

BENJAMIN E. GILMAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION SESSION

Academic Honors and Fellowships Office

University of Southern California

February 18, 2016

REQUIREMENTS GILMAN SCHOLARSHIP

- ▶ U.S. citizen
- ▶ Undergraduate student
- ▶ Federal Pell Grant Recipient
- ▶ Study Abroad program



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- ▶ Are multi-country programs eligible?
- ▶ Can I receive the scholarship more than once?
- ▶ I have submitted an application to my chosen study abroad program, but will not receive notification of acceptance until after the application deadline for the Gilman Scholarship Program, can I still apply?
- ▶ I have not studied overseas for undergraduate academic credit before, but I did travel and/or live overseas before. Should I indicate this on my application?



STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: PROMPT

- ▶ Why do you wish to study or intern abroad and what factors led you to this decision? What do you hope to gain from and what do you anticipate will be the impact of your experience abroad? What impact will my choice of country have on my experience abroad? What initially inspired me to want to study abroad in this particular country or learn this language? What factors led to my choice of country of study?
- ▶ Describe your study or intern abroad program. What factors led you to select this program and length of study?
- ▶ Why have you chosen your country of study? What factors led you to select this country?
- ▶ How will this study or intern abroad program and the coursework you take abroad impact your academic and future professional goals?
- ▶ Are there any distinctive components to this program, beyond coursework, that will impact your overall learning experience abroad? (i.e. home-stays, internships, field research, volunteer activities, extra-curricular activities, etc.)
- ▶ What challenges, if any, did you face in your decision to study or intern abroad? How did you meet these challenges and what impact do you foresee them having on your experience abroad? These could include, but are not limited to, being a parent, being a non-traditional student, having a learning or physical disability, being in a field of study for which it is difficult to incorporate study abroad, etc.



STATEMENT OF PURPOSE TIPS: WHAT MAKES AN ESSAY STRONG AND COMPELLING?

- ▶ Focus less on the program
- ▶ Personal
- ▶ Challenges you have overcome
- ▶ Weaknesses and Strengths
- ▶ Ask people who really know you well to read over your essays
- ▶ Use resources: peers, professors, advisors, writing center (THH 216)
- ▶ Tell your truth



STATEMENT OF PURPOSE TIPS: QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER WHEN WRITING PERSONAL STATEMENT

- ▶ Why is the program applicable to you?
- ▶ How is this program going to benefit you career wise?
- ▶ How is the program personally tied to you?
- ▶ What do you want to achieve through this scholarship?
- ▶ What personal event/ experience made you want to go to a particular country?
- ▶ What are you going to bring back when coming back from your study abroad trip?



FOLLOW ON PROJECT PROPOSAL: PROMPT

- ▶ Briefly outline your proposed project to promote the Gilman Scholarship and international education. How will this project impact your home university or home community? What are your project goals?
- ▶ What is your target population and how will your project impact this group?
- ▶ How will you integrate the impact of your experiences abroad into your project?
- ▶ What, if any, campus departments, student organizations, and/or community organizations will you collaborate with in promoting the Gilman Scholarship and international education? Have you already made contact with these groups?
- ▶ Upon completion of your project you will be required to submit a two-page final report summarizing your experience abroad and the impact of your Follow-on project.



FOLLOW ON PROJECT PROPOSAL TIPS: WHAT MAKES A GOOD FOLLOW ON SERVICE PROJECT?

- ▶ Country
- ▶ Community that you are returning too
- ▶ Major
- ▶ Originality
- ▶ Paying it Forward



GILMAN ALUMNI: TIPS FOR ESSAY



- ▶ Description of the study abroad program
- ▶ Description of how long the program will enhance your education
- ▶ Description of how your program will help you enhance your long term goals
- ▶ Description of how this scholarship will help you financially
- ▶ Embrace your diversity
- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOHaK48AcHI&feature=youtu.be>

QUESTIONS



NEXT WRITING WORKSHOP

- ▶ Writing Workshop (bring in essay drafts):
- ▶ Date: February 23, 2016
- ▶ Time: 2:00pm-3:00pm
- ▶ Location: STU 300



CONTACT INFORMATION

- ▶ Katherine Ampaw, Gilman Scholarship Advisor
 - ▶ Email: akkther@usc.edu
 - ▶ Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:00am- 3:00pm and Thursday's, Fridays 10:00am- 3:00pm
 - ▶ Location: Academic Honors and Fellowships Office (STU 300)

 - ▶ Gelli Ann Dayrit, Gilman Scholarship Alumni
 - ▶ Email: Gdayrit@usc.edu
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