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
Application Tips

• Start your application now!

• Apply for one language only
  • Not for a specific country or site

• Applicants must prepare:
  • Unofficial transcripts
  • Two recommendation forms
  • Four Short Answer Essays (200-300 words)
  • Personal Statement (500 words)

Online application at www.clscholarship.org/apply

Deadline:
November 19, 2019
8:00 PM EST
Application Tips

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**
Application Tips

- 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 19, 8:00pm EST**
  • Don’t wait until the last minute!!

• Two recommendations due: November 22

• Notification: Early March

• Programs begin: June
Additional Study Abroad Resources

- studyabroad.state.gov
- Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship
- Fulbright U.S. Student Program
Questions?

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CLScholarship.org