligible Languages:**

- Arabic, Azerbaijani, Bahasa Indonesian, Bangla, Chinese (Mandarin), Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Swahili, Turkish, Urdu

### Gilman-McCain Scholarship

This scholarship is intended for the children of military families. It will provide \$5,000 for child dependents of active duty service members who receive any type of Title IV federal financial aid to study or intern abroad on credit bearing programs. The application is identical to the Gilman, applications will be reviewed in selection panels separate from other applicants.

### CIEE Gilman Go Global Grant

CIEE offers guaranteed funding to students who submit Gilman applications. That means for students doing CIEE programs they are guaranteed an additional scholarship of \$2500 for a semester or \$1000 for summer regardless of if they are awarded the Gilman scholarship. Students must upload proof of application submission and submit their CIEE scholarships and grants application by October 15 for spring programs and April 1 for summer and fall programs.