

The University of Texas at San Antonio
**OFFICE OF NATIONALLY
COMPETITIVE AWARDS**

Award Profile: The U.S. Department of State's Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program enables students of limited financial means to study or intern abroad. The scholarship broadens the student population that studies abroad by supporting undergraduates who might not otherwise participate due to financial constraints. The scholarship encourages students to study and intern in a diverse array of countries and world regions. Students who are dependents of active duty military should also consider applying to the Gilman McCain Scholarship.

Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship Application Checklist:

Due date: Beginning of October/March. No exceptions for late submissions. Students are able to apply up to two terms in advance of their program application.

ELIGIBILITY

- US Citizen (permanent residents are unfortunately not eligible)
- Pell Grant recipient for current year. Please verify on ASAP and/or with One Stop.
- In good academic and conduct standing
- New for 2021: There is no minimum program length, but programs must still be for credit.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE ESSAY (PERSONAL STATEMENT)

- I have thoroughly reviewed the Gilman website: overview, [essay tips](#), and submission tips .
- I have described my study abroad program in detail (classes to be taken, homestays, internships, research) and reflected on these experiences.
- I have connected the importance of these activities with my academic program and future academic and career plans.
- I have included information, if applicable, that identifies myself as a candidate from an underrepresented population or non-traditional candidate of study abroad: ethnicity-based, first-generation college student, disability, served as a veteran or are currently enrolled in ROTC. Please refer to [Gilman Fast Facts](#) page.
- I have included and discussed, if applicable, academic information that marks me as a student engaging in a high impact practice preferred by Gilman: STEM major, doing a service learning program or internship, participating in an intensive language program or studying a critical language.
- I have contextualized this information through personal examples, storytelling of my personal background, and how my background will reflect on my upcoming intercultural experience. I have stated not only what I will learn from an intercultural experience abroad, but possibly what others might learn from me.
- I have included language that shows reflection and will engage the reader: Examples: "Previously, I thought," "Initially, I felt," "I questioned", "I discovered", "I realized", "This understanding can be important to me because", "The most significant aspect was..."

COMMUNITY IMPACT ESSAY (FOLLOW ON SERVICE PROPOSAL)

- I have consulted with the Office of Nationally Competitive Awards about areas in which I can promote study abroad on my campus.
- I have consulted with others (student groups, faculty members, non-campus organizations) about how I can promote study abroad to a particular audience.
- I have included relevant details about my project proposal, writing the essay as if it were a business plan. I have included:
 - details about promotional materials such as brochures, social media and how they might be organized (give details about different themes, chapters, sections, etc.)
 - number of people impacted through outreach and why I chose this particular group.
 - what are my end goals and measures of success.
- I have contextualized how others will gain from the follow on service project.
- I have discussed why the particular project is important to me and to those whom I will help.
- I articulated how my outreach is relevant to forwarding the Gilman Scholarship's mission.

BUILDING MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING ESSAY

- I have discussed my role as a citizen diplomat or cultural ambassador abroad, and how I will build mutual understanding between the people of your home community and the people of your host community? How will you do this in your program? Outside of your program during your free time?
- What do you hope citizens of your host country will learn about the U.S. through you? How might this be different than meeting Americans from other geographical locations or cultural backgrounds? What might you share with people in the U.S. when you come home?

FINAL CHECKS BEFORE SUBMISSION

- I have worked with others to help proofread my finished essays for grammatical errors.
- I have double-checked with Study Abroad and/or to make sure all program details are accurate including program title, host university, program dates, and cost.
- I have assigned Loc Le and Iris Blount as my UTSA certifying advisors.
- I have formatted my essay in the Gilman Scholarship portal, **but I have NOT submitted it**, so that the Office of Nationally Competitive Awards can check formatting and offer last minute suggestions.
- I have requested an unofficial or official transcript from transcript.utsa.edu that contains past courses and courses for current semester (Degree Works report is not accepted).



Contact

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