Gilman Scholarship Information Sheet
Adapted from http://www.iie.org/gilman

What is the Gilman Scholarship?
The purpose of the Gilman Scholarship, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and funded by the International Academic Opportunity Act of 2000, is to provide up to $5,000 to U.S. undergraduate Pell Grant recipients to study abroad who might otherwise not be able to due to financial constraints. The average award is around $4,000, though the maximum amount for a Summer award is $3,000. Critical Need Language Supplements of $3,000 are also available for Gilman Scholars studying critical need languages.

Who is eligible for the Gilman Scholarship?
Gilman Scholarship applicants must meet the following criteria:

2. Undergraduate.
3. Pell Grant recipient.
4. Applying to or accepted into a study abroad program of at least four weeks in length in a country that is not on the Department of State’s Travel Warning List. The program must be eligible for credit at applicant’s home institution.

Note that Gilman Scholars are obligated to perform a service project within six months after their return.

Who is competitive for the Gilman Scholarship?
The Gilman Scholarship gives preference to those who have high financial need; plan to study in non-traditional countries (outside of Western Europe, Australia, and New Zealand) for longer periods of time; represent diverse ethnic and educational backgrounds; and have disabilities. Successful applicants will use their essays to address clearly the impact that the proposed study abroad program will have on their academic, professional, and personal goals; and to develop a compelling service project proposal that will effectively promote international education and the Gilman Scholarship on their home campuses or local communities.

What is the application process for the Gilman Scholarship?
The application process for the Gilman Scholarship is online. Applications consist of the following:

1. Biographical information.
2. Statement of Purpose Essay (no more than 7,000 characters – about 1.5 pages, single spaced). This essay should discuss the impact that the study abroad program will have on the development and achievement of the applicant’s academic, professional, and personal goals.

3. Follow-on Service Project Proposal (no more than 7,000 characters – about 1.5 pages, single spaced). This essay should propose a project to be carried out on the applicant’s home campus and/or in the applicant’s local community. This project should promote international education generally and the Gilman Scholarship specifically.

4. Official Transcripts. (These can be opened, scanned, and uploaded.)

Note that applications to study abroad programs are submitted separately. Once applicants have submitted their Gilman applications, the Financial Aid and Study Abroad Advisors they listed will receive emails in order to complete online certifications. In 2010-11, roughly 8000 students applied for the Gilman Scholarship and 2340 students (about 30%) received it. To be more specific, odds are about 40% for Fall and Academic Year awards; 30% for Spring awards; and 20% for Summer awards.

What is the timeline for the Gilman Scholarship?

- Mid-August – Application for Spring programs opens.
- Early October – Student deadline for Spring programs.
- Early October – Advisor deadline for Spring programs.
- December – Spring winners notified.
- Mid-January – Application for Summer, Fall, and full year programs open.
- Early March – Student deadline for Summer, Fall, and full year programs.
- Early March – Advisor deadline for Summer, Fall, and full year programs.
- May/June – Summer, Fall, and full year winners notified.

What is my next step if I am interested in applying for the Gilman Scholarship?

Visit [http://www.iie.org/gilman](http://www.iie.org/gilman) and read through the “About the Program,” “Eligibility,” “Deadlines & Timeline,” and “Apply” sections of the website. Take notes on the key selection criteria and what they expect from the essays. Then visit [https://gilmanapplication.iie.org](https://gilmanapplication.iie.org) to register for the online application. As you’re working on the application, consult [http://www.iie.org/Programs/Gilman-Scholarship-Program/Multimedia](http://www.iie.org/Programs/Gilman-Scholarship-Program/Multimedia) for information about putting together a competitive application. Feel free to contact CUSE National Fellowships if you have questions.