



Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship

The [Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship](#) is a federally funded grant program managed by the [U.S. Department of State Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs](#) that enables students of limited financial means to study or intern abroad, thereby gaining skills critical to our national security and economic competitiveness.

The Gilman Scholarship Program is open to U.S. citizen undergraduate students who are receiving Federal Pell Grant funding at a two-year or four-year college or university to participate in study and intern abroad programs worldwide. Scholarships are awarded four times through the academic year (fall and academic year, spring and calendar year, and two summer cycles). Students must be in a credit-earning program and must be abroad for a minimum of three weeks in one country. The grant goes up to \$5,000 for long semesters and up to \$3,000 for the summer sessions. Around 25% of applicants are awarded for the semester programs and about 20% of applicants are awarded for summer programs.

Gilman Scholarship Deadlines

Typically, the deadlines are in **early October** for spring and the early summer cycle and **early March** for regular summer/fall/full-year. Visit the [Gilman Deadlines & Timeline](#).

How to Start

1. Access your application and additional information on the [Gilman](#) website.
 - a. Become familiar with **all** aspects of the scholarship.
2. Begin your application by going to the [Application Overview](#) page.
 - a. Select “Apply Here” and create an account.
3. Complete all tasks listed in your Gilman portal.

Tips for Completing the Application

- List the correct Study Abroad Advisor Certifier:
 - For the Americas, the Program Manager is Morgan Trevino (morgan.trevino@ttu.edu). If you are going to a location in the Americas, choose Morgan as your Study Abroad Advisor Certifier in the Gilman portal.
 - For Europe, the Program Manager is Allison Wright (allison.wright@ttu.edu). If you are going to a location in Europe, choose Allison as your Study Abroad Advisor Certifier in the Gilman portal.
 - For Asia, Africa, The Pacific/Oceania, or The Middle East, the Program Manager is Ashley Haseley (ashley.haseley@ttu.edu). If you are going to one of these locations, choose Ashley as your Study Abroad Advisor Certifier in the Gilman portal.
- List the correct Financial Aid Advisor Certifier:
 - Your Financial Aid contact is Nikki Nordell (nikki.nordell@ttu.edu). Choose Nikki as your Financial Aid Advisor in the Gilman Portal.

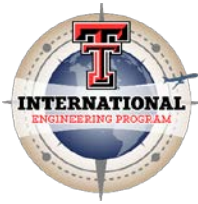


Tips for Completing the Application (cont.)

- Uploading your official transcript. Refer to the [Submission Tips](#) page. **You do NOT need to mail your official transcript.** To request your official transcript, refer to the [TTU Registrar's Office](#) website. You can order online or in-person.
- Entering your program costs. First, look up your program budget [here](#). Keep in mind the number of credit hours you are taking, because there will be different budgets for the same program (based on how many hours of academic credit you are taking). Find the total estimated cost (at the bottom) and subtract the amount that is listed for "personal expenses." The difference is the number you will enter on the Gilman application.

Tips for a Competitive Application

- **Your essay matters!** Don't write the essay online at the last minute. Take some time with the essay and revise it at least once. Have someone look over your essay to check spelling and grammar. Thoroughly address all questions asked.
- **Hook the reader from the beginning.** Scholarship reviewers read hundreds of essays from students who are all writing about study abroad. Catch their attention with an interesting, short anecdote or quote, or start with information about why you are unique.
- **Make yourself stand out.** What is unique about you as a person? Do you have a unique interest or hobby? Are you involved with something on campus or in your community? What are your goals for study abroad above and beyond the formal requirements of your program?
- **Make a clear case for how/why your program is relevant to your major, career goals, future plans or all of the above.** Gilman wants your study abroad location/program choice to be well-researched and that you have academic or career-related reasons for your choice. Make these connections and explain them in as much detail as possible. Including personal goals can be appropriate, but they should include other intellectual interests (i.e. visiting museums or other cultural/historical sites) or extra-curricular activities such as internships, volunteer options, etc. Mention of personal travel and social activities will not be viewed positively by the selection committee.
- **If you are a first-generation college student or belong to an under-represented population, identify this in your essay.** Ethnic diversity is important to the Gilman, as is supporting other under-represented populations in study abroad such as first generation students, **Engineering, Math or Science majors, etc.**
- **If you are studying in a traditional destination** (Western Europe, Australia, New Zealand), explain in detail why you selected your program (from an academic or career-planning perspective). If you selected your traditional destination primarily for personal reasons, you will not be viewed as highly by the selection committee.
- **If your GPA is below a 3.0, explain reasons.** Has your GPA steadily improved? Do you work a large number of hours each week and, thus, cannot devote as much time to your studies? Do you have extra obligations such as running the family business, or caring for young or elderly family members? Did you have one particularly rough semester due to illness, family situation, etc.? If a situation like this applies to you, explain this in your essay.



Tips for the Follow-on Service Project

First, access tips from Gilman staff: [Tips](#)

- General tips: [Gilman Essay](#) (scroll to the follow-on projects section). [Videos](#) (See the Composing Competitive Essays video and refer especially to minutes 3:08-6:19).
- Read the example projects completed by [Gilman Alumni](#). Most of them are outreach-oriented, which is what Gilman is asking for. The purpose of the project is to promote both study abroad and the Gilman scholarship.
- When describing your follow-on project, consider collaborating with clubs or organizations with which you are already involved.
- Describe the who, what, when, where and why of your follow-on project.
- Describe what impact the project will have on your audience. What is your intended outcome with the audience? What do you hope they will DO as a result of your project?
- Consider creative uses of technology, media, photography, etc.
- Must include:
 - **Who** is the project geared towards?
 - **What** is your project and what do you plan to do and achieve?
 - **When** will your project take place- if working with an organization, will you do your project on certain days/times?
 - **Where** will your project take place?
 - **Why** are you proposing this project?
 - **How** will you carry out this project and what tools will you use?
 - Create a realistic timeline for your project.

Other Resources

- The Gilman program offers webinars for applicants; check their [website](#) for dates. Video resources are also available: <https://www.gilmanscholarship.org/resources/videos/>
- The [Texas Tech University Writing Center](#) offers critiques/edits for any kind of essay. This includes scholarship essays! You can make an appointment for an in-person session or submit a draft online.
- There are [Gilman Workshops](#) on the TTU campus each semester! The Gilman Scholarship Workshop is facilitated by the [Office of National and International Scholarships and Fellowships \(NISF\)](#), the [Financial Aid Office](#), and the [TTU Study Abroad Office](#). The Workshop serves to assist Gilman-eligible students in understanding the requirements of the scholarship as well as how to best prepare and be successful when applying. A representative of the Financial Aid Office has experience serving on the Gilman Awards Committee, so you can get first-hand tips on what to do and what not to do.