What is the Boren Scholarship?
The Boren Scholarship is organized by the National Security Education Program. Its mission is to keep the United States government flush with fluent experts in languages crucial to national security concerns. To this end, the Boren facilitates deep immersion in the languages of emphasis and encourages Scholars to spend a full year abroad. They also allow for a single semester and in some cases, a summer program.

- $20,000 for a Full Year of study
- $10,000 for One Semester
- $8,000 for Summer Semester (STEM student initiative only)

Preference is given to applicants proposing an entire year.

A key feature of the Boren Scholarship is that upon completion of the scholarship term, be it a year, a semester, or a summer, the Scholar is obligated to work for the government in an area of national security for one year. You are not guaranteed a specific job, and must secure one for yourself, but NSEP makes resources available to ease your application process. Note that “National Security” has a very broad definition. In addition to traditional careers like Intelligence Analyst with the CIA or Foreign Service Officer with the Department of State, “National Security” can be impacted by energy or environmental concerns in NASA or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or as a Foreign Affairs Intern in Congress.

Who is a good fit for the Boren?
Sophomores and juniors (usually). The Boren Scholarship requires students to be matriculated in an undergraduate program for the duration of their scholarship program. Students who fit best have a sincere interest in government work after graduation, a marked ability for language, a yearning for cultural engagement, and the flexibility and passion to make a yearlong study abroad experience work. Note: the Boren does not support study abroad for Western Europe, Canada, Australia, or New Zealand.

Part of the application is an essay detailing how the proposed study abroad and language immersion experience facilitate the student’s interest in National Security. While the “Big Four” for Boren remains the Departments of Defense, State, Homeland Security, and the Central Intelligence Agency, there is also a broader definition of what “National Security” means. This can include sustainable development, environmental degradation, global disease and hunger, population growth, or economic competitiveness.
Process for Applying:
Students interested in the Boren must go through CUSE for the application process. There are two components of your application: Online and Offline.

Online: (can be completed through the Boren Website)
1. Identify Study Abroad Program
2. Students must come up with a preliminary budget.
3. Finally, two essays must be produced:
   - **Essay 1:** Significance of country/region/language to National Security; how an immersive experience with the language/region/country will impact your career goals (including your year of service); how the skills you will gain from this experience will help you contribute during your year of service. Build on previous academic, extracurricular, volunteer, internship or professional experiences.
   - **Essay 2:** Detail your study abroad program; this includes courses, activities, support provided by the program, and opportunities for language experience (both formal and informal).

Offline: (must be submitted to CUSE by campus deadline)
1. Letters of Reference (2 to 3 letters)
2. Transcripts
3. Language Self-Assessment
4. Language Proficiency form (optional)