



2023 CLS Spark Virtual Institutes

Application Form

Campus Advisors Acknowledgement and Consent	3
Section 1: Application Instructions.....	4
How to Apply	4
Paper Applications	4
Questions?	4
Section 2: Program Overview and Requirements	5
Eligibility	5
Participation Requirements	6
Additional Requirements.....	6
Privacy Policy and Use of Personal Data	7
Program Benefits.....	7
Selection Process.....	7
Section 3: Eligibility	8
Section 4: Language Choice	10
Section 5: Biographical Information	11
Permanent Address and Congressional District.....	12
Current Contact Information.....	12
Section 6: Current Academic Information.....	14
Spring 2023.....	15
Fall 2023.....	15
Section 7: Transcript and Grades	16
Section 8: Previous Academic Information.....	17
Section 9: Language Study and Travel.....	18
Target Language Experience.....	18
Target Language Travel	19
International Travel	19
Other Language Study.....	19

Please submit your application using the online application system at <https://clscholarship.org/apply>

Section 10: Previous Programs, Activities, Honors, and Fellowships	20
CLS Program Awards	20
U.S. Government Programs	21
Honors and Fellowships	21
Activities and Employment	21
Section 11: Short Essays	23
Access to Language Learning Opportunities	24
Section 12: Statistical Information.....	25
Section 13: Review and Submit.....	28
Final Review of Application	28
Certification.....	28
Additional Information.....	28

Please submit your application using the online application system at <https://clscholarship.org/apply>

Campus Advisors Acknowledgement and Consent

The CLS Program works with faculty members and administrators at colleges and universities across the United States who assist students with the CLS application process. As part of the application process, we share your name, email address, and information about your degree program and the language for which you are applying with the designated advisor(s) at your school. The advisor(s) may reach out to you to offer assistance and encourage you to submit an application.

We also encourage you to reach out to CLS advisors on your campus proactively. You can search for CLS advisors on your campus on the CLS Program website (<https://clscholarship.org>). If you do not have a CLS advisor on your campus, or if you would like additional assistance, staff at your school's study abroad department, fellowships advising office, honors program, career advising office, and/or your academic advisor may be good resources. Your school may also have a writing center that would be happy to work with you on your application. Do a little research and you can make your application the best that it can be!

Please enter all the information requested below, and then press the "Save and Continue" button to proceed to the CLS application. You may change your answers to these questions at any time during the application period by editing them on the application form.

Your choice to continue indicates your consent to have this information shared as described. Please see our Privacy Policy for more information about how the CLS Program protects your information:

<https://clscholarship.org/privacy-policy>.

I have reviewed the CLS website and identified an advisor and/or other resources on my campus who can assist me in understanding the CLS Program and preparing an effective application.

- Yes
- No

Please submit your application using the online application system at <https://clscholarship.org/apply>

Section 1: Application Instructions

How to Apply

- **Eligibility:** Check the eligibility requirements at www.clscholarship.org/applicants/eligibility.
- **Online Application:** Complete and submit the application form online, along with unofficial copies of your transcripts with grades from your current school and any previous universities attended within the last five years. Transcripts should be in text or PDF format and may **not** be digitally signed (official e-transcripts cannot be processed correctly). Applications are due November 15, 2022 at 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time.
- **Technical Problems:** Any technical problems with the application form should be reported by email to cls@americancouncils.org.

Detailed instructions for the CLS Program Application: <https://clscholarship.org/assets/resources/2023-CLS-Program-Application-Instructions.pdf>.

Do not wait until the due date to submit your application. Submitting your application before the due date allows time to resolve any technical difficulties or last-minute questions.

The CLS Program strongly encourages you to submit your application well in advance of the application deadline. **The CLS Program and American Councils for International Education bear no responsibility for data transmission problems in submitting the application.**

Paper Applications

Only if you are unable to submit any portion of your application materials online, you may submit them by mail. Those documents must be received at American Councils for International Education by November 15, 2022.

If you must submit a paper application, materials should be sent by certified post to American Councils at the following address:

ATTN: CLS Program
American Councils for International Education
1828 L St NW, Suite 1200
Washington DC 20036-5136

Questions?

For information about the CLS Program, please visit www.clscholarship.org

Please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions page (<https://clscholarship.org/fags>) for more information on common questions that arise during the application process.

Contact CLS Program staff during normal business hours, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. U.S. Eastern Time, Monday-Friday, toll-free at: 1-877-257-9922

Toll-free number: 1-877-257-9922

Email: cls@americancouncils.org

Section 2: Program Overview and Requirements

CLS Spark Program, an initiative of CLS, is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government. It is supported in its implementation by American Councils for International Education.

CLS Spark provides opportunities for American undergraduate college and university students to study Arabic, Chinese and Russian virtually at the beginning level. Designed to leverage best practices in online language learning, CLS Spark provides American undergraduate students the opportunity to study critical languages virtually when they may not have access to language learning on their campuses or the ability to study abroad.

The CLS Program reserves the right to change or cancel any or all program institutes based on safety, health, and security considerations, and other factors.

Eligibility

To be eligible for CLS Spark applicants must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or national at the time of their application.
 - Others, including Permanent Residents, are not eligible, even if they anticipate naturalization by the beginning of the program.
- Be at least 18 years old by May 15, 2023.
- Be enrolled in an accredited U.S. degree-granting program at the undergraduate (associate, bachelor's) level at the time of their application.
 - Applicants must be enrolled in a program that results in a degree. Applicants who are taking stand-alone or continuing education classes are not eligible.
 - Applicants must be enrolled at an accredited U.S. institution. Students earning degrees at foreign institutions that are not based in the U.S. or its territories are not eligible, even if those institutions are accredited by a recognized U.S. accrediting agency.
 - Applicants must complete at least one full year of study (two semesters or three quarters) by the beginning of the CLS Program in Summer 2023.
 - Students at the graduate level (master's, doctoral or professional degree programs) are not eligible to apply for CLS Spark institutes (Beginning Chinese, Beginning Russian and Beginning Arabic).
 - Applicants must be enrolled at this institution in the fall term of 2022. There are limited exceptions to the enrollment requirement; please read the following information carefully:
 - If applicants are not taking classes at their home institution in the fall term, they should confirm that they are, in fact, enrolled. Institutions have different requirements to maintain enrollment status and applicants will be required to provide a signed letter from their **registrar** stating that they were enrolled during the fall term.
 - If applicants are taking a leave of absence to participate in an organized term- or year-long study abroad program, or to participate in a substantive internship program, they may request an exception to the enrollment requirement. Exceptions may only be granted in these two cases, and decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis
 - **In either case, they must submit a signed letter from their home college or university in the U.S. explaining their situation and their intent to re-enroll following the completion of their study abroad or internship program. They must also submit documentation from the program provider explaining the opportunity and confirming their participation. This documentation may be submitted to American Councils by email at cls@americancouncils.org.**

Please submit your application using the online application system at <https://clscholarship.org/apply>

- Applicants must successfully complete academic requirements for the fall term in order to remain eligible for the CLS Program. Applicants who withdraw or fail to maintain a passing grade average are not eligible to participate in the program.
- Applicants must have no formal classroom training in the languages offered (Beginning Chinese, Beginning Russian and Beginning Arabic).
- Applicants may only apply once, for one language, each year. Applicants who submit multiple applications will be considered ineligible.

The following persons are ineligible for the CLS Program:

- Individuals who have been selected for and participated in the CLS Program (CLS Program alumni);
- Employees of the U.S. Department of State who work in offices under the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Academic Programs, in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), for a period ending one year following the termination of such employment;
- Employees of private and public agencies under contract or grant with the U.S. Department of State who perform services related to the Critical Language Scholarship Program, for a period ending one year following the termination of their services; or
- Immediate family members (i.e., spouses and dependent children) of the individuals described in the above paragraphs, for a period ending one year following the termination of such employment or service. This provision does not disqualify self-supporting members of families who live apart from their parents..

These provisions do not extend to part-time or temporary employees, consultants, or interns of the U.S. Department of State (including at U.S. Embassies and Consulates), or to contract employees of the U.S. Department of State, unless such persons perform services related to the Critical Language Scholarship Program.

Participation Requirements

With reasonable accommodations, participants in CLS Spark must:

- Have reliable Internet access to some type of electronic device to participate in live classes weekly including the ability to be on camera and use a microphone;
- Complete pre-program orientation virtual sessions (both recorded and live);
- Complete pre-program assessments and surveys, where applicable;
- Maintain an 80% rate of attendance and completion of homework assignments;
- Complete mid- and post-program surveys; and
- Complete post-program proficiency testing..

Additional Requirements

If you are selected for a CLS Spark award, as a requirement of your participation, you must agree to the terms and conditions of the award. You may review a sample of the terms and conditions from a previous year. The award terms and conditions are revised on an annual basis and may change before the start of the program.

Terms and Conditions of Award

https://clscholarship.org/assets/resources/2022-CLS-Terms-and-Conditions_Virtual.pdf

Please submit your application using the online application system at <https://clscholarship.org/apply>

Privacy Policy and Use of Personal Data

Your privacy is important to us. American Councils for International Education (American Councils) follows a few fundamental principles with regards to your data.

- We are thoughtful about the personal information we ask you to provide and the personal information that we collect about you.
- We store personal information for only as long as we have a reason to keep it.
- We aim for transparency on how we gather, use, and share your personal information.

By starting an application to the CLS Program, you agree to our privacy policy, which incorporates and clarifies these principles. You can review our full privacy policy at <https://clscholarship.org/privacy-policy>.

Program Benefits

Participants in CLS Spark will receive:

- Language instruction and cultural programming;
- Textbooks and language learning materials;
- Language gains certified using the widely recognized ACTFL OPI (Oral Proficiency Interview) assessment;
- Non-competitive eligibility for U.S. government employment for up to three years after program completion;
- Academic credit issued through Bryn Mawr College; and
- A stipend towards supplemental equipment and connectivity costs (for example, a web camera or microphone).

The following expenses will *not* be covered:

- The cost of necessary equipment (for example, a new laptop);
- The cost of phone or internet connectivity plans;
- Living expenses; or
- Physical and mental health expenses.

Selection Process

Applicants for CLS Spark will be selected on the basis of merit, with consideration for the following:

- The impact of participation in CLS Spark on their access to language and intercultural learning opportunities;
- Preparation for CLS Spark, including interest in learning a language and culture and capacity to successfully complete a long-term online language program;
- Motivation, including articulated personal, academic, and professional goals and consideration of how participation in CLS Spark may contribute to the achievement of those goals; and
- Potential for leadership and citizen diplomacy, including interest in problem-solving and ability to contribute to ECA's mission to build mutual understanding.

Preference will be given to veterans of the U.S. armed forces, and to applicants from institutions historically underrepresented in study abroad, including community colleges, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs).

Please submit your application using the online application system at <https://clscholarship.org/apply>

Applicants will be selected with the goal of representing geographic diversity and a diversity of institutions and fields of study.

All applicants will be contacted in **late January** by email with a notification of whether their application passed the initial review process.

Finalists, alternates, and non-recipients will be notified of their statuses by email in **early March**.

Those selected for the award will have approximately two weeks to accept or decline. Alternates are promoted on a rolling basis throughout the spring.

Finalists and alternates will receive further information on program requirements at this time.

Read the full selection criteria at <https://clscholarship.org/applicants/selection>.

Section 3: Eligibility

Please refer to the Eligibility Requirements listed in Section 2:

1) I am a U.S. citizen or national (including naturalized U.S. citizen).

- Yes
- No

2) I will be at least 18 years old by May 15, 2023.

- Yes
- No

3) I am currently enrolled in a degree-granting program.

Note that applicants for CLS Spark must be enrolled at the undergraduate level

- Yes
- No

3a) If no, please explain

Maximum of 100 words allowed.

4) Are you currently taking a leave of absence?

- Yes
- No

4a) If yes, please explain below. Students on a leave of absence during the fall semester are only eligible if they are participating in an organized semester- or year-long study abroad program or a substantive internship program and intend to re-enroll following its completion.

Note that you will be required to submit documentation of your study abroad or internship program and a signed letter from your home college or university in the U.S. explaining your situation and your intention to re-enroll following the completion of your program. This documentation should be submitted to American Councils at cls@americancouncils.org no later than November 18, 2022.

Maximum of 100 words allowed.

Please submit your application using the online application system at <https://clscholarship.org/apply>

5) My institution is an accredited institution based in the United States. (Note: Students earning degrees at foreign colleges or universities that are not based in the United States or its territories are not eligible.)

- Yes
- No

6) By the program start date (summer 2023), I will have completed at least one academic year of study at the undergraduate level (two semesters or three quarters).

- Yes
- No

7) I am submitting only one CLS Program application for only one language.

- Yes

8) I certify that I have reviewed the eligibility requirements, and that I am eligible to apply for the CLS Program.

A full description of the eligibility requirements is available at <https://clscholarship.org/applicants/eligibility>

- Yes

9) Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?

All other factors being equal, the CLS Program gives preference to veterans of the armed forces. Active duty members of the military do not qualify for a veteran's preference. If you respond yes to this question, you will be required to attach a copy of your DD214 or NGB-22 Form as proof of your veteran status.

- Yes
- No
- Decline to State

9a) If yes, attach a copy of your DD214 or NGB-22 Form as proof of your veteran status.

Section 4: Language Choice

CLS Spark provides instruction in three critical languages only as virtual instruction (no travel).

Language	Beginner (No Prior Language Study Required)	Advanced Beginner (Requires One Year of Prior Study)	Intermediate and Advanced (Requires Two Years of Prior Study)
Arabic	✓		
Chinese	✓		
Russian	✓		

CLS Spark is a **virtual program** and participants in Spark do not study abroad. Participants who complete CLS Spark are considered automatic semifinalists for the CLS Program the year following their completion of CLS Spark, if they choose to apply.

Instruction in CLS Spark is restricted to the beginning level only, and intended for students who have no previous formal classroom experience learning the language

1) Indicate the Language for which you are applying.

Section 5: Biographical Information

1) Applicant Name (please provide your preferred name that you would like to be called)

2) Is your legal name different from your preferred name?

- Yes
- No

2a) Legal name (if different, the name on your government-issued ID)

3) Have you had a different legal name before?

- Yes
- No

2a) Previous legal name used

4) Gender

Please select the option that best describes your gender. This information will not be shared with application evaluators.

- Female
- Male
- Non-binary
- I do not wish to respond

5) Date of Birth

6) Place of Birth

Birth City:

Birth State/Province/Region:

Birth Country:

7) Do you hold dual citizenship with another country?

- Yes
- No

6a) If yes, please indicate other citizenship country.

8) Are you a naturalized U.S. citizen?

Naturalized citizens are eligible for the CLS Program, but must be naturalized by the date of the application deadline, November 15, 2022. For more information about naturalization, please visit the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website (<https://www.uscis.gov/>).

- Yes
- No

8a) If yes, please provide date of naturalization.

Please submit your application using the online application system at <https://clscholarship.org/apply>

Permanent Address and Congressional District

Please enter your permanent residential address, at which you are eligible to register to vote. The CLS Program reports to members of Congress when constituents from their states or districts receive a CLS award. Your address should fall within the congressional district you indicate.

9) Permanent Residential Address

For example, if you live in Rhode Island but attend school in Illinois, then please indicate your address in Rhode Island.

Street Address:

City:

Province/State/Governorate:

Country:

Postal/ZIP Code:

10) U.S. Congressional District

To find your congressional district, please visit <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

10a) State/Territory

10b) District

Indicate the district number for your Congressional district.

Enter "At Large" for states with only one Congressional representative (Alaska, Delaware, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming), and for the District of Columbia and U.S. territories (American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands)

Current Contact Information

If you are selected to participate in the program, we will contact you using the information that you enter here, so please provide contact information that you will be available at through the summer of 2023. If you are selected, you will have an opportunity to update your contact information at that time.

11) Primary Telephone Number

Will be used for duration of program, through October 2023.

12) Would you like to receive automated status updates and reminders about your application via text message?

The primary telephone number listed above may be used to contact you. Standard texting rates apply. You may stop text alerts at any point.

Yes

13) Alternate Telephone Number

*We will only contact you at this number if we are unable to reach you and there is important or time-sensitive information to share. We **strongly recommend** you enter an alternate number or the number of a close friend or family member.*

Please submit your application using the online application system at <https://clscholarship.org/apply>

14) Primary Email Address

*This email address will be used to inform you of your selection status in January and March, 2023. We recommend **not** using your university address, because it might expire when you graduate.*

15) Alternate Email Address

Such as your university address.

Section 6: Current Academic Information

1) Current College or University Name

1a) Department, campus or school division, if applicable

2) University City and State

3) Start Date

4) Anticipated Date of Graduation (if applicable)

5) Type of Degree

- Undergraduate (Bachelor's or Associate's)
- Master's
- Doctoral (PhD)
- Professional Degree (DDS, MD, DO, PAC, JD, etc.)

6) What is the name of your current degree program?

For example, "Associate of General Studies," "BA in East Asian Studies," "Master of Public Health," or "Doctor of Philosophy in Education," or "Doctor of Dental Surgery."

7) Current or Anticipated Academic Major(s)

8) Are you a first term student in your degree program?

- Yes
- No

9) Type of term

- Quarters
- Semesters
- Other

9a) If other, please explain

9b) Number of Terms Completed at Time of Application

9c) What is Your GPA on the 4-Point Scale?

Please submit your application using the online application system at <https://clscholarship.org/apply>

Spring 2023

10) Will you be enrolled in courses at this college/university during the Spring 2023 academic term?

- Yes
- No

10a) When is the anticipated date of your last final exam?

11) Will you be studying abroad during the Spring 2023 academic term?

- Yes
- No

11a) If so, where?

(i) City

(ii) Country

12) Anticipated Spring 2023 Courses

Please list all courses you anticipate taking between January and June 2023

Fall 2023

13) Will you be enrolled in courses at this college/university during the fall 2023 academic term?

- Yes
- No

12a) If yes, when is the anticipated date of your first day of class for fall 2023?

Please submit your application using the online application system at <https://clscholarship.org/apply>

Section 7: Transcript and Grades

Please provide a list of the courses you have taken and the grades you have received at your current college or university.

Please note that anyone who is accepted to the CLS Program will be required to submit an official transcript at a later date to verify the information provided below. Significant discrepancies between the information provided in your CLS application and your official transcript will result in the revocation of the CLS award unless the institution verifies that a change (e.g., grade change, course removed, etc.) was made on your official record. Please contact us with any questions regarding the transcript reporting requirements.

Section 8: Previous Academic Information

1) Have you attended a college/university previous to your current school?

Yes

No

2) Please list all previous colleges and universities you attended. Include the following information:

a) Country

Please first tell us the country your institution was located in (including the United States)

b) College or University Name

c) Type of Program

Undergraduate (Bachelor's or Associate's)

Master's

Doctoral (PhD)

Professional Degree (DDS, MD, DO, PAC, JD, etc.)

Non-Degree

c(i) Degree Awarded

e.g., Bachelor of Arts, Master of Science, or Doctor of Education

c(ii) Date Degree Awarded

d) Field of Study

e) Start Date

f) End Date

g) Did you have a GPA for this study program?

Yes

No

g(i) If yes, what was Your GPA on the 4-Point Scale?

g(ii) If no, please explain

Maximum of 100 words allowed.

h) Attach Transcript

Section 9: Language Study and Travel

Target Language Experience

2) What have you already done, and what will you do prior to participation in the CLS Program, to learn the target language?

Check all that apply

- Interactions with friends or family members who speak the target language
- Personal history with the language or related dialect
- Private or small group study or tutoring in the target language
- Independent study or personal research efforts
- Other efforts or activities to gain linguistic and cultural knowledge in the target language
- Formal classes in college/university
- Formal classes in high school/elementary school
- Study abroad program
- I am a heritage speaker (family background in the language, practicing the language at home)
- Other (explain below)

2a) If "other", please explain

Maximum of 50 words allowed.

3) Please describe the activities you have undertaken including the frequency and number of hours, content, books or materials used, chapters or topics covered and level of engagement. If you are a heritage speaker, please indicate the degree of your language use at home.

Maximum of 150 words allowed.

Target Language Travel

4) Please provide information on any travel you have taken to countries where the target language is spoken. Include the following information:

- Country
- Year of Visit
- Sponsoring Organization (if any)
- Travel Duration
- Travel Purpose

International Travel

5) Please list all significant international travel opportunities you have participated in previously for the purposes of work or study, including the country name, reason for travel, and the approximate dates and length of your visit.

Other Language Study

6) Have you studied or do you speak languages other than English or your target language?

Yes

No

6a) List the other language(s) you speak or have studied. Include the following information:

- Language
- Primary Study Method
- Number of Years Spoken/Studied

Section 10: Previous Programs, Activities, Honors, and Fellowships

CLS Program Awards

1) Have you applied for the CLS Program in the past?

- Yes
- No

1a) If yes, have you received a CLS Program award in the past?

- I received a CLS award and completed the program
- I received a CLS award, but did not attend the program
- I received a CLS award but declined
- I received a CLS award but did not successfully complete the program
- No, I have not previously received a CLS award

1a(i) If you have received a previous CLS award, are you applying for the same language as the CLS Program you completed previously?

- Yes, I am applying for the same language as a CLS Program I completed previously
- No, I am applying for a different language from the CLS Program I completed previously

1a(i-i) If no, please explain how you are maintaining your language skills in the language for which you first received a CLS Award. Please address how learning an additional language will contribute to your academic and professional goals. Please comment on how you plan to use knowledge of both of these languages in your professional future.

Maximum of 150 words allowed.

1a(i) If did not attend or declined, please provide a short description of the reason that you declined the previous offer to participate in CLS. Please describe the difference that would allow you to participate in the program if awarded a CLS this year.

Minimum of 150 words required.

1a(i) If did not successfully complete, please provide a short description explaining why you had to withdraw or were asked to leave the CLS Program.

Maximum of 150 words allowed.

1a(i) If you completed the program previously, please explain why the CLS Program is the best way for you to continue your language study. Please comment on why your additional participation in CLS would be a good investment for the U.S. government.

Maximum of 150 words allowed.

Please submit your application using the online application system at <https://clscholarship.org/apply>

1b) Please indicate all CLS Programs attended from 2006-2022. Include the following information:

- Year
- Language
- Level
- City

U.S. Government Programs

2) Which of the following U.S. Government programs have you participated in?

Check all that apply

- Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship (Gilman)
- Boren Award (Fellowship or Scholarship)
- Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX)
- Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS)
- Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program
- Fulbright U.S. Student Program (English Teaching Assistantship)
- Fulbright U.S. Student Program (Study/Research)
- Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Abroad
- Language Flagship Program
- National Security Languages Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y)
- STARTALK
- Title VIII Award (Research and Training on Eastern Europe and Eurasia)

2a) If you checked any boxes above, please indicate the program, year and country for each. Include the following information:

- Program Name
- Program Location, including city, state/region, and country
- Language studied (if applicable)
- Year

2b) If you received a Fulbright U.S. Student Program (Study/Research) Award, were you also the recipient of a Critical Language Enhancement Award (CLEA)?

- Yes
- No

Honors and Fellowships

3) List up to three other fellowships or academic honors that you have received.

Activities and Employment

4) List up to five jobs, internships, and/or volunteer or campus activities that you have engaged in that demonstrate leadership capacity, community involvement or a connection to your professional goals. Include the following information:

- Activity Name

Please submit your application using the online application system at <https://clscholarship.org/apply>

- Start Date
- End Date

Section 11: Short Essays

Before you begin your essays, it is strongly recommended that you read the information on the CLS website pertaining to your language and watch the video providing guidance for writing effective application essays for the CLS Program: www.clscholarship.org/apply.

If you have previously participated in the CLS Program, you may not reuse the same essay responses from your previous application(s). If you applied previously but were not selected, you may reuse material from your previous application(s) if you wish.

1) Statement of Motivation and Commitment

Maximum of 350 words allowed.

CLS Spark seeks to support students who are motivated and committed to advancing their knowledge of other languages and cultures to support their long-term personal, academic, and professional goals.

- What interests you about your chosen language and the people who speak it?
- How will increased language and cultural knowledge help you achieve your long-term academic or professional goals?
- What aspects of this program do you anticipate will be the most challenging? What knowledge, skills, and experience will help you sustain your engagement and learning throughout this program?

2) Statement of Experience

Maximum of 350 words allowed.

A key goal of CLS Spark is to increase the number and diversity of Americans who study and speak critical languages in order to develop mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. Languages offer an opportunity for communication and exchange between people of different backgrounds, both within a U.S.-based cohort and with our partner communities abroad. Spark provides an opportunity for motivated students interested in a common language to form a dedicated, lively group of learners. Spark scholars will share their unique perspectives in an open-minded, mutually respectful, virtual environment.

- Consider how your unique experience and perspective might contribute to your cohort.
- How will your background and experiences contribute to building a supportive, understanding, and diverse cohort of language-learners?

Please submit your application using the online application system at <https://clscholarship.org/apply>

Access to Language Learning Opportunities

CLS Spark prioritizes providing access to critical language learning opportunities for those who lack access or who have encountered barriers to pursuing significant study abroad or language learning opportunities.

3) Does your campus currently offer courses in the language you are applying to study with CLS Spark?

- Yes
- No

Respond to the following prompts:

- How have you used the opportunities available to you to pursue your educational goals?
- How will CLS Spark help you overcome barriers preventing you from pursuing language study?

Maximum of 200 words allowed.

Please submit your application using the online application system at <https://clscholarship.org/apply>

Section 12: Statistical Information

This information will **not** be shared with application reviewers and will have no bearing on your selection for the CLS Program. It may be used in aggregate for the production of external reports or public presentations.

The U.S. Department of State and American Councils welcome all eligible applications and do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, geographic location, socioeconomic status, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

The information you provide below will not affect your eligibility for the award, or have an impact on the evaluation or selection process.

1) How did you learn about the program?

Check all that apply

- CLS Alumni or Participants
- Email Announcement
- Magazine
- Newspaper
- Poster
- School Presentation
- Social Media
- Study Abroad Fair
- University Staff
- Website or Internet Search
- Word of Mouth
- Other

1a) If you checked University Staff above:

Check all that apply

- Academic Advisor
- Campus Organization
- Diversity/Inclusion Office
- Fellowship Advisor
- Study Abroad Advisor
- Teacher/Professor
- Career Counselor

1b) If you checked Other above, please specify:

Maximum of 250 characters allowed.

Please submit your application using the online application system at <https://clscholarship.org/apply>

2) What is your race or ethnicity?

Select all that apply. **Note:** Categories adhere to Office of Management and Budget's Statistical Policy Directive No. 15: Race and Ethnic Standards for Federal Statistics and Administrative Reporting, which also guide the U.S. Census.

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White
- Some Other Race

2a) If Some Other Race, please explain:

Maximum of 20 words allowed.

4) Are you a first generation college student?

Answer "No" if one of your parents or grandparents graduated from a four-year college

- Yes
- No
- I decline to state

5) Are you a Pell Grant recipient?

Note: Federal Pell Grants are generally awarded only to undergraduate students. If you are a graduate student, please indicate whether you received a Pell Grant as an undergraduate.

- Yes
- No
- I decline to state

6) Are you a veteran, or active or reserve duty member of the U.S. Armed Forces?

- Yes
- No
- I decline to state

7) Do you have a disability?

- Yes
- No
- I decline to state

6a) If yes, please explain:

Maximum of 50 words allowed.

Please submit your application using the online application system at <https://clscholarship.org/apply>

8) Where did you graduate from high school, if applicable?

City:

Province/State/Governorate:

Country:

9) Select the location that best describes where you grew up.

- Major City
- Other City or Town
- Rural Area

Section 13: Review and Submit

Final Review of Application

Before you submit your application, please be sure to review all sections. Make sure you have answered all the questions, attached all the required documents, and that you are satisfied with your responses.

Once you submit your application, you will no longer be able to make changes to any section of the application. Please note that due to the large volume of applications received, the CLS Program is unable to provide feedback on individual applications.

Certification

1) Please sign your name below to indicate your agreement with this statement:

I certify:

- I completed this application and the written portions are my own work;
- Everything in this application is complete and true to the best of my knowledge;
- I understand that limited information from my application may be shared with representatives of my university, for example study abroad or fellowships advising offices, including my name, degree information and choice of language;
- I understand that American Councils and the U.S. Department of State will not discuss individual selection decisions with applicants; and
- I understand that my application is in no way an offer or a guarantee of an offer for a Critical Language Scholarship award.

Signature:

Date:

Additional Information

2) Would you like us to contact you with information about CLS and other U.S. Study Abroad programs in the future?

You may unsubscribe from emails at any point in the future.

Yes! Please add me to your mailing list.