

Must be Pell-grant eligible to apply

Important Updates to the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program October 2025 Scholarship Cycle ~ Awards up to \$5,000 ~ <https://www.gilmanscholarship.org/>



Program Priorities

The Gilman Program priorities remain consistent since March 2025:

- *Veterans of military service*
- *First-time study abroad participants*

Other considerations:

- *Representation from all U.S. states and territories*
- *Career-readiness skills development through study and internships abroad*
- *Support of U.S. national security and economic prosperity*

These priorities guide the selection process. Veterans and first-time study abroad participants receive preference when other factors are equivalent.

✦ Note: Previous considerations such as first-generation students, minority-serving institutions, community colleges, and historically underrepresented groups are no longer program priorities.

Application Essays (October 2025 Cycle)

Applicants are now required to complete four short essays (maximum 500 words each). These replace the earlier three-essay structure.

1. Motivations for Studying or Interning Abroad

- Explain why a global academic or professional experience supports your academic and career goals.
- Describe why you selected your specific program and host country.

2. Knowledge and Skill Development

- Share examples of academic, professional, extracurricular, or volunteer experiences that have prepared you for success abroad.
- Explain the skills and knowledge you hope to develop through your program.

3. Gilman Scholars as Citizen Diplomats

- Discuss how you will represent the United States overseas and build meaningful connections with your host community.
- Describe strategies for showcasing what it means to be an American, with special consideration for opportunities to highlight the 250th anniversary of the United States.

4. Contributions to U.S. Communities and Follow-on Service Project Proposal

- Outline how you will share the knowledge and skills gained abroad upon returning to the United States.
- Propose a feasible Follow-on Service Project that highlights the role of international education in supporting U.S. competitiveness, prosperity, and national security.

Tips for Success

- Start early — applications require significant preparation.
- Work closely with your campus advisors and writing center.
- Be specific and reflective in your essays. Connect your experiences to career goals, U.S. national interests, and global engagement.
- Proofread carefully for spelling, grammar, and clarity.
- Submit well before the deadline.

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