



2020 Critical Language Scholarship Program

Selection Criteria

Commitment to Language Learning

Successful applicants:

- Articulate a motivation for learning the language for which they are applying.
- Show that they have leveraged available resources to develop appropriate foreign language skills and cultural knowledge for the CLS Program.
- Show commitment to further developing their language skills and cultural knowledge after participating in the CLS Program.

Connection between Language and Goals

Successful applicants:

- Show that the specific language and cultural knowledge they gain on the CLS Program will have an impact on their academic, personal and professional development.
- Show that the language and cultural knowledge they gain is integral to their future plans.

Preparation for the CLS Program

Successful applicants:

- Show that they understand the challenges of the CLS Program as a group-based, intensive academic study abroad program, and that they are prepared to meet these challenges.
- Articulate how their academic, professional and personal experiences have prepared them to succeed on the CLS Program.

Adaptability, Sensitivity and Resilience

Successful applicants:

- Exhibit maturity and self-awareness when considering potential challenges they may face abroad.
- Show the ability to interact with people and situations that require adaptation.

Contribution to the CLS Program and Program Goals

Successful applicants:

- Have considered what their unique experiences, perspectives and/or background might contribute to the program.
- Make a good case for how they will contribute to the mission of building mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of their host communities.

Additional Considerations

All other factors being equal, the CLS Program gives preference to veterans of the United States armed forces.

All other factors being equal, applicants are selected with the goal of representing geographic diversity and a diversity of institutions and fields of study.

Preference may be given to candidates with limited or no previous study abroad experience.