Writing the Essay
Scholarships up to $5,000

• J-term
• Fall
• Academic Year
• Summer
• Spring

Additional $3,000 for the Critical Need Language Award
Applicants who are studying a critical need language in a country in which the language is predominantly spoken can apply for a supplemental award of up to $3,000

Up to $1,000 for the STEM Supplemental Award
Applicants who are conducting STEM-related research abroad as part of their study abroad or international internship program. This supplemental award is up to $1,000 for STEM Related expenses such as lab fees, equipment and more
Eligibility & Selection Criteria
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
• No minimum length requirement!
Gilman-McCain Scholarship Eligibility

$5,000 for dependents (child or spouse) of active or activated US military personnel

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

- Impact of Program & Destination on Student’s Academic & Career Directory
- Community Impact Abroad & Upon Student’s Return Home
- Academic Preparedness
- Diversity of Background & Experience
- Commitment to Proficiency in a Critical Need Language
- Commitment to a STEM Field
Advisor Certifications

Last Name A-H

• Study Abroad Advisor: Melissa Ceballos  
  melissa.ceballos@nyu.edu

• Financial Aid Advisor: Lisa Oranges  
  lisa.oranges@nyu.edu

Last Name I-P

• Study Abroad Advisor: Payal Batra  
  pb2800@nyu.edu

• Financial Aid Advisor: Elizabeth Leland  
  elizabeth.leland@nyu.edu

Last Name Q-Z

• Study Abroad Advisor: Nyoka Joseph  
  nyoka.joseph@nyu.edu

• Financial Aid Advisor: Minelia Cleland  
  mc8222@nyu.edu

What is advisor certification?

Study Abroad Advisors will be asked to verify that you have applied to a credit-eligible study abroad program and confirm your study abroad program information. The Financial Aid Advisor will be asked to verify whether you are currently receiving a Federal Pell Grant and the estimated amount of financial aid, excluding loans, you can apply to your program. Advisors can only certify if information is correct, we cannot advocate on students’ behalf.
Essays
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personal Interview</th>
<th>You + Program + Goals (academic, professional, personal)</th>
<th>Meeting Challenges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Essay #1**
*Required*
*Max. 7000 characters*
5 Questions to Ask Yourself

Statement of Purpose Essay

1. Do you make a connection between your program and goals?

2. Do you make a connection between your country and goals?

3. Do you share how you will be academically successful on your program?

4. Do you give examples of your experiences, skills, and knowledge that you will use to meet program challenges?

5. Do you address how this abroad experience will impact your future?
Sample Section

“NYU BA is awesome. I can take lots of literature courses that count towards my major, plus GPH and CORE courses.”

WAIT!
1. What is NYU BA? You must spell everything out- not everyone understands the world of NYU acronyms
2. Which literature courses? Why study literature in Buenos Aires?
3. What’s your major? How does this study abroad connect to your future goals?
4. What’s GPH and CORE?
"I’m so excited to travel because I’ve never been to Europe. Florence is a great location because it’s centrally located and makes travel easy. I’m going to take Stern courses in Florence because I want to work in Finance."

WAIT!
1. Traveling is fun, but this is NOT what Gilman wants to read about. What else do you hope to experience?
2. What’s Stern?
3. How does taking business courses in another country contribute to your understanding of the field you want to work in?
“I don’t have enough money for study abroad and my family doesn’t understand why I want to go abroad. I generally find that as an underrepresented student it is hard for me to go abroad.”

WAIT!

1. Most students applying for Gilman have significant financial need. Are there specific circumstances that make it financially difficult for you to go?
2. Could you provide more information about the support you are receiving from your family (financial, emotional, etc.) to study abroad?
3. Are you the first in your family to go to college? To study abroad?
4. Will you lose income during study abroad because you have to put your job on hold?
5. Do you have a disability that makes it more difficult for you to go?
6. Do you identify as a student of color, and does this play into your decision to study abroad?
**Essay #2**

*Required*

*Max. 3000 characters*

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**Community Impact:**

**Building Mutual Understanding Essay**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What it means to be a U.S. citizen while abroad</th>
<th>How you will seek opportunities to be culturally engaged</th>
<th>Seeking opportunities to have meaningful interactions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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3 Questions to Ask Yourself

Building Mutual Understanding Essay

1. Do you articulate how you will represent the U.S. as a citizen diplomat while abroad?

2. Do you explain how will contribute to the goal of building mutual understanding?

3. Do you discuss how you will look for opportunities to build meaningful relationships and become more culturally engaged?
Sample Section

“I understand that if selected not only would I be a representative of Gilman scholars, but also a representative of the United States. During my time abroad I will engage both inside and outside the classroom by participating in school related excursions and adventuring on personal travel to meet Spanish locals.”

WAIT!
1. Give more detail on how to have meaningful interaction with community members
2. How are you representing the US? How can you break the “American abroad stereotypes?
3. What type of activities or involvement do you hope to be apart of and how will studying abroad help you build mutual understanding?
### Community Impact: Follow-on Service Project Proposal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Being an effective citizen diplomat while abroad</th>
<th>How will you give back by inspiring others to study abroad?</th>
<th>On campus or in home community</th>
<th>Design plan of action (audience, tools, timeline)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
5 Questions to Ask Yourself

Follow-On Service Project (FOSP) Proposal

1. Does your FOSP increase awareness of the Gilman Scholarship and study abroad?

2. Is your project feasible?

3. Do you give a detailed plan for your project?

4. Do you incorporate your study abroad experience into your project?

5. Do you have an intended audience? Who will you collaborate with to reach this community?
Sample Section

“For my follow up service project, I am planning to hold my own info session. I plan to speak on how the Gilman scholarship makes studying abroad possible as well as the benefits of going abroad. I understand that people aren’t sure that going abroad is really worth it because they are worried about missing out on opportunities or internships in New York. However, having gone through this thought process myself, I have come to realize the importance of learning about a new culture and I want to help people understand that.”

WAIT!
1. You want to do an Info Session. Great. Now we need SPECIFICS!
2. Where and when will the info session be? How will you publicize? Who is your target audience and why?
3. You don’t need to write about the importance of Gilman or of studying abroad – the selection committee knows that already.
4. How will you use your individual background, experiences abroad, talents and skills, etc. in this project?
Sample Projects

Gilman Scholars have proposed projects in K-12 Outreach, Academic Department Outreach, Campus Office Outreach, Study Abroad Outreach and Other. Examples of these projects include:

- Participating in your local high school College Night to share information on study abroad opportunities and scholarships. Speaking to local k-12 students about the value of study away.
- Developing an informational flyer/brochure specific to your academic department or field of study promoting study abroad.
- Promoting and encouraging study abroad opportunities and the Gilman Scholarship at on-campus clubs, academic clubs, honor society meetings, or organization meetings.
- Presenting on study abroad opportunities and the Gilman Scholarship Program at Freshmen Orientation or in First-Year Experiences courses, encouraging students to consider study abroad earlier rather than later.
- Volunteering or working in the study abroad office as a Peer Mentor/Advisor to potential study abroad students.
- Serving as a resource person for a specific country/program/field of study that would advise/assist potential study abroad students.
- Hosting a photography exhibit on campus or in your community to share your experiences abroad, international opportunities that exist, and the Gilman Scholarship.
**Critical Need Language Award Essay**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is it a critical need language?</th>
<th>Is it predominantly spoken in the country you’re going to?</th>
<th>How does it relate to your academic or career goals?</th>
<th>Motivations for improving language proficiency (academic, professional, and personal)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
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
4 Questions to Ask Yourself

Critical Need Language (CNL) Award

1. Do you address your academic, professional, personal motivations for improving your language proficiency?

2. Do you give examples of how you will improve your language skills while studying abroad both inside and outside of the classroom setting?

3. Do you share how you intend to use the language after you study abroad and how the CNL Award prepares you for this?

4. If you would like to be considered for an exception of studying a language in a country/location where it is not predominantly spoken. Do you explain why you choose your particular location and the benefits and resources for studying the selected language there?
**Essay #5**  
*Optional*  
*Max. 1000 characters*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How is your STEM research associated with your study abroad program?</th>
<th>Describe its contribution to your future academic and/or career goals.</th>
<th>Demonstrate motivations to your STEM Field</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**STEM Supplemental Award**
2 Questions to Ask Yourself

STEM Supplemental Award

1. Will you **conduct** STEM-related research as part of your study abroad or international internship program?

2. Do you **summarize** your STEM-related research component and how this will contribute to your future academic and/or career goals?

Allowable expenses may include, but are not limited to:

- Lab fees
- Equipment or gear required to conduct research
- Hardware of software required to conduct research
- Fees required to conduct research, such as internet, cell phone, or printing costs
- Local transportation required to conduct research
Application Tips
Gilman Scholars’ Tips for Applicants

Create a compelling story that ties your past, present, and future to highlight the impact the scholarship will have on you.

Start the application early, be your truest self, and have confidence that you are worthy.
Gilman Scholars’ Tips for Applicants

For your Follow-on Service Project, think about your community and local schools. Think of how you heard about Gilman and how you could tell others about it!

If you don’t apply, you’ll never get it!
Writing Tips

- Be precise
- Use clear, concise language
- Choose compelling words that paint a picture of who you are as a person
- Give concrete examples
- Mention the Gilman Scholarship by name
- Avoid jargon: don’t assume reader knows about NYU, your major or your planned field
- Proofread: Spellcheck does not catch everything! Consider asking someone with strong writing and editing skills to proofread the essay before you submit it.
- Make sure your grammar and spelling are impeccable!
- Be creative

**Pro Tip!** Remember, the selection committee is just as human as you are, with the difficult task of deciding who to award a scholarship to. Just like you, they have hopes, goals, dreams, and passions, and they can recognize these qualities in other people too. As you write your essay, appeal to these sensibilities and try to give them an idea of who you are.
Additional Essay Writing Resources

● Advising Sessions with Us!

■ Throughout September, please sign up on our website for a virtual advising session
  
  [https://apply.globalstudy.nyu.edu/portal/gilman](https://apply.globalstudy.nyu.edu/portal/gilman)

■ Please send over your draft essays before your advising session

■ Review the [Gilman Website](https://apply.globalstudy.nyu.edu/portal/gilman) for essay guidelines, tips for writing competitive essays, and examples of follow-on service projects
Deadlines and Timelines
Contact Information

Gilman Contacts

Gilman@iie.org
800.852.2141 Ext. 1
Gilmanscholarship.org

Office of Global Programs

global.programs@nyu.edu
gilman@nyu.edu
212-993-4433