



# CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP



CLS is a program of the U.S. Department of State, with funding provided by the U.S. Government.



# What is CLS?

- Summer **study abroad** program
- **Fully-funded** by the U.S. Government
- For U.S. students in **all fields** to study critical languages



# 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:
  - Round-trip international airfare
  - Applicable visa fees
  - Housing and meals
  - Classroom instruction
  - Cultural programming and group trips
  - Undergraduate academic credit (Bryn Mawr College)
  - Certified ACTFL OPI test score and certificate

# Critical Language Scholarship Program

- CLS scholars participate together as a **cohort**
- 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**
  - Language policy
  - All scholars have a language partner



# Critical Language Scholarship Program



- Cohorts are **diverse**:
  - Undergraduate and graduate students
  - Represent all types of institutions and regions of the U.S.
  - Different levels of experience with language and travel
  - Over 40% identify as students of color
  - 24% receive Pell Grant (financial need)
- CLS does not discriminate on the basis of disability or medical condition
- **Inclusive** student support structures

# Program Benefits

- Make **substantial gains in language skills**:
  - **Two semesters** worth of coursework (and academic credit)
  - Certified **OPI certificate** to demonstrate progress
- **Advance your career**:
  - Many U.S. companies give **advantage to candidates with language skills**
  - Build experience in problem solving, adaptability, 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

# Eligibility

## Eligibility:

- U.S. citizen or national
- Enrolled in a degree-granting program at U.S.-based institution
- 18 years old by May 15, 2022

## Strong candidates:

- Come from **ALL** academic disciplines
- Come from **ALL** backgrounds, and are interested in representing the U.S. abroad



# How to Succeed



- Demonstrate that you understand the program and are **prepared to succeed**
- Show that you are excited and **motivated** to begin or continue learning a critical language
- Make a clear connection between the **target language and your future career plans**

# How to Succeed

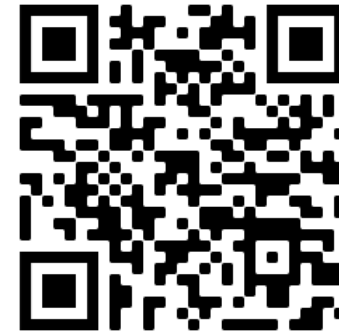
- **Do your homework**
  - Do research to connect the career path you are on to one of these languages/cultures
  - Watch the CLS application tips video
- **Seek help on your campus!**
  - Study abroad, fellowships, and scholarships offices
  - Teaching faculty
  - Academic advisors
  - Writing centers



# Apply for Summer 2022

- **Application open now**
- Apply for **one language only**
  - Not for a specific country or site
- Applicants must prepare:
  - Unofficial transcripts
  - One recommendation form
  - Four Short Answer Essays (200-300 words)
  - Personal Statement (500 words)

Online application at  
[www.clscholarship.org/apply](http://www.clscholarship.org/apply)



Deadline:  
**November 16, 2021**  
8:00 PM EST

# Timeline



Application Deadline: **November 16, 8:00pm EST**

Recommendation Deadline: November 19

Semifinalist Notification: Late January

Finalist Notification: March

Programs Begin: June

Online application at  
[www.clscholarship.org/apply](http://www.clscholarship.org/apply)



# Stay in Touch for Program Updates

- Additional opportunities for virtual learning for fall 2022
- Application launch late spring 2022
- Follow us for updates!



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# Questions?

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