



GILMAN SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION GUIDELINES

**Please carefully read and follow the instructions.
Copies of applications and editing assistance are available.**

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

1. Be sure to answer all six questions—not necessarily in the order they appear.
2. **Academic performance:** If your GPA is 2.5, or lower, please briefly plain the reasons behind this. Did you change your major? Was there a familial, or other personal challenge, which impacted your academic performance? Did a change in majors adversely affect your GPA? Can you demonstrate an upward trajectory of your GPA?
3. Integrate autobiographical information into this essay..
4. Demonstrate how you are **mature** and **adaptable**, and how you will successfully cope with the challenges inherent in living and studying in a new country, without family and friends, perhaps with a different language, and a different style of teaching.
5. What major **challenge** have you had in your life? How did you overcome it?
6. Are you a **minority or biracial**? If so, please include this information in your essay.
7. Are you **first-generation American**? If so, please include this information in your essay.
8. Are you **first generation college student**? If so, please include this information in your essay.
9. As a Pell Grant recipient, there is a certain level of **financial** need that all candidates possess. Are there any other factors that contribute to your being particularly financially needy? Are you from a large family? A single parent family? Is one of your parents disabled? Do you work—part-time or full-time? Do you help support your family? What unique financial circumstances do you have?
10. Expected outcome of study abroad: how will it help your **major**? Your future academic plans? What is unique about the classes from what is available at CSULB?
11. Expected outcome of study abroad: how will it help your **future career**?
12. Expected outcome of study abroad: how will it help you **personally**?

13. Are you a **STEM student**? If so, be sure to talk about this. Include the difficulty in finding a study abroad program that includes classes in your major.
14. Was it difficult for you to access a study abroad program in your **major**?
15. Do you have a **disability**? It does not have to be certified through Disabled Student Services. It could include: a learning disability, a physical disability, a psychological challenge—anxiety, depression, etc. Have you experienced a family health challenge (physical or psychological) that has impacted you? Please do not be timid about disclosing this: Gilman strives to support students with various disabilities, and this disclosure would only be in your favor. Gilman provides students with additional resources, if they need them, when abroad. Also, CSULB helps Gilman Scholarship recipients with additional support. In the past, CSULB has assisted students with serious ailments, such as cancer, who were confined to wheelchairs, were deaf and hard-of-hearing, as well as those who suffered from anxiety disorders, suffered from ADHD, autism, dyslexia and other learning disorders.
16. Are you **LGBTQIA**? If so, please do divulge this and explain how (if so) this factor plays a role in how you selected a study abroad country. For instance, a gay student recently studied in Montreal. Prior to selecting Montreal, he engaged in extensive research of the university (and community) to ensure that it offered him a supportive campus/community environment. As an art student, part of his follow-on project was to create an original poster targeting art students and/or LGBTQIA students who might have some trepidation about studying in another country and culture.
17. If you have any military experience (or ROTC) in **Armed Services**, please include this in your essay.
18. Create a coherent link between proposed program abroad activities and future **academic and career** plans, as well as in line with your personal development goals.
19. Detail the different aspects of the program and how your participation and receipt of Gilman would support your achieving those goals.
20. If you study in **underrepresented country, please be sure to talk about this:**
 - Eastern Europe
 - Middle East & North Africa
 - Sub-Saharan Africa
 - East Asia and the Pacific (with EXCEPTION of Australia, China, Japan & S. Korea)
 - South and Central Asia
21. Impact to **community**: In the study abroad community, how will you immerse yourself? What are you interested about in host country? What activities will you participate in? Demonstrate your knowledge of host country. Why would host country welcome you? How will you represent the US, the Gilman abroad, as an unofficial goodwill ambassador.

FOLLOW-ON PROJECT ESSAY

1. **Outline your project(s):** either one major or multiple (3 is usually a good number) smaller ones
2. How will your project(s) encourage other students to **study abroad**?
3. How will you **share your study abroad experience** with students?
 - A. What is your **target audience**?
 1. Do **few students in your major study abroad**? For what reason? How did you manage to study abroad?
 2. Do **few students of your ethnicity study abroad**? If so, how can you encourage your peers to do so?
 - a. Campus departments: students in your major or minor
 - b. Campus organizations: clubs, EOP Office, Financial Aid
 - c. Community organizations: former high school, Boys & Girls Club, etc.
 - B. Make your **presentation or project original**. For instance, if you create a YouTube video, it should be well-thought out and unique.
 - C. Feasibility
 - a. Is your project doable? Is it something you are prepared to carry out?
 - D. Utilize your experience abroad
 - a. Photographs of your study abroad; suggestions for traveling, living, and studying in another country are of interest to students.

REQUIRED: All Gilman recipients serve as a STUDY ABROAD GLOBAL AMBASSADOR (SAGA)

The opportunity to be a SAGA (and to integrate this in your Gilman application) is a rewarding opportunity for you. As an applicant, you have the advantage of including this in your application, as well as including it in your resume.

Upon return from your study abroad, as a SAGA, you will:

- A. Serve on Gilman Scholarship Information Panel
- B. Make a presentations to an on-campus group
- C. Volunteer for a few hours at a Study Abroad Fair
- D. Volunteer for a few hours in the Study Abroad mobile yurt

Samples of Successful Gilman Statements of Purpose and Follow-on Essays are Available.