About the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)’s mission is to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries by means of educational and cultural exchange that assist in the development of peaceful relations.

- 55,000 participants engage in exchange programs funded by ECA annually
- 15,000 American participants travel abroad on exchanges each year
- 101 U.S. public and private non-profit institutions funded

www.exchanges.state.gov
#ExchangeOurWorld
Study Abroad as Diplomacy

• U.S. study abroad is vital to our country’s interests, in terms of national security, economic prosperity, and developing our future leaders

• Study abroad fosters people-to-people relationships and builds skills such as adaptability, flexibility, and language learning

• Sending American students abroad is a strategic imperative for the United States.

[www.studyabroad.state.gov](http://www.studyabroad.state.gov)  
#studyabroadbecause
USA Study Abroad

USA Study Abroad increases and diversifies U.S. study abroad through programs for both individuals and institutions. We help our future leaders gain the critical skills they need to advance U.S. national security and economic prosperity by:

- Offering study abroad opportunities;
- Building institutional capacity for study abroad; and
- Highlights the benefits of study abroad to individuals and the United States.

www.studyabroad.state.gov
#studyabroadbecause
Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program

- Provides 3,000 scholarships a year to Pell grant recipients to study or intern abroad in more than 140 countries

- Almost half of Gilman Scholars are first generation college students, and minority students participate in the program at three times the national rate of minority participation in study abroad

- Gilman’s 25,000 alumni are using their cross-cultural skills in careers in government agencies, NGOs, and the private sector

www.gilmanscholarship.org
#GilmanScholarship
Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program

- Provides fully funded scholarships for 575 U.S. students to study one of 15 critical foreign languages during immersive summer programs

Arabic    Azerbaijani    Bangla    Chinese    Hindi
Indonesian    Japanese    Korean    Persian    Portuguese
Punjabi    Russian    Swahili    Turkish    Urdu

- CLS’s 5,000 alumni are using their language and cross-cultural skills in careers ranging from government and business to education and the private sector

www.clscholarship.org
#SayYesToCLS
Fulbright U.S. Student Program

- Study/Research Awards: 900 participants a year conduct independent research projects abroad in more than 140 countries

- English Teaching Assistant Awards: 1,100 participants a year teach English language in K-16 schools in more than 70 countries

- More than 380,000 Fulbright Program alumni include 37 heads of State or Government, 59 Nobel Laureates, 82 Pulitzer Prize recipients, and 71 MacArthur Fellows

www.eca.state.gov/Fulbright  
#Fulbright
Advancing Careers

CLS alumni report that improved communication skills gained on program made them more competitive job candidates.

An independent evaluation of the Gilman Program reported that the program helps participants develop skills required to compete in the global economy and opens the door to new career possibilities.

CLS CAREER OUTCOMES

- NGO or Non-Profit: 37%
- U.S. Federal, State and Local Government: 21%
- International Organization (e.g., United Nations, IMF): 9%
- For-Profit Company: 26%
- Other: 14%

GILMAN CAREER IMPACT

- OVER 80% of alumni sought jobs that enabled them to interact with people from different backgrounds and nationalities.
- OVER 50% of alumni reported working in a field that includes an international and cross-cultural component.
Alumni Highlights

Sara Davidson
Intelligent Transportation Society of America
CLS Korean 2012

Olivia Henshaw
Gulfstream Aerospace
CLS Chinese 2012

Dev Dharm Khalsa
U.S. National Park Service
Gilman to Morocco 2012

Cortney Sanders
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
Gilman to Ghana 2014
Non-Competitive Eligibility for Certain Program Alumni

• Alumni have preferential hiring status for federal jobs for one year, and up to three years if certain conditions are met, after their program ends.

• Our goal is to build a diverse federal workforce that will benefit from the skills and experiences these alumni have developed on program.

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Application Tips

- Start early and use your resources
- Tell your personal story and create a theme within it
  - Past: What experiences make you qualified for this experience? Why you and why now?
  - Present: What are your goals for the program and how will you achieve them?
  - Future: How will you use the skills you gain on program to further your career and life goals?
- Speak to intellect and emotion when describing your program plans and goals
- Demonstrate how you will be an effective citizen ambassador
Thank You!

Questions?

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