

Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship

Application Guide 2023



**Preference given to underrepresented students,
including, but not limited to:**

- **community college students**
- students from diverse ethnic and racial background
- first-generation college students
- veterans
- students with disabilities
- student athletes whose extracurricular commitments make it difficult to study abroad
- students in fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics

“The U.S. Department of State’s goal for the Gilman Program is to broaden the student population that studies and interns abroad by supporting American undergraduate students who might otherwise not participate due to financial constraints. The international experiences gained through participation in the program enable tomorrow’s leaders to thrive in the global economy and contribute to our nation’s prosperity.”

Award: up to \$5,000; usually \$1,000-3,000 for summer

<https://www.gilmanscholarship.org/>

Eligibility:

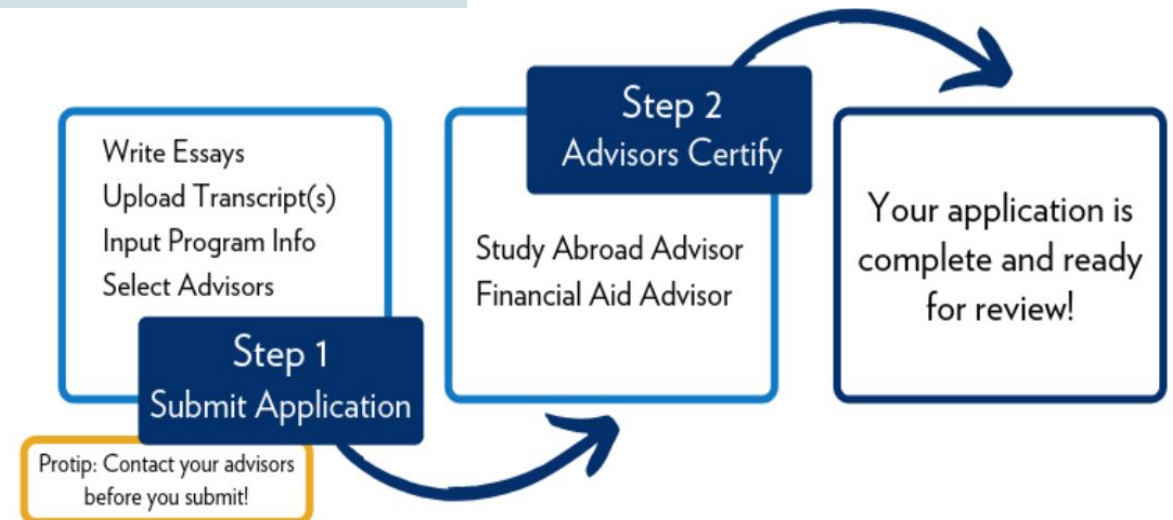
- U.S. citizen; Pell Grant recipient
- Current undergraduate student (must be enrolled at time of program)
- Program must be for academic credit
- Apply to Gilman-McCain if:
 - You are a dependent child of an active duty service member (Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Coast Guard, and currently activated Reserve Forces, Air National Guard and Army National Guard)
 - Receive any type of Title IV federal financial aid (in this case you do not need to receive the Pell Grant)

Application: due March 9, 2023

For summer 2023, fall 2023 or 2023-24 AY

Submit:

- Online application form ([click here](#))
- Essays ([click here](#))
- Unofficial BMCC transcript ([click here for instructions](#))
 - Transcripts from previous colleges attended
- Campus Advisor Certification
 - Study Abroad: Sharon Reid, sreid@bmcc.cuny.edu
 - Financial Aid: Yuliya Meltreger ymeltreger@bmcc.cuny.edu



Instructions: There are **three** essays required as part of the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship application: Statement of Purpose Essay, Building Mutual Understanding Essay, and the Follow-on Service Project Proposal.

- The **Statement of Purpose Essay** is limited to 7,000 characters (including spaces)
- The **Building Mutual Understanding Essay** is limited to 3,000 characters (including spaces)
- The **Follow-on Service Project Proposal** is limited to 3,000 characters (including spaces)

Compose your essays first in a word processing program, and then copy and paste your essays into the text boxes provided below. This will allow you to save your essays and ensure that your information is not lost due to a session timeout.

Compose your essays in paragraph format (not as numbered responses to the questions below). Do not format (i.e. bold, underline, italics, hyperlinks) your essays in the word processing program because your formatting will not be retained upon transferring.

Essay 1: Statement of Purpose

Max: 7,000 characters (1.5 pages single-spaced)

Be specific in describing your individual reasons for studying abroad. Keep in mind that this is a scholarship for academic study abroad. Please address ALL of the questions below, in no particular order:

- How will studying or interning abroad help you achieve your future academic or professional goals?
- Why did you select your specific program and host country?
- How are you academically prepared to be a successful scholar abroad? If you have faced significant academic difficulties, tell us about those and how you are overcoming them.
- What examples of knowledge, skills, and experiences will you draw on to meet the challenges of going abroad?

Step 1: Introduce Yourself

- ❑ Which school do you attend and what is your major?
 - These questions are asked in the application, but it's a good way to start your essay, and to remind them you are a community college student. Spell out Borough of Manhattan Community College.

- ❑ What excites you about study abroad?
 - Is there something, or someone, specific that inspired you to study abroad, or explore a specific country?
 - Are you hoping to learn more about your heritage or a new culture? Improve your language skills?

- ❑ Has your identity influenced your decision to go abroad? This may include:
 - Race/ethnicity
 - If you are LGBTQ
 - If you are a veteran
 - If you have a disability
 - If you are a parent
 - If you have returned to school as an older student

Step 2: Show you have a well-developed plan for study abroad

It's okay if you have not committed to a specific program yet, but discuss the program you plan to apply to.

- ❑ Why did you choose this specific location?
- ❑ Why does the timing of the program work well for you? (i.e. why is summer better than fall?)
- ❑ What do you like about the structure of the program? (i.e. is it led by a professor? will you be with a program provider that provides a lot of support?)
- ❑ Which course(s) would you take as part of this program?
 - Why does this course interest you?
 - Does it fulfill a requirement?
 - Does it relate to your major? If not, don't worry! Just explain how it adds to your overall education.
 - If you have any low grades on your transcript, explain why it happened and how you've improved.
 - Use the program description on the website ([see BMCC programs here](#))
- ❑ How do you think study abroad will help you with your future goals?
 - Does this course, or country, relate to the work you want to do in your future job?
 - What kind of skills do you think you can gain from studying in another country?

Step 3: Show you are ready for the challenge of study abroad

- ❑ Think of an experience from work, school or your personal life where you overcame a challenge.
 - What did you learn from this?
 - How will this help you in a study abroad program?

- ❑ Have you experienced any challenges related to your identity? This may include:
 - Race/ethnicity
 - If you are LGBTQ
 - If you are a veteran
 - If you have a disability
 - If you are a parent
 - If you are working to support your family while going to school

5 Questions to Ask Yourself: Statement of Purpose Essay

- Do you make a connection between your **program** and goals?
- Do you make a connection between your **country** and goals?
- Do you share how you will be **academically successful** on your program?
- Do you give **examples** of your experiences, skills, and knowledge that you will use to meet program challenges?
- Do you address how this abroad experience will **impact** your future?



Essay 2: Community Impact

Max: 3,000 characters (¾ - 1 page single-spaced)

Gilman Scholars represent the United States as citizen diplomats in their host communities; they reflect a diversity of values, beliefs, and opinions that is fundamental to providing a balanced representation of the United States abroad. Gilman Scholars are expected to contribute to the goal of building mutual understanding by sharing what it means to be an American, learning about the host culture, and building meaningful relationships.

As a U.S. citizen, how will you represent and share what it means to be an American during your program? How will you seek opportunities to become more culturally engaged and have meaningful interactions with people and cultures different from your own during your abroad program?

Questions to Consider

- ❑ What does it mean to you to be an American?
 - What are you proud of?
 - Are there issues in the U.S. that are important to you? How would you discuss these with people abroad? What could you learn from them, and what could they learn from you?
 - Generally, think of how you can have meaningful interactions with the local community.

- ❑ How will you engage with the local community?
 - How will you educate yourself about the community beforehand?
 - Imagine an international student at BMCC is looking to culturally engage in NYC - what could be a good way for them to learn more about the city and people? Could you follow this advice abroad?

3 Questions to Ask Yourself: Building Mutual Understanding Essay

- Do you articulate how you will represent the United States as a citizen diplomat while abroad?
- Do you explain how you will contribute to the goal of building mutual understanding?
- Do you discuss how you will look for opportunities to build meaningful relationships and become more culturally engaged?



Essay 3: Follow-On Service Project Proposal

Max: 3,000 characters (¾ - 1 page single-spaced)

After returning from study abroad, Gilman Scholars are expected to complete a Follow-on Service Project to increase awareness of study abroad and the Gilman Scholarship among their peers in their home or campus communities.

EXAMPLES:

- Conducting presentations on their country of study to local K-12 classrooms
- Organizing and/or working with their university K-12 outreach program, to present and share information on their experience abroad and the Gilman Scholarship.
- Assisting the Study Abroad Office to gather more information on study abroad programs that help certain majors meet their degree requirements; develop brochure or improve website
- Presenting on study abroad and Gilman for student groups that you're part of (clubs, major, sports, career development, etc.)
- Submitting an article or series of articles on their experiences abroad and the Gilman Scholarship to their campus or hometown paper upon their return to the U.S.
- Creating a series of videos to share with students upon your return

Answer Each Question in Detail

In no particular order, describe your Follow-on Service Project:

- What is your project and how will it increase awareness of study abroad and the Gilman Program among your peers in your home or campus community?
- Identify and explain why you chose the specific community you will be reaching.
- How will you integrate the impact of your experience abroad into your project?
- With which campus departments, student organizations, or community organizations will you collaborate?

Propose a unique Follow-on Service Project that highlights your individual background, experiences and skills, but also remember the most important thing is for the project to be practical. Gilman wants to see it can happen easily after you return.

5 Questions to Ask Yourself: Follow-on Service Project Proposal

- Does your FOSP increase awareness of the Gilman Scholarship and study abroad?
- Is your project feasible?
- Do you give a detailed plan for your project?
- Do you include your study abroad experience into your project?
- Do you have an intended audience? Who will you collaborate with to reach this community?



Optional: Critical Need Language Award Essay

Max: 2,000 characters

Write this additional essay if you are studying one of the languages listed in the chart during study abroad. This would be an additional award of up to \$8,000.

Prompt:

- How will studying or interning abroad help you achieve your future academic or professional goals?
- Why did you select your specific program and host country?
- How are you academically prepared to be a successful scholar abroad? If you have faced significant academic difficulties, tell us about those and how you are overcoming them.
- What examples of knowledge, skills, and experiences will you draw on to meet the challenges of going abroad?

LANGUAGES	POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES OR AREAS*
Arabic	Bahrain, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Tunisia
Azerbaijani	---
Bahasa Indonesian	Indonesia
Bangla	India
Chinese (Mandarin)	Taiwan
Hebrew*****	Israel
Hindi	India
Japanese	Japan
Korean	South Korea
Persian	Tajikistan
Portuguese	Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Macau, Mozambique, Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe
Punjabi	India
Russian	Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan
Swahili	Kenya, Tanzania
Turkish	Cyprus
Urdu	India

Summary: What is Gilman looking for?

What's the impact of your program on your academic and career goals?

- Clearly describe your program. Show them you are academically prepared and have thought through the potential benefits of study abroad on your future goals.

What's diverse about your background and experience?

- They want to send students who have historically been underrepresented in study abroad. Make it clear how study abroad will impact you in this context, how you will represent the U.S. abroad, and how you will overcome any anticipated challenges during study abroad.

How will you positively impact the community abroad and your local community when you return?

- Explain why you would be a good representative of the U.S. abroad, and how you will encourage others to take part in this opportunity in the future.

Upcoming Deadlines

Summer 2023 Study Abroad

February 14, 2023: BMCC Study Abroad Application ([click here](#))

March 9, 2023: Gilman Application

Check for specific dates: CUNY study abroad programs

BMCC Study Abroad: Summer 2023

Brazil, LAT 475, taught in English
Italy, SSC 150, taught in English
Spain, SPN 476, taught in Spanish

See program details:

<https://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/academics/success-programs/study-abroad/study-abroad-courses/>

Eligibility:

- Min. 2.75 GPA
- At least 12 college credits completed at the time of application and pre-reqs, if required
- Submit complete application by Feb. 14, 2023
- Open to all majors
- Open to international students with documentation to reenter U.S.
- Can delay spring graduation to participate
- CUNY requires all participants have COVID-19 vaccinations

Cost:

- Tuition: 3 credits (may use financial aid or tuition waiver)
- Program Fee: \$1,500- \$2,200 (includes airfare, housing, meals, excursions, international health insurance; includes BMCC Association Scholarship)
- All BMCC students who have completed 12 credits at BMCC will receive BMCC Association Scholarship; others pay higher program fee
- Personal Expenses: may be needed for visa, passport, additional meals/sightseeing

CUNY Study Abroad

- Programs offered all semesters; many open to BMCC students
- Taught in English or local language
- Eligibility, application and cost vary by program
- Apply for ePermit with BMCC Registrar
- Financial aid may be used for tuition. Additional loans may be needed for program costs.
- Search programs:
<https://www1.cuny.edu/sites/global/students/programs/programs-search/>



and more!

Study Abroad Programs

All Areas of Study All Countries Summer 2021 Term Selections

All Disciplines All Cities All Languages of Instruction

Study Program Type Selections

SEARCH [Reset Selection](#)

Select to Compare Select to Compare Select to Compare



SUMMER IN BUENOS AIRES
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA



SUMMER IN LONDON
LONDON, ENGLAND



SUMMER IN SANTIAGO
SANTIAGO, CHILE



SUMMER IN SYDNEY
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA



SUMMER JAPANESE STUDIES
TOKYO, JAPAN



SUMMER MIDDLE EAST STUDIES
AMMAN, JORDAN

CIEE Study Abroad

- Study abroad organization outside of CUNY
- Search for programs: ciee.org
- Offer a variety of courses, such as:
 - Business & Management
 - Journalism
 - Foreign Languages
 - Political Science
 - STEM
 - Sustainability and Environmental Studies
- Summer 2023 applications due in April
- Work with BMCC Admissions Office to transfer course into BMCC
- Financial aid may be transferred if program counts towards degree

Next Steps: Gilman

- ❑ Create an online application: <https://gilmanapplication.iie.org/>
- ❑ Access your unofficial transcript:
<https://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/registrar/student-resources-forms/transcripts/#1621537294915-6caf6cc7-679b>
- ❑ Start drafting your essays.
 - Make an appointment with the Writing Center to review your writing: <https://bmcc.upswing.io/>
- ❑ No recommendations are needed, but remember to enter your Campus Advisors in the application:
 - Study Abroad: Sharon Reid sreid@bmcc.cuny.edu
 - Financial Aid: Yuliya Meltreger ymeltreger@bmcc.cuny.edu