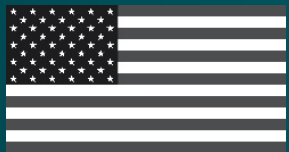




# CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP



CLS is a program of the U.S. Department of State, with funding provided by the U.S. Government.



# Welcome!



1. CLS Program overview
2. Benefits of participating
3. Application tips
4. Questions!

# What is CLS?

- Summer **study abroad** program
- For U.S. students in **all fields** to study critical languages
- **Fully-funded** by the U.S. Government



# Critical Language Scholarship Program



- Less-commonly taught and studied on U.S. campuses
- Critical to our engagement with the world, and to U.S. **national security** and **economic prosperity**
- Prepare U.S. students to compete in a **globalized workforce**

# Critical Language Scholarship Program

## No Experience Required

Azerbaijani

Bangla

Hindi

Indonesian

Persian

Punjabi

Swahili

Turkish

Urdu

## One Year of Study Required\*

Arabic

Korean

Portuguese

Russian

## Two Years of Study Required\*

Chinese

Japanese

**\*By the time you begin the program**

# Critical Language Scholarship Program



- **Fully-funded** by the U.S. government:
  - **Domestic travel** to Washington, D.C. for an orientation
  - Round-trip **international airfare**
  - Applicable **visa fees**
  - **Housing** and **meals**
  - Classroom **instruction**
  - **Cultural programming** and group trips
  - Undergraduate **academic credit** (Bryn Mawr College)

# Critical Language Scholarship Program

- Partner institutes each host up to 30 CLS students
- Everyone shares the **same weekly schedule**
  - **20 hours of language classes**
  - Cultural activities and local excursions
  - Weekend overnight group trips
- Designed for **language gains** and **cultural immersion**:
  - Students apply for a **language** (not a country)
  - Language policy
  - Most students live with host families
  - All students have a language partner



# Critical Language Scholarship Program



- CLS students participate together as a cohort
- Cohorts are **diverse**:
  - Different levels of experience with language and travel
  - Undergraduate and graduate students
  - Represent all types of institutions and regions of the U.S.
  - Over 40% identify as students of color (2019)
  - 24% Pell Grant recipients (financial need)
  - CLS does not discriminate on the basis of disability or medical condition
- A Resident Director oversees each site to offer support



# Program Benefits

- Make **rapid gains in language skills**:
  - Students complete two semesters worth of coursework (and receive academic credit)
  - Students receive certified OPI certificate at the end of the program to demonstrate progress
- **Advance your career**:
  - Many U.S. companies give advantage to candidates with language skills
  - Studying abroad builds experience in **problem solving, communication**, and other **employable skills**



# Program Benefits



- Build **international relationships**:
  - Immersive cultural experience
  - Learn to effectively collaborate and communicate with people in cross-cultural settings
- Join a network of **successful alumni**:
  - Department of State alumni resources and events
  - Alumni receive **non-competitive eligibility** for U.S. government jobs

# Apply for Summer 2021

- **Start your application now!**
- Apply for **one language only**
  - Not for a specific country or site
- Applicants must prepare:
  - Unofficial transcripts
  - **One recommendation form**
  - Four Short Answer Essays (200-300 words)
  - Personal Statement (500 words)

Online application at  
[www.clscholarship.org/apply](http://www.clscholarship.org/apply)

Deadline:  
**November 17, 2020**  
8:00 PM EST

# How to Succeed



## Ideal candidates:

- Come from **ALL** academic disciplines
- Come from **ALL** backgrounds, and are interested in representing the U.S. abroad
- Demonstrate that they understand the program and are **prepared to succeed**
- Show that they are excited and **motivated** to begin or continue learning a critical language
- Make a clear connection between the **target language and their future career plans**

# How to Succeed

- **Do your homework**
  - Do research to connect the career path you are on to one of these languages/ cultures
  - Watch the CLS application tips video
- **Seek help on your campus!**
  - Study abroad, fellowships, and scholarships offices
  - Teaching faculty
  - Academic advisors
  - Writing centers



# Timeline



- Application: Open Now!
- Application Deadline: **November 17, 8:00pm EST**
- Recommendation Due: November 20
- Semifinalist Notification: Late January
- Finalist Notification: March
- Programs Begin: June

Online application at  
[www.clscholarship.org/apply](http://www.clscholarship.org/apply)

# Questions?

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