

# National Security Education Program David Boren Graduate Fellowships

## Award Details

NSEP Boren recipients are awarded sums ranging up to \$24,000 for an academic year and up to \$30,00 for a combination of domestic and overseas study. Study must be for a minimum of 12 weeks. Preference will be given to applicants proposing programs of 6 months or longer, with a maximum of 24 months. However, applicants proposing overseas programs of 3-6 months, especially those in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields are encouraged to apply.

The Boren Program is available to U.S. undergraduates to study in eligible world regions—**Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America, and the Middle East**. The countries of Western Europe, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand are excluded. **The campus deadline is: January 24, 2019.** Please contact Campus Advisor, Linda Olson Levy, in order to receive guidance and assistance in preparing your application, including the two essays and campus interview.

## Program Purpose

Program Purpose: The Boren Fellowship Program aims to support applicants pursuing fields of study related to national security interests, and it requires applicants to study in non-traditional countries and to study languages critical to national security.

## Eligibility Criteria

Boren Fellowships are awarded with preference for [countries](#), [click here](#).

[https://www.borenawards.org/boren\\_fellowship/eligibility.html](https://www.borenawards.org/boren_fellowship/eligibility.html) [languages](#) and [fields of study](#), [click here](#)  
[https://www.borenawards.org/boren\\_fellowship/preferences.html](https://www.borenawards.org/boren_fellowship/preferences.html) **critical** to U.S. national security. Preference is also given to students who will study abroad for longer periods of time, and who are highly motivated to work in the federal government.

## Selection Criteria

**International Focus:** Boren Fellowships are intended to provide support to U.S. graduates who will pursue the study of languages and cultures currently underrepresented in study abroad and critical to U.S. national security.

**Language Study:** Boren Scholars represent a variety of academic backgrounds, but all are interested in studying less commonly taught languages, including but not limited to Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, and Swahili. Language study is a major component of your study abroad program, and it must be an integral part of each proposal.

Take into consideration any prior knowledge and experience in the proposed language when selecting and designing your study abroad program. If you already have studied the language, take into account what opportunities the program will provide to advancing your proficiency. If you have not studied the language, consider what the program offers towards making substantial progress.

**Note:** Study of a common language (Spanish or French) is permissible only when it is at an advanced level of competency. In such cases, the study abroad experience should not focus on language acquisition, but rather on academic course work. Prior study of another language will serve as an indication of interest and aptitude.

**Special Exception:** Boren will consider applications from students at the intermediate level of Spanish or French if their field of study is in applied sciences or engineering. At the time of application, determination of intermediate/advanced language level will be self-assessed. Boren will verify the self-assessed competency level of grant recipients. For a complete list of the languages, [click here](https://www.borenawards.org/boren_fellowship/preferences.html).

## African Flagship Languages Initiative

The African Flagship Languages Initiative (AFLI) offers Boren Fellowship applicants the opportunity to study African languages and cultures by participating in domestic and overseas language programs in one of the below languages.

### Program Highlights

- The Boren Fellowship under AFLI provides funding for the domestic intensive language studies at the University of Florida, Gainesville during summer 2016 and the overseas program for either fall 2016 or the academic year 2016/17.
- To study **French, Portuguese or Swahili**, AFLI Boren Fellows must participate in the official program administered by American Councils for International Education during fall 2016.
- To study **Akan/Twi, Wolof or Zulu**, AFLI Boren Fellows must propose an overseas study plan beginning no later than the end of August/beginning of September.
- Awardees are encouraged to stay overseas through the **spring semester**, and must identify a program on their own. Options include language study, or academic internships, which must provide language learning opportunities. For awardees studying Swahili, American Councils offers an optional internship during the spring semester.

### For Additional Questions

- Boren Fellowship: 800-618-NSEP or [boren@ie.org](mailto:boren@ie.org)
- American Councils for International Education: 202-833-7522 or [afl@americancouncils.org](mailto:afl@americancouncils.org)
- University of Florida: 352-392-7082 or [akinyemi@ufl.edu](mailto:akinyemi@ufl.edu)

## National Security

The program focuses on geographic areas, languages, and fields of study deemed critical to U.S. national security. It draws on a broad definition of national security, recognizing that the scope of national security has expanded to include not only the traditional concerns of protecting and promoting American well-being, but also the challenges of global society, including: *sustainable development, environmental degradation, global disease and hunger, population growth and migration, and economic competitiveness*. All applicants must demonstrate how their study programs and future goals are connected to this broad understanding of national security. For more information about this broad definition of national security, see: [click here www.BorenAwards.org](http://www.BorenAwards.org).

## Service Requirement

The Boren service requirement stipulates that an award recipient work in the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, State, or the Intelligence Community. If no appropriate position is available in one of these agencies, he or she may work in any U.S. federal department or agency.. [click here: http://www.borenawards.org/boren\\_scholars\\_service.html](http://www.borenawards.org/boren_scholars_service.html)

## Application Procedures

- Boren Fellowship Application (Complete with Study Abroad Program Section, budget, and two statements of purpose)
- Letters of Reference (3)
- Official Transcripts
- Letter of overseas affiliation. If possible, applicants should upload a letter from an academic institution, research institute, non-governmental organization, and/or an individual who is aware that the applicant is planning study and/or research in that country and is willing to assist the applicant in coordinating his or her plans. Applicants should remember that the letter of affiliation is **not required at the time of application**, and the lack of this letter should not stop one from applying.

## Award Benefits

Maximum scholarship awards are:

- \$24,000 for overseas study
- \$30,000 for a combination of domestic and overseas study

## On Campus Contact Information

Linda Olson Levy, International Scholarship Advisor  
Center for International Education  
Education Abroad Office  
6300 State University Drive  
Foundation Building, Suite 230  
Email: [linda.olsonlevy@csulb.edu](mailto:linda.olsonlevy@csulb.edu)  
(562) 985-2192

## Scholarship Contact Information

Boren Scholarships  
Institute of International Education  
1400 K Street NW, 7th Floor  
Washington, DC 20005  
Boren website: [BorenAwards.org](http://BorenAwards.org)  
[boren@iie.org](mailto:boren@iie.org)  
1-800-618-6737