

# Gilman Scholarship Checklist

1. Read all the information on the Gilman website [gilmanscholarship.org](http://gilmanscholarship.org) for eligibility and application instructions. The website also provides tips for successful applications, including instructional videos and webinars.
2. Register for an account at [gilmanapplication.iie.org](http://gilmanapplication.iie.org) and begin the application process, but **DO NOT SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION YET.**
3. Order your official University of Minnesota transcript from OneStop and transcripts from any other institutions you have attended. If ordering an e-transcript, you may need to first print it out and scan it as a PDF before uploading it. Upload a PDF of all transcripts to Gilman application website before the deadline.
4. Submit your essays to the Center for Writing, National & International Scholarship Office, Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence (MCAE), Asian Pacific American Learning Resource Center (APARC) and/or the Learning Abroad Center (LAC) Gilman Advisers for editing (optional). LAC advisers cannot offer feedback if you turn in your draft any less than one week before the deadline.
5. Select a Learning Abroad Center and financial aid certifying adviser from the list below. This adviser may be different from your program adviser.
6. Submit your electronic application by the posted deadline (preferably several days before the deadline). Email your Learning Abroad Center and financial aid advisers to notify them that your application is ready to be certified. Allow your advisers sufficient time to follow up on your application; do not expect them to certify your application the same day it is submitted.

## Gilman Applications Recent Statistics

- During the 2016-17 application cycles, 2922 awards were given from over 10,640 applications, an award ratio of 27%.
- Students applying to Africa, Middle East, Latin America, and Asia saw award ratios between 50–70%.
- At the University of Minnesota there were 53 applicants and 15 recipients (34% award rate) during academic year 2016-17.
- In Spring 2015, UMTC had 14 applicants and 9 winners (47% award rate). In fall 2016, we had 14 applicants and 5 winners (36% award rate).
- 5 of the 11 Spring 2013 winners attended the scholarship information session offered by the Learning Abroad Center.

## Preference is given to students:

- With demonstrated financial need
- From diverse backgrounds—but not just ethnic diversity
- Studying in "non-traditional" study abroad locations (typically located in Africa, Middle East, Latin America, and Asia.)
- Pursuing underrepresented fields of study or critical languages
- Going on year-long programs
- Completing an internship component.

Most of these traits will not be asked about anywhere on the application. It will be up to you to work them into your essay.

## Resources:

- The Gilman website offers tips for successful applications and other resources: [gilmanscholarship.org](http://gilmanscholarship.org)
- University of Minnesota Center for Writing: 15 Nicholson Hall & 9 Appleby Hall, [writing.umn.edu](http://writing.umn.edu)
- National and International Scholarship Advising: 390 Northrop. Their staff can assist with revising scholarship essays and their website provides tips for writing effective personal statements: [honors.umn.edu/scholarships/advising-resources](http://honors.umn.edu/scholarships/advising-resources)
- Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence (MCAE) Instructional Center, 140 Appleby Hall, 612.624.5494
- Asian Pacific American Resource Center (APARC) Writing Support Services, 311 Appleby Hall, [apaarc.umn.edu](http://apaarc.umn.edu)
- The Learning Abroad Center: 230 Heller Hall, [UMabroad.umn.edu](http://UMabroad.umn.edu)

## Certifying Gilman Advisers at the Learning Abroad Center:

Thuy M. Doan <a href="mailto:thuydoan@umn.edu">thuydoan@umn.edu</a>	Jessica Hartnett <a href="mailto:hart0581@umn.edu">hart0581@umn.edu</a>
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## Certifying Financial Aid advisers for the Gilman Scholarship:

Cathy Schuster <a href="mailto:heuer001@umn.edu">heuer001@umn.edu</a>	Amanda Temple <a href="mailto:atemple@umn.edu">atemple@umn.edu</a>
Roxanne Johnson <a href="mailto:joh02008@umn.edu">joh02008@umn.edu</a>	Mike Arieta <a href="mailto:arie003@umn.edu">arie003@umn.edu</a>

## Other key tips:

Your essay may be the most important part of your application. Students who meet the preference factors, but write poor essays rarely receive an award. Conversely, students who meet no preference factors, but write strong essays are successful on a regular basis.

Be thorough when defining your Follow-on Project. Mentioning specifics about how you will carry out your project, why you chose to target this population, why you chose this approach, and who you plan to work with shows much more initiative than vague details and unclear concepts.

Be memorable. Your selection committee will consist of two individuals who will each read approximately 70 essays. Applicants with essays that stand out have a greater chance of receiving an award.

Carefully craft, revise, and proofread your essay. Essays that are hastily written or sloppily constructed are easy to spot and are rarely successful. Consider this: the average award is about \$4,000. If you spend 20 hours on your two essays and receive a \$4,000 award, you've earned \$200 an hour.