Learning Abroad Scholarship Workshop

Fund your term abroad with tips from our Learning Abroad Advisors and a Learning Abroad Alumna
Learning Abroad advances the goals of Global Strategies and Studies by offering undergraduate and graduate students unique, life changing, educational overseas experiences. It facilitates opportunities for students to participate in faculty-led, reciprocal exchange, and affiliated third party provider programs, as well as research collaboratives, internships, experiential and service learning, and volunteer activities.
SESSION OVERVIEW

- Scholarships Overview
  - IEFS, Gilman, Boren, CLS, ERASMUS+, et al.
- Essays
- References/Recommendations
- Financial Aid Information
- Gilman Scholarship
- Closing Remarks
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION FEE SCHOLARSHIP

- International Education Fee Scholarship
  - 2.0+ GPA, 12 completed Undergraduate UH credit hours
  - 2.5+ GPA, 9 completed Graduate UH credit hours

- Short Essay
  - Why this program, how does it fit into your goals, contribution to UH community upon return.

- References
  - Need two: UH faculty or staff

- Financial info
  - Printout, brochure, bill, etc.
  - Include travel costs, other anticipated costs outside of personal expenses
• David L. Boren Scholarship
  • US citizens who are in Undergraduate programs in the US participating in programs outside of Western Europe, Canada, Australia, or New Zealand.
  • Students **must** study a foreign language. There are about 64 preferred languages, but many more that are appropriate.

• Critical Language Scholarship
  • Specific languages, specific sites. Check out their website before applying to other programs.
  • Intensive language program typically over 8 weeks in summer

• Chinese Government Scholarship
  • For study at specific schools in China
Essays

- Consider your word choice
- Be compelling but concise
- Read the prompt
  - Keep the prompt visible while writing
  - Does everything you’re saying relate to the prompt?
- Be specific about your program choice.
  - WHY this program and not a similar one?
  - How will this help your future endeavors (relate back to prompt)
- Proofread!
  - Utilize your resources:
    - UH Writing Center
    - Advisors
**Transferable Skills**

- Enhanced awareness of cultures and customs
- Foreign language proficiency
- Adaptability
- Ability to identify and achieve goals
- Communication skills
- Increased confidence and initiative
- Flexibility
- Sense of humor
- Awareness of global, economic, and political issues
- Ability to maintain an open mind and be tolerant of others
- Clarification of goals and improved self-awareness
- Travel skills
- Resource management
- Organizational problem-solving
- Crisis management
- Patience
- Listening and observation
Growing through the Gilman Scholarship Program
Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship

- Provides grants for U.S. undergraduates who are receiving Federal Pell Grant funding at a two-year or four-year college or university to study abroad
- Incepted in 2001, it was named after state representative Benjamin Gilman
- Over 2,800 scholarships of up to $5,000 will be awarded this academic year for U.S. citizen undergraduates to study or intern abroad. Award amounts will vary depending on the length of study and student need
Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship

- Broadens the student population that studies and interns abroad by supporting undergraduates who might not otherwise participate due to financial constraints
- Aims to encourage students to choose non-traditional study and intern destinations
- Aims to support students who have been traditionally under-represented in education abroad, including but not limited to, students with high financial need, community college students, students in underrepresented fields
Application Process

• Two components:
• Online application which includes uploading official transcripts
• Online certifications from the applicant’s study abroad and financial aid advisor.
Online Application:

- Upload official transcripts
- Two Essays:
- Personal Statement
- Follow-on Service Project
Statement of Purpose

• addressing the impact your study abroad program will have on your academic, professional, and personal goals and the impact the Gilman Scholarship would have on your achievement of these goals

• Why do you wish to study or intern abroad and what factors led you to this decision? What do you hope to gain from and what do you anticipate will be the impact of your experience abroad? What impact will my choice of country have on my experience abroad? What initially inspired me to want to study abroad in this particular country or learn this language?

• Are there any distinctive components to this program, beyond coursework, that will impact your overall learning experience abroad?

• What challenges, if any, did you face in your decision to study or intern abroad? How did you meet these challenges and what impact do you foresee them having on your experience abroad?
Follow-On Service Project Proposal

• To explain how you will give back by inspiring others to pursue their own experiences abroad. To help expand the impact of the Gilman Scholarship Program and international education.

• Briefly outline your proposed project to promote the Gilman Scholarship and international education. How will this project impact your home university or home community? What are your project goals?

• Two-page final report summarizing your experience abroad and the impact of your Follow-on project.
Advisor Certification

- Advisor Certification Deadline: Tuesday, October 11, 2016
- Before you begin the Gilman Scholarship application, contact the appropriate offices at your home institution in order to determine the correct study abroad and financial aid advisor to certify your application.
My Gilman Story:

- 3 years of volunteering in suicide prevention
- Dreamed of learning a second language fluently
- Graduate school dreams
- Wanted to study abroad but limited financially
- Applied to several scholarships

2015-2016 Gilman Recipient and Gilman Global Experience Blog Writing Correspondant
My Academic Year in Costa Rica

- Allowed me to experience living with a host family
- Enabled me to complete 2 years worth of college level Spanish courses from Beginning through Advanced level
- Gave me the opportunity to volunteer and get to know local ticos
Getting Involved with the Community

- Volunteering in the UNA Greenhouse allowed me to give back to the community while also teaching me about the biodiversity of plant life in Costa Rica
- Being involved with the chess team allowed me to make invaluable friendships
- This helped me gain a stronger sense of tico culture
Helpful Tips on Planning and Preparing to Apply

• 3 months in advance to write competitive essays
• Proofread! Ask trusting individuals to give constructive feedback
• Become acquainted with the online portal ahead of time
• Tell your unique story! (Who you are, what you’re passionate about, first generation college student etc.)
• Don’t get discouraged! You CAN do it!
FOLLOW US ONLINE!

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