Gilman Scholarship
Overview
Application Process
Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship Program

• Administered by the Institute of International Education

• Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

• For students of high financial need who have been traditionally underrepresented in education abroad

• Goal is to diversify the population of students who study abroad, as well as the countries and regions they select
  • Expanding beyond traditional study abroad locations and encouraging students to study outside of Western Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada
Award Details

• Over 2,900 scholarships awarded per academic year.
• Awards are up to $5,000 to offset costs of studying abroad, including tuition, fees, books, and airfare
• Award amounts vary based on the strength of application, financial need, as well as program location and length
• Awards are sent directly to recipients
Critical Need Language Award

- Applicants studying a critical need language while abroad can submit an additional essay to be considered for a supplemental award of $3,000 (for a maximum award of $8,000 total). *Cannot receive without winning Gilman

- Critical Need Languages include the following:

  - Arabic (all dialects)
  - Azerbaijani
  - Bahasa Indonesian
  - Bangala
  - Chinese (Mandarin)
  - Hindi
  - Japanese
  - Korean
  - Persian
  - Portuguese
  - Punjabi
  - Russian
  - Swahili
  - Turkish
  - Urdu
Who Can Apply?

- U.S. Citizens
- Federal Pell Grant Recipients
- Undergraduate in good academic standing
- Must have began the application process with the Pam Hendrix Center for Education Abroad
- May not have previously received the Gilman Scholarship
- Study Abroad Program of choice must:
  - Be credit bearing
  - Be a minimum of 3 weeks (21 days) or longer
  - Be in a country with an overall Travel Advisory of Level 1 or 2 according to the U.S. Department of State’s Travel Advisory System

*Please note that if the country where you choose to study abroad in 2021 is at a Level 3 or 4 only due to COVID-19 at the time of application, the Gilman program will still consider that eligible. In the event that an applicant is selected for the Gilman Scholarship and if the destination country is still at a Level 3 or 4, even if only due to COVID-19, by the time the program starts, then the recipient will be required to change their program location.
Selection Criteria

Gilman’s mission is to diversify the population studying abroad by encouraging underrepresented students to participate.

For Gilman, diversity includes (but is not limited to):

• Students from diverse ethnic backgrounds
• First-generation college students
• Veterans
• Students with disabilities (physical or learning)
• Student athletes whose extracurricular activities make it difficult to study abroad
• Students with high financial need
• Students in fields of study underrepresented in study abroad, specifically STEM majors
• Students who have transferred to Clemson from community colleges, HBCUs, Tribal Colleges, Minority-Serving Institutions
• Single parents
• Students that are married
Application Overview

The online application includes the following:

1. Eligibility
2. Applicant Information
3. Institutional Information
4. Official Transcripts (both Clemson and previous institutions)
5. Study Abroad Program Name
6. Study Abroad Program Details
7. Previous International Experience
8. Financial Aid Information
9. Essays

The following slides have more details on each application section!
Eligibility & Applicant Information

• Personal Information
  • Name, Address, Emergency Contact, Citizenship, etc.

• Financial Aid Information
  • You will need to verify your Pell Grant Status
  • Provide information on your financial aid package, scholarships, grants and/or loans
Institution Information

• You will list your current institution (Clemson), anticipated graduation date, major, etc.

• List the appropriate Study Abroad Coordinator

  Carolyn Crist  
  College of Architecture, Arts & Humanities  
  ccrist@clemson.edu

  Alexandra Hazleton  
  College of Business  
  hazleto@clemson.edu

  Yuki Hirose  
  College of Science  
  yukihiro@clemson.edu

  Meredith Wilson  
  College of Behavioral, Social & Health Sciences  
  College of Education  
  mfant@clemson.edu

  Johnsie Stancil  
  College of Engineering, Computing & Applied Sciences  
  College of Agriculture, Forestry & Life Sciences  
  johnsil@clemson.edu

• List the appropriate Financial Aid Advisor

  Nora Gail Woods  
  All Students  
  nora2@clemson.edu

What is advisor certification?
Study Abroad Advisors/Coordinators will be asked to verify that you have applied to a credit-eligible study abroad program and confirm your study abroad program information. The Financial Aid Advisor will be asked to verify whether you are currently receiving a Federal Pell Grant and the estimated amount of financial aid, excluding loans, you can apply to your program. Advisors can only certify if information is correct, we cannot advocate on students’ behalf.
Upload Transcript

• You must provide a transcript (Official or Unofficial) from all undergraduate institutions you have attended

• If you wish to request an Official Transcript
  • Order from Clemson Registrar Office
  • Have it mailed or emailed to yourself
  • Upload to the Gilman portal

• If you wish to upload an Unofficial Transcript
  • Login to iRoar, view academic transcript, and save as a PDF
  • Upload to the Gilman Portal
  • If you are awarded the scholarship, you will be required to submit an Official Transcript upon acceptance.
Study Abroad Program & Details

• You must provide the following program information in your application:
  • Program Title
  • Official Dates (double check the official program website)

*Application Questions Tip

• “Will you be studying a foreign language while abroad?”
  • If you will be taking a foreign language, credit bearing course, answer “Yes.”

• “Will you be taking classes that are taught in a foreign language abroad?”
  • If you will be taking your content courses in English, answer “No.”
International Experience

• Gilman asks about previous international experience and makes a distinction between those that have studied abroad for credit before and those that have traveled abroad but not in an academic context.

• You will include information about other undergraduate study abroad where you have received academic credit.

• Do not include personal travel!
Financial Aid Information

You must provide the estimated total cost of your study abroad program.

- Include all possible costs you may incur during your semester or summer abroad including:
  - Tuition & Fees
  - Housing
  - Books
  - Transportation
  - Passport & Visa
  - Insurance (generally included in program costs)

*Important Note*: You should use the highest amount possible to calculate the program cost to demonstrate the maximum amount of need. Your advisor will certify the amount you listed.

The Pam Hendrix Center for Education Abroad or your Program Provider can assist you in getting the budget for your program. The estimate will likely seem quite high. Do not worry. You will find that the actual cost of living largely depends on your budget, lifestyle, preferences, etc.
Essays

- Applicants must submit two essays
  - Statement of Purpose (7,000 character limit)
  - Community Impact Essays
    - Building Mutual Understanding (3,000 character limit)
    - Follow-on Service Project Proposal (3,000 character limit)
- The optional Critical Need Language Award Essay (2,000 character limit)

Please take your time to prepare your essays and use the resources provided to you through Gilman, The Office of Major Fellowships, and the Pam Hendrix Center for Education Abroad.
The Statement of Purpose essay is an important factor in the selection of Gilman Scholarship recipients. You should address all of the questions below (in no particular order).

• How will studying or interning abroad help you achieve your future academic or professional goals?

• Why did you select your specific program and host country?

• How are you academically prepared to be a successful scholar abroad? If you have faced significant academic difficulties, tell us about those and how you are overcoming them.

• What examples of knowledge, skills, and experiences will you draw on to meet the challenges of going abroad?
Statement of Purpose

Please make note of the following tips from Office of Major Fellowships:

• Reviewers don’t know anything about you, except your age and indicated gender. One of the primary criteria is your personal diversity, but the reader only knows your diversity if you tell them.

• Gilman would prefer to choose students who are going somewhere other than Western Europe and Australia. There needs to be a good reason for the country choice. This could include your personal circumstances, the demands of your major, etc.

• Talk about the program including why you picked this program and therefore this country.
  • What classes will you take and how will they help you achieve your goals? How many credits will you earn? What are the living arrangements?
  • Think about considerations such as if it is the only program available for your major or the cost makes it affordable.

• Do not talk about how fun the program seems! This is a study abroad, not just traveling.

• Length of study is another primary criterion. If you are going on a short-term program, tell the reader why.

• If you are a STEM major, mention it and emphasize the difficulty of fitting study abroad into a STEM degree program because of the required lab sciences.

• If you are studying a critical need language while abroad, point this out in your essay.
Community Impact Essays

Building Mutual Understanding Essay

• A successful Gilman applicant should describe how they anticipate contributing to building mutual understanding by sharing what it means to be an American, learning about the host culture, and building meaningful relationships.

• Consider answering the following questions:
  • As a U.S. citizen, how will you represent and share what it means to be an American during your program?
  • How will you seek opportunities to become more culturally engaged and have meaningful interactions with people and cultures different from your own during your abroad program?
Follow-On Service Project Proposal

• Gilman Scholars are expected to complete a Follow-on Service Project to increase awareness of study abroad and the Gilman Scholarship among their peers in their home or campus communities.

• This project proposal should describe the following in detail:
  • What is your project and how will it increase awareness of study abroad and the Gilman Program among your peers in your home or campus community?
  • Identify and explain why you chose the specific community you will be reaching.
  • How will you integrate the impact of your experience abroad into your project?
  • With which campus departments, student organizations, or community organizations will you collaborate?

• Tip from Office of Major Fellowships:
  • You do not need to reinvent the wheel with your project. You need a clearly stated target audience, to meet the goals of promoting study abroad and the Gilman, and that it seems feasible that you can complete it within six months.
Resources

Use the Office of Major Fellowships when writing the essays!

1. Login to CU Navigate
2. Click to schedule an appointment (top right)
3. Choose study abroad
4. Choose study abroad scholarship advising
5. Choose Gilman Scholarship to find an available time to schedule writing appointments
Resources

Visit the Gilman Website to view more information.

https://www.gilmanscholarship.org/applicants/application-overview/

Use resources to learn about the application process from past recipients as well as helpful hints and tips on creating a strong application!

Previous Applicant FAQs  Submission Tips
Cycle Deadlines
(In-Person and Virtual Program Start May 1, 2021 and April 30, 2022)

March 2, 2021: Student deadline for submission of complete Gilman Application
March 9, 2021: Advisor deadline for certification
End of April 2021: Applicants are notified of status via email
Next Steps

Register to attend a drop-in session to ask questions about the scholarship and/or find out how to have your essays reviewed.

- **Thursday, 2/4** 3:00-4:00pm EST
- **Tuesday, 2/9** 4:00-5:00pm EST
- **Wednesday, 2/17** 3:00-4:00pm EST
- **Tuesday, 2/23** 11:00am-12:00pm EST
Contact Us!

Pam Hendrix Center for Education Abroad

Email: abroad@clemson.edu  
Phone: (864)656-2457  
Website: www.clemson.edu/studyabroad  
E-301 Martin Hall  
Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

*Please note that Clemson University is currently working under modified conditions and our office is not currently open. Our team is still working diligently in a remote capacity!