

# Advisor Best Practices: Essays pt 1

Statement of Purpose and Critical Need Language Award Essays



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# Upcoming Advisor Events

## Advisor Orientations:

### Eligible Programs and Global Partners

Wednesday, August 31

2:00pm-2:45pm ET

### Resources for Applicants and Promoting Gilman

Wednesday, September 7

3:00pm-3:45pm ET

<https://www.gilmanscholarship.org/news-events/events-2/>

## Advisor Best Practices:

### Essays Part II:

### Community Impact Essays: Building Mutual Understanding and Follow-on Service Project Proposal

August 25, 2022

4:00pm Eastern Time

### Financial Aid Advisors Tips and Tricks

September 15, 2022

3:00pm Eastern Time



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# U.S. Department of State

Promote mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries, and they do so by facilitating opportunities of academic, professional, athletic, and other cultural exchange.

[studyabroad.state.gov](https://studyabroad.state.gov)  
[exchanges.state.gov](https://exchanges.state.gov)



**BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL  
AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**



**USA Study Abroad**



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# Gilman Program's 2020-2021 Impact

**58%** were first-generation college students

**69%** represented racial or ethnic minority groups

**69%** came from rural/small towns

\*GILMAN SCHOLARSHIP SURVEY

## Since Inception

**34,000+** U.S. undergraduates of high financial need

**150+** countries

**1,350+** U.S. institutions represented



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# Scholarships up to \$5,000

- Fall
- Spring
- Summer
- Winter
- Academic Year



# Critical Need Language Award

Up to an additional \$3,000 + access to proficiency testing

- Arabic
- Azerbaijani
- Bahasa Indonesian
- Bangla
- Chinese (Mandarin)
- Hebrew\*
- Hindi
- Japanese
- Korean
- Persian
- Portuguese
- Punjabi
- Russian
- Swahili
- Turkish
- Urdu

Studying any of these languages in sign language is also eligible for CNLA



Requires an additional essay to be considered

# Eligibility



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# Gilman Eligibility

- U.S. citizen or national
- Undergraduate student
- Federal Pell Grant recipient
- Credit-bearing program
- In a country or area with an overall Travel Advisory Level 1 or 2, or approved Level 3 exception location
- No minimum length requirement!





# Gilman-McCain Scholarship Eligibility

\$5,000 for child or spousal dependents of active or activated military personnel

- U.S. citizen
- Undergraduate student
- Credit-bearing program
- In a Travel Advisory level 1 or 2 country, or level 3 approved exception
- No minimum length requirement!
- **Recipient of any type of Title IV federal financial aid**
- Dependent (child or spouse) of active or activated United States military personnel during the time of application (including Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, Coast Guard, Coast Guard Reserve, Marine Corps, Marine Corps Reserve, Navy, Navy Reserve, Space Force, NOAA Commissioned Corps, and USPHS Commissioned Corps)



# Application



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# 2 Steps

1

## Student Application

- Abroad Program Info
- Essays
- Unofficial Transcript(s)
- Select Advisors

2

## Advisor Certifications

- Study Abroad Advisor
- Financial Aid Advisor



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# ***Essay #1***

***Required***

***Max. 7000 characters***

## **Statement of Purpose**

**Personal Interview**

**You + Program + Goals**  
(academic, professional, personal)

**Meeting Challenges**



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## **Essay #4**

**Optional**

**Max. 2000 characters**

# **Critical Need Language Award Essay**

**Is it a critical need language?**

**Is it predominantly spoken in the country you're going to?**

**How does it relate to your academic or career goals?**

**Motivations for improving language proficiency**  
(academic, professional, personal)



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**LEHMAN**  
COLLEGE



## **Sandra Cortez**

City University of New York, Lehman College  
Associate Director, International Programs & Community Engagement

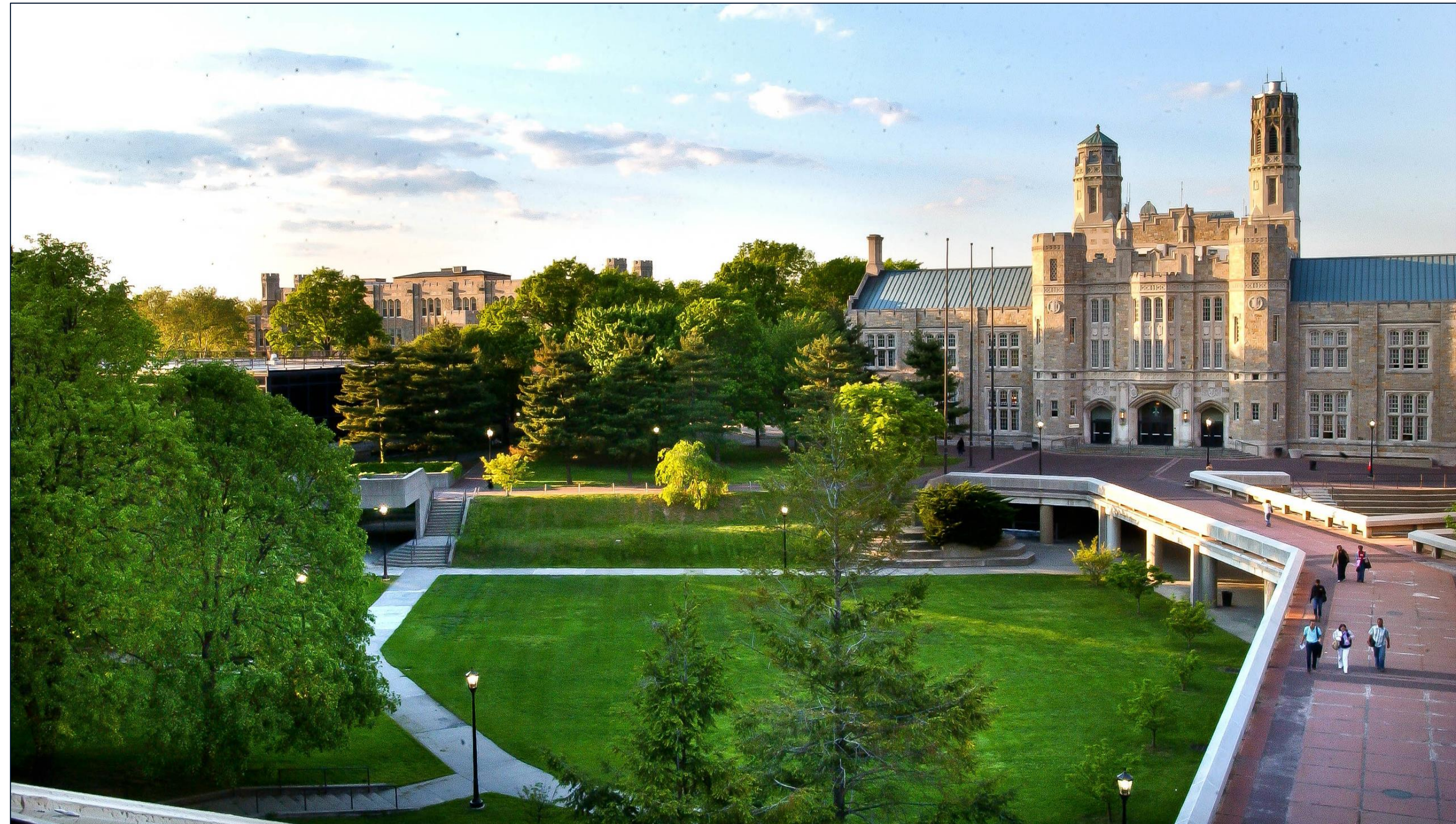


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# Lehman College

## City University of New York

- 4 Year HSI Public Institution
- 15,000 Students
- 57% First-Gen Students
- 33% Born Outside the U.S.
- 54% Household Income under 30k
- Top Producing Gilman Institution: 2016-2017 & 2018-2019
- 86 Gilman Finalists



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# Presentation Outline

## I. Statement of Purpose Essay

- a) Student Challenges & Panelist Perspective
- b) Putting it Into Practice
- c) Guiding Questions

## II. Critical Need Language Award

- a) Student Challenges & Panelist Perspective
- b) Guiding Questions

## III. Q&A



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# Statement of Purpose Essay



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# Statement of Purpose Questions

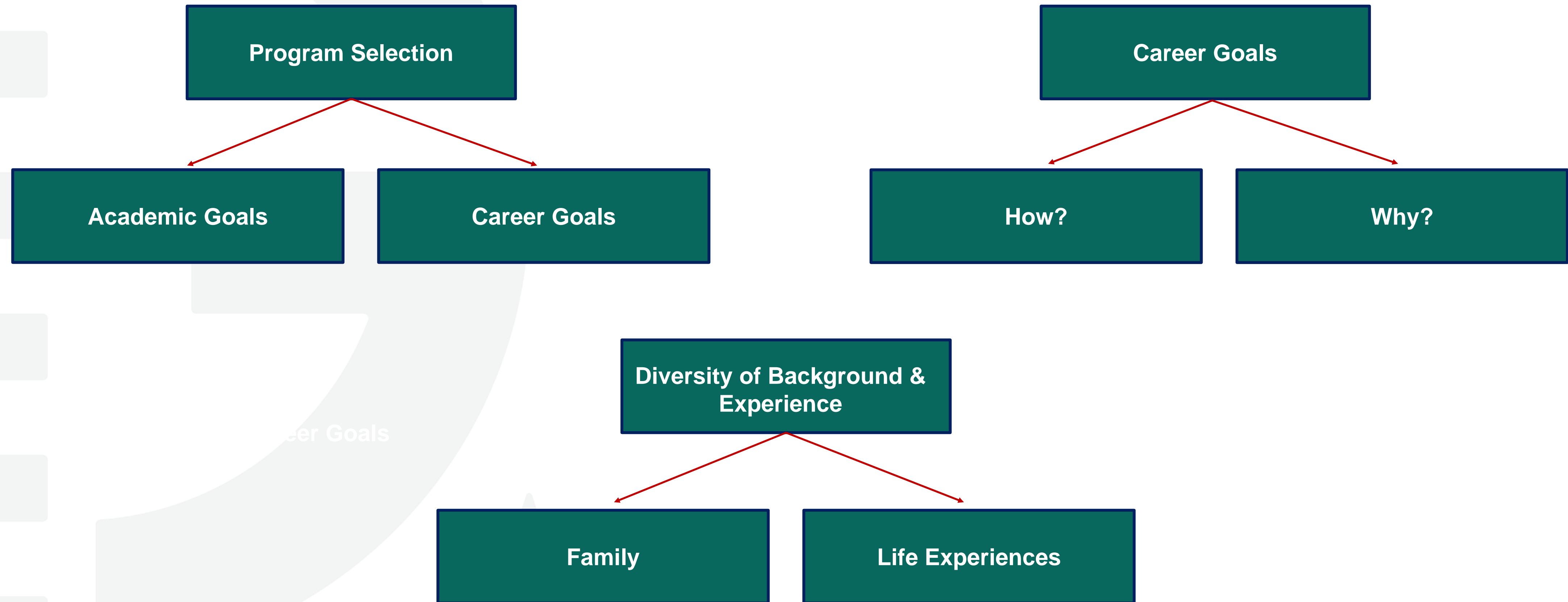
1. How will studying or interning abroad help you achieve your future academic or professional goals?
2. Why did you select your specific program and host country?
3. How are you academically prepared to be a successful scholar abroad? If you have faced significant academic difficulties, tell us about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



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# Student Challenges & Panelist Perspective



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# Putting it into Practice: Student Example

## Academics & Study Abroad Program

- Business Major at Lehman College
- Study Abroad Program in Costa Rica
- Courses: Entrepreneurship & Small Business; Creative Leadership Skills

## Background & Goals

- Born in Honduras, Garifuna Community
- Preservation of Garifuna Culture, Knowledge & History
- Researching and learning about Afro-Indigenous/Afro-Latine groups
- Business Plan: Exporting arts and goods that are made by Afro-Indigenous/Afro-Latine communities



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# Putting it into Practice: Student Example

## Academic Preparedness & Meeting Challenges

### Non-Traditional Student

- Multiple Colleges
- Older Demographic
- Academic Challenges

### Afro-Latine Experience

- Being Othered
- Feeling Out of Place
- Finding Community



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# Statement of Purpose: Guiding Questions for Students

**How will studying or interning abroad help you achieve your future academic or professional goals?**

## Academic Goals

- What is/are the name(s) of the courses you're taking abroad?
- How does this course(s) relate to your studies at X College?
- What themes, topics, or skills are you learning in this course?

## Professional Goals

- What career are you interested in pursuing?
- What led you to pursue this career? For example, if you want to become a doctor, what kind of doctor and why?
- How is the knowledge and skills you are gaining in this course going to impact your work in the future?
- Why is it important that you take this course through this program. What makes this program/course special?

## Advisor Tips

- Ask students to research career paths & create a list
- Tell students about opportunities like Fulbright, Boren, CLS and Graduate School



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# Statement of Purpose: Guiding Questions for Students

## Why Did You Select Your Specific Program & Host Country?

### Program Selection

- What interests you about the specific school/center/program you will be attending?
- What activities will you be able to participate in? (clubs, excursions, volunteering etc.)
- Does the program offer a homestay?

### Country Selection

- Did you do some research on the country? What interests you about the country? This could be language related, culture related, and career related
- Is this a country you have connections with? (ancestral home, parents home country?)



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# Statement of Purpose: Guiding Questions for Students

## How are you academically prepared to be a successful scholar abroad?

- What are some of the ways you have been successful in your course work?
- Do you work and attend school at the same time? How have you been able to manage both activities?
- If you are studying a language abroad, how have you prepared yourself beforehand OR how are you preparing to study some basic language skills?

## What examples of knowledge, skills, and experiences will you draw on to meet the challenges of going abroad?

- What obstacles have you overcome and what have you learned from those experiences?
- What skills do you currently have that will help you make connections, build community, and succeed in the classroom while you're abroad?



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# Statement of Purpose: Guiding Questions for Students

## Additional Considerations: Diversity of Background and Experience

Cultural/Ethnic Background/Race

Representation in Career Field

First-Gen Student

Person with a Disability

LGBTQIA+

Immigrant Household

English Language Learner

Religion



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# Critical Need Language Award Essay



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# Student Challenges & Panelist Perspective

Commitment of Study

Pre-Study Abroad

During Study Abroad

Post Study Abroad

Future Goals

Career

Community



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# Critical Need Language Award: Guiding Questions for Students

**What are your motivations for improving your language proficiency academically, professionally, and personally?**

- Do you need to learn this language in order to accomplish something for your academic goals? Do you plan to pursue a PhD or Graduate program in the future where you would like to use this language to conduct research?
- Do you plan to use this language for your career? Will it help you build connections or serve a particular community?
- Do you have connections to this language on a personal level?

**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?**

- What courses are you taking that will help you learn this language abroad?
- How are you studying the language outside of the classroom for example, volunteering, speaking with your host family, conducting research, visiting organizations through the program etc.?
- Is there a language mentor pairing through the program?

# Critical Need Language Award: Guiding Questions for Students

**How do you intend to use the language after you study abroad, and how will the Critical Need Language Award prepare you for this?**

- How will you continue practicing the language once you return? Are there any language centers you can utilize? Language buddy programs?
- Do you plan to use this language in your career field? How and why?
- Can you volunteer somewhere where this language is spoken and connect to a community there?



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# Q&A



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# Connect with Gilman



**@gilmanscholarship**



**Gilman Campus Advisors Community**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/gilmancampusadvisors>



**@gilmanprogram**



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# Contact for Gilman Advisors

Gilmanadvisors@iie.org

800.852.2141 Ext. 2

**Official Website**

[Gilmanscholarship.org](http://Gilmanscholarship.org)

**Advisors Portal**

[Gilmanapplication.iie.org/advisor](http://Gilmanapplication.iie.org/advisor)

**Gilman-McCain**

[Gilmanscholarship.org/program/gilman-mccain-scholarship](http://Gilmanscholarship.org/program/gilman-mccain-scholarship)

**Advisors Page**

[Gilmanscholarship.org/advisors](http://Gilmanscholarship.org/advisors)



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