STEPS TO APPLYING FOR A GILMAN SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship provides awards for U.S. citizen undergraduates who are receiving federal Pell Grant funding at a 2-year or 4-year college or university to participate in study abroad programs worldwide. The application process is competitive; to be successful you should begin your application at least three weeks before the deadline to allow time to revise your essays several times and work with your Study Abroad Advisor and the Writing Center to create a competitive application.

This handout is a guide, but official information regarding the scholarship can be found on the Gilman website.

Step 1: Learn

☐ Thoroughly review and read the Gilman website (www.iie.org/gilman), including program eligibility, essay prompts, etc.

☐ View the required online Gilman Scholarship presentation offered by Education Abroad at http://studyabroad.temple.edu/scholarships/benjamin-a-gilman-international-scholarship

Step 2: Write!

☐ Begin crafting your Statement of Purpose Essay and Follow-on Project Proposal using the following tips.

Statement of Purpose Essay
A successful essay should:
• Mention any ways in which you personally fit into the mission of the Gilman Scholarship (see checklist on the other side).
• Clearly articulate how you plan to take advantage of specific opportunities available through your program and program location to help you achieve your academic, career and personal goals and enhance your experience (i.e., volunteer work, student organizations, independent-study projects, internships, living with a host family, etc.).
• Tell YOUR story and any challenges you've faced leading up to studying abroad. It's okay to be personal – the committee needs to get to know you through your essays.
• Adhere to the 7,000 character limit and address all of the questions Gilman outlines.

Follow-On Project Proposal:
The goal of the Follow-On Project is to inspire others to pursue their own experiences abroad. A successful project proposal should:
• Be feasible, have clear and achievable goals, and defined steps to achieving those goals within one semester.
• Have a target population and specify which campus/community office, department, or organization you will work with in carrying out your project. It often works best if you are already connected to your target population in some way.
• Be unique to you, and utilize your special talents, background, knowledge, and skills.
• Adhere to the 4,000 character limit and address all of the questions Gilman outlines.

Step 3: Begin Application and Collect Materials

☐ Begin your application on the Gilman website. When asked to select a Financial Aid Advisor, select any one from the drop down list. When asked to select a Study Abroad Advisor, select the Advisor with whom you are scheduled to meet.

☐ Collect required materials. You will need to order your official paper Temple transcript from the Registrar’s website (www.temple.edu/registrar). Request the transcript for pick-up to upload it into the Gilman website. You will also need to upload either official or unofficial* transcripts from any previously attended colleges/universities. *Unofficial transcripts may be issued from your previous institution or from your online student account, but copy/pasted versions are not acceptable.

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Step 4: Receive Feedback
☐ Once you have viewed the required online Gilman presentation and you have written drafts of your essays, make an appointment to meet with a Study Abroad Advisor to receive guidance about the content of your essays and discuss your overall application.
☐ Attend an appointment at the Writing Center to receive guidance on both the content and structure of your essays.

Step 5: Revise & Submit
☐ Revise your essays using the tips from your Study Abroad Advisor and the Writing Center; resubmit them to your Study Abroad Advisor for further critique before finalizing your Gilman application. Be sure to thoroughly proofread your essays.

Deadlines:
Check the Gilman website for the most up-to-date deadlines. In order for your Study Abroad Advisor to effectively aid in your application, you must submit your essays and meet with an advisor by the following internal deadlines, which are in advance of the official Gilman deadlines.

Spring Semester / Early Summer Deadline: September 29
Fall Semester / Final Summer Deadline: February 22

Gilman Diversity Mission:
The Gilman Scholarship Program aims to support students who have been traditionally under-represented in education abroad. Although the list below is not exhaustive, you can use it as a guide and check the boxes as they apply to you.

Examples of Students Traditionally Under-represented in Study Abroad:
☐ Students with high financial need
☐ Students of color
☐ Students of indigenous, aboriginal or First-Nations heritage
☐ Students with disabilities
☐ Students in majors that are non-traditional among study abroad students (e.g. STEM fields or health professions)
☐ Students planning to study in non-traditional locations (i.e. outside of Western Europe, Australia and New Zealand)
☐ LGBTQ students
☐ First generation college students
☐ First generation US citizens
☐ Military veterans or ROTC members
☐ Student Athletes
☐ Non-traditionally aged students

In your personal statement, be sure to discuss your identity as a member of any of the groups above in connection to your decision to study abroad.