



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Prestigious External Student Awards™

GILMAN STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP ESSAYS TIPS AND GUIDELINES

Three essays required:

1. Statement of Purpose Essay
2. Building Mutual Understanding
3. Community Impact Essay

Selection Criteria:

- Academic preparedness and impact on student's academic and career trajectory
- Diversity of background and experience
- Destination
- Community Impact
- Critical Need Language Award (optional)

Examples of Diversity:

- first-generation
 - students in STEM fields (females in STEM)
 - racial and ethnic minority students
 - students with disabilities
 - students attending minority-serving institutions (TTU is a Hispanic-Serving Institution)
 - non-traditional student
 - veterans*
- The Gilman McCain Scholarship- for dependent child of active duty military members at time of application in Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Coast Guard, and recipient of any type of Title IV federal financial aid.

ESSAY ONE: Statement of Purpose (7,000 characters including spaces; single-spaced)

Personalize your application. Address the impact your study abroad program or internship will have on your academic, professional, and personal goals and how Gilman will help achieve these goals.

- Who are you? Briefly discuss your background and what makes you unique and diverse. Consult the diversity list above.
- 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 knowledge, skills, and experiences will you draw on to meet the challenges of going abroad?

ESSAY TWO: Building Mutual Understanding (3,000 characters including spaces; 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?

ESSAY THREE: Follow-on Service Project Proposal (3,000 characters including spaces; single-spaced)

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

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

- 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?

(OPTIONAL) ONLY IF APPLYING FOR CRITICAL NEED LANGUAGE AWARD (2,000 characters including spaces)

- What are your motivations for improving your language proficiency academically, professionally, and personally?
- How do you intend to improve your language skills while studying abroad? How will you increase your proficiency in the language inside and outside of the classroom setting?
- How do you intend to use the language after you study abroad, and how will the Critical Need Language Award prepare you for this?
- If you plan to study in a country where the language does not appear in the list above, what are the benefits of and resources for studying abroad in your proposed country?

* **The Gilman McCain Scholarship** provides \$5,000 awards for child dependents of active duty members to study or intern abroad on credit-bearing program. Follows the same application process and essays, but will require additional documentation to certify child dependent status of an active duty military member.

Source: <https://www.gilmanscholarship.org/applicants/essays/>