**OPORTUNIDAD PARA ESTUDIAR A NIVEL INTERNACIONAL DURANTE UN VERANO CON GASTOS CUBIERTOS**

### What is the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program?

The Gilman Scholarship Program is an undergraduate grant program for U.S. citizens of limited financial means to enable them to study abroad, thereby internationalizing their outlook and better preparing them to thrive in the global economy.

[**http://www.iie.org/Programs/Gilman-Scholarship-Program**](http://www.iie.org/Programs/Gilman-Scholarship-Program)

**ELEGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GILMAN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO STUDY ABROAD:**

* Be a USA citizen
* Be receiving a **Federal Pell Grant** or provide proof that he/she will be receiving a Pell Grant during the term of his/her study abroad program or internship;
* Be in the process of applying to, or accepted for, a study abroad or internship program of at least two weeks for community college students and **four weeks for students from four-year institutions**,

TO FIND PROGRAMS, visit: <https://studyabroad.state.gov/experience-studying-abroad/resources-study-abroad> or [IIE Passport](http://www.iiepassport.org/).

There are **two essays required** as part of the Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship application;

* the Statement of Purpose Essay and the
* Follow-on Service Project Proposal.

**The most critical aspect of these and any other essays for a nationally competitive scholarship is to ensure that they are proofread prior to submission**.

Your essay should be composed in paragraph format (not as numbered responses to the questions).

Keep in mind that you are limited to **7,000 characters (including spaces)** per essay.

When you are ready to transfer your essays to your application make sure to double check your essays for the possibility of being cut off due to exceeding character limit.

Additionally, **do not format (i.e. bold, underline, italics)** your essays in the word processing program because your formatting will not be retained upon transferring.

Visit our [Multimedia](http://www.iie.org/Programs/Gilman-Scholarship-Program/News-and-Social-Media#Videos) page that has informational videos, including a Composing Competitive Essays video, that will ... go in-depth with understanding how to compose competitive essays for your Gilman Scholarship application and the specific guidelines for each required essay.

**1. Statement of Purpose Essay**

The Statement of Purpose Essay is **your chance to personalize your application**. When composing the Statement of Purpose Essay **it is important to address the impact that your study abroad program or internship will have on your academic, professional, and personal goals**. You should also address **the impact that receiving the Gilman Scholarship would have on your achievement of these goals**. Some key points to keep in mind are:

* 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? What factors led to my choice of country of study?
* **Describe your study or intern abroad program**. What factors led you to select this program and length of study?
* The choice of a particular program for study abroad should be made in consultation with your campus advisor. Programs can include traditional study abroad programs, intensive language programs, internship programs for academic credit, student-teaching abroad programs for academic credit, and/or service-learning abroad programs for academic credit. It is best to choose your program based on its overall quality and select the program that best meets your academic, career and personal goals.
* Why have you chosen your country of study? What factors led you to select this country?
* How will this study or intern abroad program and the coursework you take abroad impact your academic and future professional goals?
* Are there any distinctive components to this program, beyond coursework, that will impact your overall learning experience abroad? (i.e. home-stays, internships, field research, volunteer activities, extra-curricular activities, etc.)
* **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? These could include, but are not limited to, being a parent, being a non-traditional student, having a learning or physical disability, being in a field of study for which it is difficult to incorporate study abroad, etc.:

The Gilman Scholarship Program aims to support a diverse range of students who have been traditionally under-represented in education abroad, including but not limited to:

* Students with high financial need;
* Students from diverse ethnic backgrounds;
* Students going to non-traditional countries;
* Students from a diverse range of institutions, including community colleges, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges, Hispanic-Serving Institutions and other Minority-Serving Institutions;
* Students with disabilities;
* First generation college students; and
* Students in underrepresented fields of study, especially the STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).
* The program *strongly* encourages students to choose non-traditional study and intern abroad destinations.

**Follow-on Service Project Proposal**

The Follow-on Service Project Proposal is your chance 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, all Gilman Scholars are required to carry out a Follow-on Service Project upon their return from abroad that helps to promote international education and the Gilman International Scholarship. This project can be done on your home campus or in your local community and must be completed within six months of your return to the United States. All applicants must submit a project proposal within the online application and this proposal is closely reviewed during the selection process. Please see our [Frequently Asked Questions](http://www.iie.org/Programs/Gilman-Scholarship-Program/FAQ/Applicants#FAQ) for additional information on your Follow-on Service Project Proposal. Some key points to keep in mind are:

* 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?
* What is your target population and how will your project impact this group?
* How will you integrate the impact of your experiences abroad into your project?
* What, if any, campus departments, student organizations, and/or community organizations will you collaborate with in promoting the Gilman Scholarship and international education? Have you already made contact with these groups?
* Upon completion of your project you will be required to submit a two-page final report summarizing your experience abroad and the impact of your Follow-on project.

Examples of Follow-on Service Projects: <http://www.iie.org/en/Programs/Gilman-Scholarship-Program/Application-Process/Essays>

**Tips for Writing Competitive Essays:**

* **Have your essay proofread.** One of the most important things to remember for any essay is to have it read by an advisor or professor. Spell check and grammar check are fine, but a good proofreader will find things that your word processing software won’t. For example, study abroad is often spelled incorrectly in essays as study aboard. Both are spelled correctly according to spell check, but the latter is incorrect in context. In addition, a proofreader can often make suggestions on how to clarify a point that may not make sense to someone else.
* **Work with your advisors.** It is important to talk with your study abroad advisor prior to completing your essays. Your study abroad advisor can give you ideas for subjects to cover in your Statement of Purpose Essay. He/She can also help you develop a creative Follow-on Service Project. Remember your advisors may have participated in selection panels for scholarship programs and can give you some great insight into what makes an interesting and competitive essay.
* **Work with your writing center on campus.** Take the first draft of your essay to your campus writing center or to a composition professor. These individuals have invaluable expertise in writing essays for scholarships and can be a great resource on your campus anytime you need to prepare an essay.
* **Be creative.** Remember that this is a competitive scholarship program and the selection panelist’s only chance to get to know you is through your essay. The essays are your chance to tell the selection panelist about yourself and your decision to study abroad. It is important to develop an original and creative Follow-on Service Project. The most competitive applications are those that have creative and original essays.
* **Check for proper spelling, punctuation and grammar.** Before submitting your application, be sure to double check your essay. Did you spell the names of cities correctly? Spell check will not always correct these mistakes. Be sure you have proper punctuation and do not type your essay in all lower case or all upper case letters. Most importantly, check for correct grammar. Grammar check will not always correct your sentence properly so it is important to have someone else look at your essay thoroughly.