

STEPS TO APPLYING FOR A GILMAN SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship provides awards for U.S. citizen undergraduates who are receiving federal Pell Grant funding *or* are the child dependents of active-duty service members at a 2-year or 4-year college or university to participate in study abroad programs worldwide. The application process is competitive; to be successful, you should begin your application at least three weeks before the deadline to allow time to revise your essays several times and work with your Study Abroad Advisor and Writing Center Tutor to create a competitive application.

This handout is a guide, but official information regarding the scholarship is on the Gilman website.

Step 1: Learn

- Thoroughly review and read the Gilman website (gilmanscholarship.org), including program eligibility, essay prompts, etc.
- Sign up for a Gilman Scholarship Essay Workshop at <https://events.temple.edu/tags/gilman-scholarship>
- Go to <https://studyabroad.temple.edu/scholarships/benjamin-a-gilman-international-scholarship> and contact Education Abroad to schedule an advising appointment.

Step 2: Write!

- Begin crafting your Statement of Purpose and Community Impact essays following the tips below.

Statement of Purpose

A successful essay should:

- Mention any ways in which you personally fit into the mission of the Gilman Scholarship (see checklist on the other side).
- Clearly articulate how you plan to take advantage of specific opportunities available through your program and program location to help you achieve your academic, career and personal goals and enhance your experience (*i.e., volunteer work, student organizations, independent-study projects, internships, living with a host family, etc.*).
- Tell YOUR story and any challenges you've faced leading up to studying abroad. It's okay to be personal – the committee needs to get to know you through your essays.
- Adhere to the character limit and address all of the questions Gilman outlines.

Community Impact (2)

Building Mutual Understanding

- Define the ways in which you will represent and share what means to be an American abroad during your program.
- Identify how you will seek opportunities to become more culturally engaged with people from cultures different from your own.

Follow-on Service Project

- Be feasible, have clear and achievable goals, and defined steps to achieving those goals within one semester.
- Have a target population and specify which campus/community office, department, or organization you will work with in carrying out your project. It often works best if you are already connected to your target population in some way.
- Be unique to you, and utilize your special talents, background, knowledge, and skills.

Step 3: Begin Application and Collect Materials

- Begin your application on the Gilman website gilmanapplication.iie.org. When asked to select a Financial Aid Advisor, select any one from the drop down list. When asked to select a Study Abroad Advisor, select the Advisor with whom you are scheduled to meet or have met. If you do not meet with an advisor, you may select any of the advisors from our office.
- Collect your transcripts. You will need to order your **official Temple transcript** from the Registrar's office (www.temple.edu/registrar or the Transcript Request link in TUportal). Transcript processing times vary, so be sure to order your transcripts early. Once you have received your transcript, follow the [instructions on the](#)

[Gilman website to upload them to your application](#). You will also need to upload either official or unofficial* transcripts from any previously attended colleges/universities. *Unofficial transcripts may be issued from your previous institution or from your online student account, but copy/pasted versions are not acceptable.

Step 4: Receive Feedback

- If you would like additional support with your application, we recommend that you meet with a study abroad advisor to discuss your plan and review your application essay drafts. You will email your Gilman application essay drafts to your study abroad advisor before your appointment.
- Make an appointment at the Writing Center to receive guidance on the content and structure of your essays.

Step 5: Revise & Submit

- Revise your essays using the tips from your Study Abroad Advisor and Writing Center Tutor. Be sure to thoroughly proofread your essays before submitting them.
- Complete your Gilman Scholarship application and upload your essays and transcripts at gilmanapplication.iie.org.

Deadlines:

Check the Gilman website for the most up-to-date national deadlines, which are typically the first Tuesday in October for Spring and Summer early decision, and the first Tuesday in March for Fall, Summer and Academic Year.

Education Abroad's internal deadline to meet with an advisor to discuss essay revisions is always one week before the national deadline; visit the Gilman scholarship page on our website for updated deadlines:

<https://studyabroad.temple.edu/scholarships/benjamin-a-gilman-international-scholarship>

Gilman Diversity Mission:

The Gilman Scholarship Program aims to support students who have been traditionally under-represented in education abroad. Although the list below is not exhaustive, you can use it as a guide and check the boxes as they apply to you.

Examples of Students Traditionally Under-represented in Study Abroad:

- Students with high financial need
- Students of color
- Students of indigenous, aboriginal, AI/AN or First Nations heritage
- Students with disabilities
- Students in majors that are non-traditional among study abroad students (e.g. STEM fields or health professions, music, etc.)
- Students planning to study in non-traditional locations (i.e. outside of Western Europe, Australia and New Zealand)
- LGBTQ+ students
- First generation college students
- First generation US citizens
- Military veterans or ROTC members
- Student Athletes
- Non-traditionally aged students

In your personal statement, be sure to discuss your identity as a member of any of the groups above in connection to your decision to study abroad.