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Webinar Overview

• CLS Background & Application Requirements

• Recruitment Goals for Student Advisors

• CLS Application Questions

• Strategies for Success

• Recruiting for CLS

• Conclusion and Q&A
What is CLS?

- **Program objective**: Broaden the base of Americans studying and mastering critical languages.

- Group-based summer program
  - June – August
  - About 15 to 35 CLS participants per institute

- Intensive study
  - One year of college study
  - 20 hours of class per week
  - Language partners
  - Cultural program

- Not a research, independent study, or internship program

- The CLS Program is a program of the U.S. Department of State
CLS: Eligibility Requirements

- U.S. citizen
- Enrolled as an undergraduate or graduate student in U.S.-based university degree program at time of application;
- 18 years old and have completed at least first year of college-level study by beginning of CLS Program;
- All backgrounds and disciplines are eligible;
- Some programs require previous language study.
# Fourteen Languages Offered

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language Level</th>
<th>Beginning</th>
<th>Advanced Beginning</th>
<th>Intermediate</th>
<th>Advanced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Azerbaijani</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bangla</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
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<td>✗</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hindi</td>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indonesian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Korean</td>
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<td>Persian</td>
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<td>Punjabi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Russian</td>
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<td>✗</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swahili</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urdu</td>
<td>✓</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
What does “intensive” mean?

• Academically challenging
• Less independence
• Packed schedule
• New culture and environment
• Physical and mental exhaustion
• Cultural immersion: misunderstandings and insights
**An Average Week in CLS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Morning</th>
<th>Afternoon</th>
<th>Evening-10pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Class (9:00-1:00)</td>
<td>Cultural Class</td>
<td>Study; free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Class (9:00-1:00)</td>
<td>Language Partner (1.5 hr)</td>
<td>Study; free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Class (9:00-1:00)</td>
<td>Cultural Class</td>
<td>Study; free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Class (9:00-1:00)</td>
<td>Language Partner (1.5 hr)</td>
<td>Study; free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Class (9:00-1:00)</td>
<td>free</td>
<td>Study; free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Cultural excursion</td>
<td>Cultural excursion</td>
<td>free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>free</td>
<td>free</td>
<td>free</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 2 hours of homework/night. Curfew is at 10pm every night.
- Local cultural excursions will take students to sites in the city approximately once every two weeks on a weekday afternoon or weekend
- Overnight cultural excursions will take place on one weekend
- Students will have approximately two free weekends
CLS: Application Information

• Online application at clscholarship.org
• Application opens in October
• Application due late November
• Apply for one language only
• Unofficial transcripts
• Two letters of recommendation
• Essays
CLS: Program Benefits

- **Domestic travel** to and from Washington for pre-departure orientation (required)
- **International travel** to and from the host country
- Applicable **visa fees**
- Group-based **intensive language instruction**
- **Housing and meals**
- **Cultural excursions and activities** in host country
- **U.S. academic credit** through Bryn Mawr College for undergrads
Opportunity to study – and make rapid gains in – a critical-needs foreign language.

Structured study abroad programs, such as CLS, make overseas & language immersion experiences accessible and supportive to students from all backgrounds.

Proficiency in a critical language opens doors to graduate research and employment opportunities, including careers in government and national security.
Tips for a Successful CLS Application

3 Main Points to Convey to an Applicant:

1) CLS Program ➔ Your Future Career

2) Why should YOU be selected?

3) Demonstrate that you will be a successful CLS participant.
To demonstrate how studying CLS target language will contribute to your future career, consider the following:

- What is your field of study and how is it related to CLS target language?
- What are your career goals? Be specific.
- How are you planning to use CLS target language in your future career?
- How are you planning to use acquired cultural knowledge in your future career?
- How will your knowledge of CLS target language contribute to your professional field?
- Paint a clear picture of specific goals and exactly how CLS helps you meet those goals.
Why should YOU be selected?

To persuade the readers that you should be selected, consider the following:

- What distinguishes you from other applicants?
- What are your biggest achievements?
- What unique background and experiences will you bring to the program?
- As a CLS participant, how will you represent the United States abroad?
- How are you going to share your culture and a broad view of the United States with your peers and host family abroad?
Show that you will be a successful CLS participant

To prove that you will be a successful CLS participant, consider the following LINGUISTIC components:

- If you have studied the target language before....
  - Have you taken an official course?
  - Have you learned on your own through family, friends, or self-study?

- If you have not studied the target language before....
  - How can you show your potential to succeed in intensive language classes?
  - What steps have you taken to pursue your curiosity in this language, or culture or social context where this language is spoken? What is the connection? There should be something to expand on!

- How are you going to maintain and develop your proficiency in your CLS language after the program?
Show that you will be a successful CLS participant

To prove that you will be a successful CLS participant, consider the following CULTURAL components:

- Have you had any experiences interacting with people from other cultures or with people who hold worldviews and opinions that are very different from your own?

- Have you had experiences traveling or studying in a new environment?

- What do you think will be the biggest challenge you will face on the CLS Program?
The CLS Program is an intensive, group-based overseas learning environment. While on the program, you may frequently be exhausted from adapting to a new environment, studying intensively, attending mandatory cultural activities that may not always align perfectly with your interests, building new relationships with people from the host country and your CLS peers, and functioning day-to-day in another language.

• What aspects of the CLS Program do you expect will be the most challenging for you?
  
• How will you meet these challenges?
The basic question here is: How will you handle the intensive, immersive, highly structured learning environment of CLS?

A successful essay will acknowledge the challenges of this environment and explain why you think it is nonetheless the right environment for you. You must demonstrate:

- An awareness of what you are getting into and a desire to commit fully to the program with all its challenges.
- Flexibility, resilience, and openness to new experiences.
- Perseverance, commitment, and strategies for coping with stress.
- How you will make a positive contribution to the group dynamic.
CLS Application Questions

Short Answer Question #2 (350 words)

Living in a different culture exposes you to new opinions, worldviews, and ways of living day-to-day that may be completely different from what you have experienced previously. Among other things, you might find that there are differences in concepts of personal space, privacy, and time; socially acceptable behaviors; the role of the individual in society; and others.

• What are your strategies for interacting with people who are different from you or situations that are unfamiliar?
• How do you approach new environments?
The fundamental question here is: How will you cope with the unique stresses of living in another cultural milieu?

A successful essay will acknowledge the challenges of this environment and describe strategies for coping.

- What challenges do you anticipate, and how you will deal with them? (This is also an opportunity to show what you know about the culture!)
- Do you have a hobby or interest that can offer a refuge in times of stress?
- Can you demonstrate humility, sense of humor, ability to cope with ambiguity or miscommunication?
- Can you tolerate situations in which you have to conform to cultural norms that differ from your own (diet, dress, gender roles, privacy, etc.)
- PS – Do not use the expression “When in Rome...”
The CLS Program is committed to developing relationships between the people of the United States and other countries, and to building a broad and diverse foundation of Americans who speak critical languages at a high level. The CLS Program seeks to reflect the diversity of the U.S. undergraduate and graduate population in the broadest sense. CLS Program participants represent a wide diversity of experience and backgrounds, including race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, geographic region, socio-economic status, disability (physical or mental), sexual orientation and gender identity, among others. They also represent a wide range of U.S. institutions of higher education, including community colleges, liberal arts institutions, research universities, and Minority-Serving Institutions (HBCUs, HSIs, and Tribal Colleges).

• What unique background and life experience do you bring to the CLS Program?
• How will your unique perspectives contribute to the group you study with?
  • How will your participation in the program provide your host community abroad with a broad view of the United States?
This question offers an opportunity for you to highlight the unique perspectives and experiences you bring to CLS as a person and as an American. The question suggests some examples of “diversity,” but you may go beyond these if you wish.

• Don’t just say what you “are,” explain how your background and experiences will help you bring something special to the group dynamic and to your interaction (as an American) with people in the host society. Think about what distinguishes you from most other applicants?

• How will you interact with people from the host country as a representative of the United States abroad? How will you represent the United States abroad? What aspects of your character, identity, or personal story do you feel are uniquely American? What aspects of your background would you like to share with people you meet in the host society – including both “typically American” things and things that might challenge stereotypes about Americans? How are you going to share your culture and a broad view of the United States with your peers and host family abroad?
The CLS Program seeks to support students who are committed to acquiring a high level of linguistic and cultural knowledge after participating in the CLS Program.

• What formal and informal efforts do you plan to undertake to build upon your linguistic and cultural knowledge after participating in the CLS Program?
This brief question is focused exclusively on your post-CLS plans:

- If your language is not offered at your home institution (or not at a high enough level, or you will not be able to register for the class for any reason, or you will not be a student anymore...) DO YOUR HOMEWORK and figure out your options.
  - These can include: independent study, courses & lessons outside your university, internet resources, language partner or meet-up language group, involvement in local immigrant community, and so on. Be creative!

- If your future plans include graduate study, seek out institutions where you can study your chosen language.

- Remember that reviewers will know what resources are out there.
CLS Application Questions

Statement of Purpose (500 words)

Please address the following questions in your statement of purpose essay:

• Why is it important that the CLS Program invest specifically in you with this scholarship?

• What interests you about this language and the people who speak it?

• How will increased language and cultural knowledge help you achieve your future professional and academic goals?
CLS Application Questions

Statement of Purpose

Regarding Language Interest:

• Describe in a straightforward way how you became interested in your chosen language, culture, and/or region.

• What you have done up to now to cultivate this interest? (Why should CLS “invest” in you if you are not invested?) If your language study opportunities have been limited, describe other ways in which you have pursued your interest.

Regarding Academic and Professional Goals

• Describe your academic and professional goals, both short and long term. Why is mastery of THIS language central to YOUR academic and professional goals?

• Why is NOW the right time for you to participate in CLS?

• Focus on the type of work that interests you, not a specific job title or employer.

• What are your longer-term intentions with regard to the language and the host country/region?
Contact Information

Website:
clscholarship.org

Facebook:
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YouTube:
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