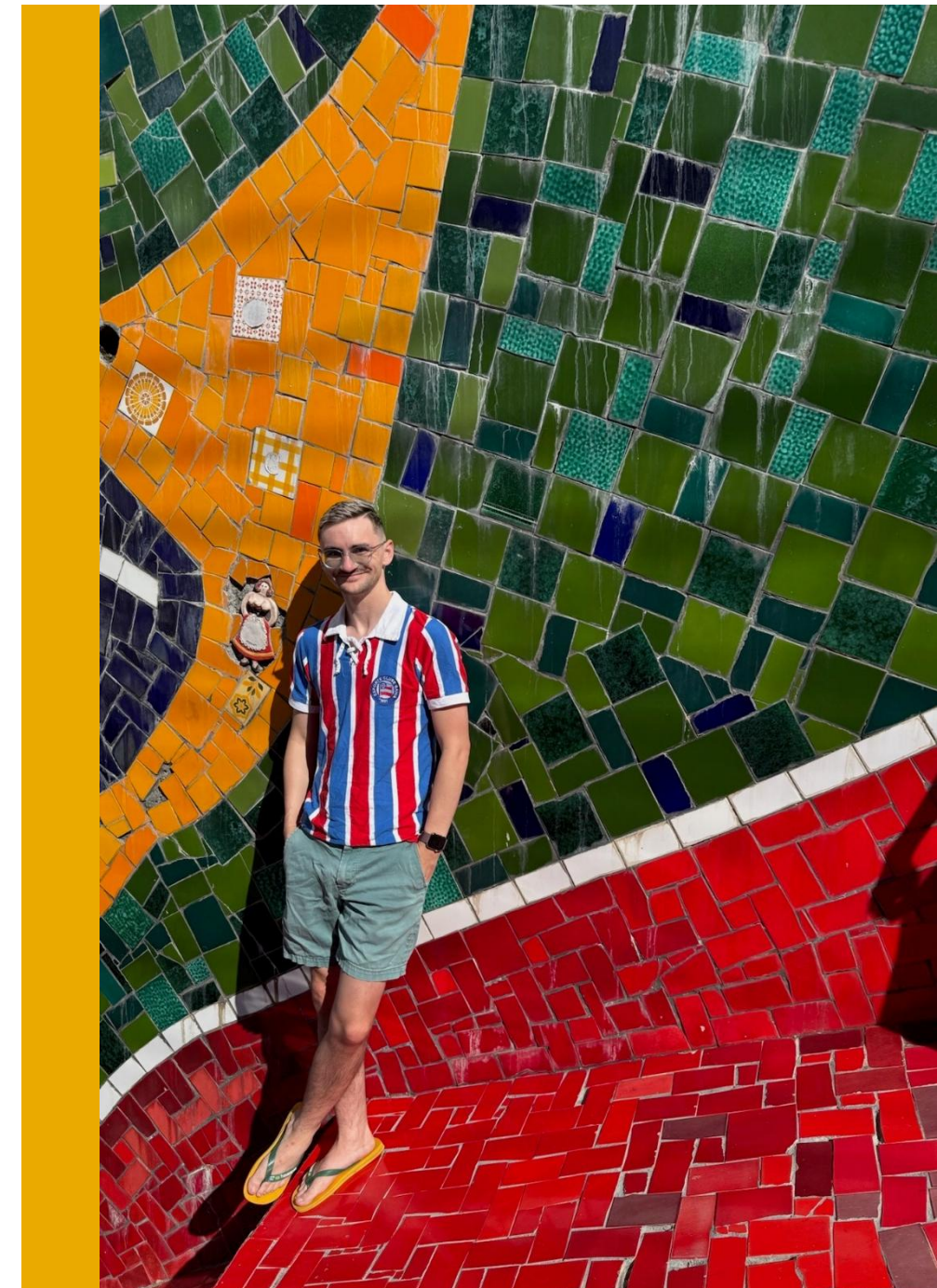




# Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program

*How you can apply for a scholarship to  
study or intern abroad*



*2026 Gilman Scholar from Tennessee to Brazil*



**Benjamin A. Gilman**  
International Scholarship



The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program is a program of the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government and supported in its implementation by the Institute of International Education (IIE).



**The U.S. Department of State's Gilman Program provides scholarships of up to \$5,000 to talented American undergraduate students with high financial need to study or intern abroad for academic credit.**



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# Who are Gilman Scholars?

- **100%** are Pell Grant recipients
- **~50%** are first-generation college students
- **70%+** come from small towns or rural communities
- They come from **all 50 states, DC, and Puerto Rico**
- Represent **1,400+** colleges and universities, including community & technical colleges
- They are pursuing a **variety of careers** in business, technology, health care, education, engineering, science, law, diplomacy, **and so much more**



*2026 Gilman Scholar from Florida to Ghana*



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# What do Gilman Scholars do?



- Study or intern in **170+** countries
  - Students choose their destination country and a **credit-bearing program**.
  - **No minimum program length**, and students can be abroad for up to one academic year.
  - Students studying critical need languages or participating in STEM-related coursework or internships abroad can apply for **supplemental awards** for additional scholarship funds.
- Complete a **Follow-On Service Project** to share what they learned with their communities in the U.S.



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# Benefits of Being a Gilman Scholar

- Join a network of more than **50,000 Gilman alumni!**
- Invitations to career workshops, networking events, and seminars
- Access to the **Gilman Scholar Network**, an online platform where Gilman alumni connect for mentorship, career guidance, and much more
- Develop leadership experience as a **Gilman Alumni Ambassador**



*Your Gilman experience can keep opening doors after you return home!*



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# About the Program



*2026 Gilman Scholar from Puerto Rico to Hong Kong*



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# U.S. Department of State

*A Program within the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs*



Established by the U.S. Congress, the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program is an initiative of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and is supported in its implementation by the Institute of International Education (IIE).

ECA exchange programs strengthen the national security of the United States through improved foreign relations, support U.S. international leadership, and provide a broad range of domestic benefits by breaking down barriers and investing in American communities and organizations.

→ Learn more at [state.gov/ECA](https://state.gov/ECA)



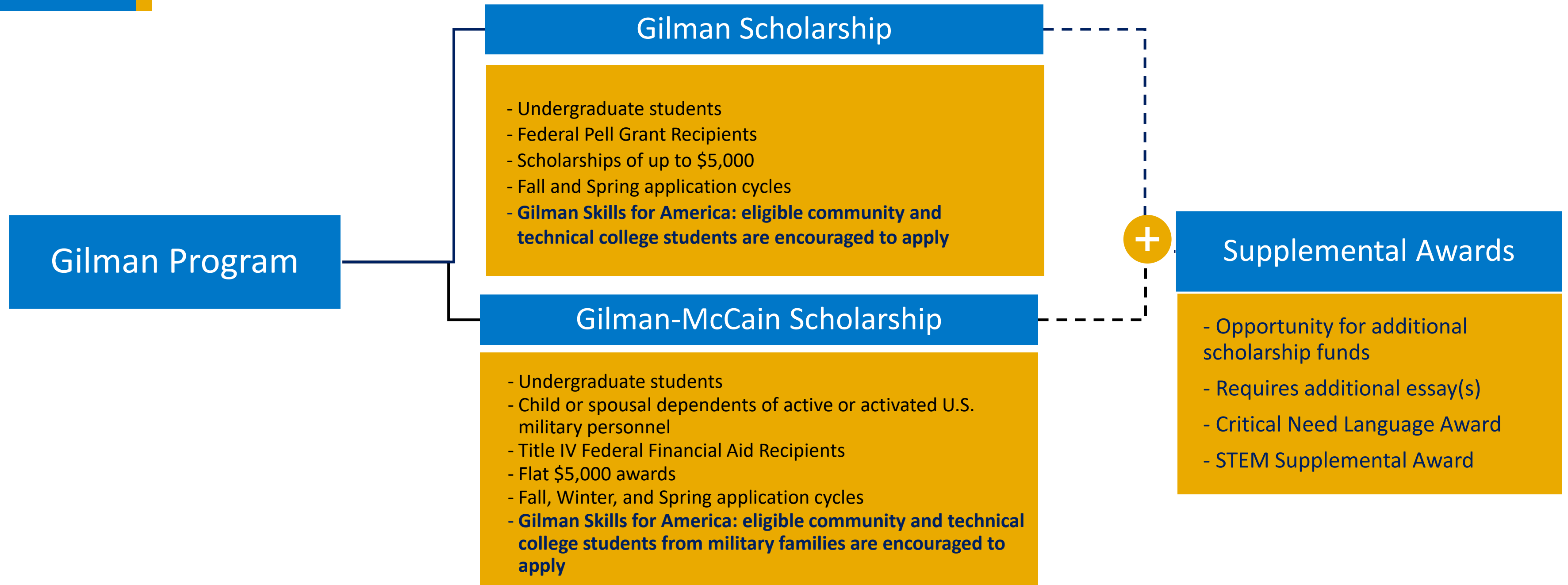
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# Guide to the Gilman Program



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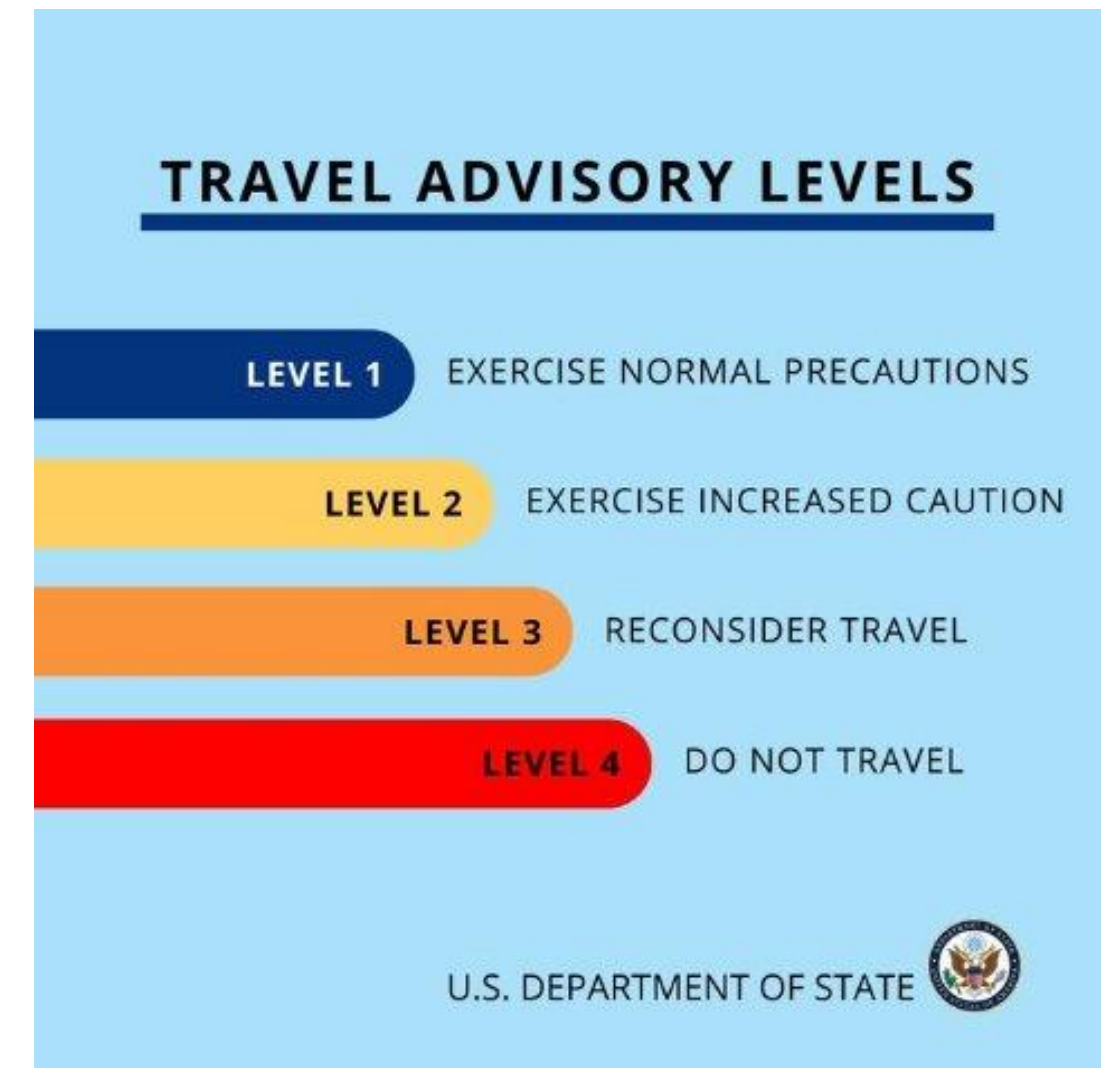
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# Gilman Eligibility

- U.S. citizen or national
- Undergraduate student in good standing at an accredited U.S. institution of higher education
  - Eligible community and technical college students may apply for the **Gilman Skills for America Scholarship**
- Federal Pell Grant recipient
  - During time of application or time abroad
- Program Requirements:
  - Must be credit-bearing
  - Must be in a country or area with a Travel Advisory Level 1 or 2
  - No minimum program length!



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# Gilman-McCain Eligibility

- U.S. citizen or national
- Undergraduate student **who is a child or spousal dependent of active or activated U.S. military personnel**
  - Eligible community and technical college students may apply for the **Gilman Skills for America Scholarship**
- **Title IV** Federal Financial Aid recipient
  - Includes federal work-study, Pell Grant, and more
- Program Requirements:
  - Must be credit-bearing
  - Must be in a country or area with a Travel Advisory Level 1 or 2
  - No minimum program length!



*2025 Gilman-McCain Scholar  
from Utah to South Korea*



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# Gilman Skills for America Scholarship



*Supporting Students from Community & Technical Colleges*

- Exclusively for U.S. undergraduates at accredited community colleges and vocational/technical institutions
- **Apply through the general Gilman application**, with no additional essay
- Open to **all fields of study** and career pathways
- Build **in-demand skills** that strengthen the American workforce

## Explore What's Possible

*Gilman Scholars from community & technical colleges have studied:*

- Aviation Technology
- Computer Science
- Criminal Justice
- Hospitality
- Manufacturing
- Marketing
- Veterinary Technology

**...and so much more!**



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# Supplemental Award: CNLA

## Critical Need Language Award



- Receive up to an **additional \$3,000** to study a critical need language
- Access to free testing (ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview) to demonstrate language proficiency for educational and professional purposes
- Apply by writing an additional essay during the Gilman application

| Eligible Languages |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| Arabic             | Persian    |
| Bahasa Indonesia   | Portuguese |
| Chinese (Mandarin) | Russian    |
| Hindi              | Swahili    |
| Japanese           | Turkish    |
| Korean             | Urdu       |

*\*Eligible languages list updated July 2026*



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# STEM Supplemental Award

- Receive up to an **additional \$1,000** towards STEM-related coursework or internships
- Coursework must already be formally integrated into their credit-bearing program
- Open to students in STEM & non-STEM majors
- Apply by writing an additional essay during the Gilman application



*2025 Gilman Scholar & STEM Supplemental Award Recipient from Georgia to Kenya*



**Benjamin A. Gilman**  
International Scholarship



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# How to Apply



*2026 Gilman Scholar from Illinois to Costa Rica*



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International Scholarship



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# Application Requirements

## *Gilman & Gilman-McCain Applications*



### 1. Student Application

- Program information
- Essay responses
- Unofficial transcript(s)
- Choose **two** campus advisors to certify
  1. Study Abroad Advisor  
*Does not need to be in the Study Abroad office*
  2. Financial Aid Advisor

### 2. Advisor Certification

- Study Abroad Advisor
  - Verify program information, including total costs
  - Confirm that the student is in good academic standing
- Financial Aid Advisor
  - Verify Pell Grant or Financial Aid Status

*Applications without advisor certifications  
are not considered*



**Benjamin A. Gilman**  
International Scholarship



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# Application Essays



The application requires **four short essays**, with a maximum of 500 words for each essay:

## *Statement of Purpose Essays*

1. Motivations for Studying or Interning Abroad
2. Preparation and Skill Development

## *Community Impact Essays*

3. Gilman Scholars as Citizen Diplomats
4. Contributions to U.S. Communities and Follow-on Service Project Proposal

*2026 Gilman Scholar from South Carolina  
to the Cayman Islands*



**Benjamin A. Gilman**  
International Scholarship



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# Statement of Purpose Essay 1



Short Essay 1:

## **Motivations for Studying or Interning Abroad** *(500 word max)*

- Why did you select your specific program or internship and host country?
- Make the case for why your study abroad academic experience (or your internship experience abroad) would contribute to your future academic and/or career goals.



*2025 Gilman Scholar from Arizona to China*



**Benjamin A. Gilman**  
International Scholarship



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# Statement of Purpose Essay 2



*2026 Gilman Scholar from North Carolina to Peru*

## Short Essay 2:

### **Preparation and Skill Development** *(500 word max)*

- Please describe specific examples in which your skills and/or experiences (academic, professional, extracurricular and/or volunteer activities, etc.) have prepared you to effectively adapt to and succeed in your host country.
- What specific skills and knowledge do you hope to develop through your experience abroad?



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International Scholarship



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# Community Impact Essay 1



Short Essay 3:

## **Gilman Scholars as Citizen Diplomats** *(500 word max)*

- Describe your plans for engaging and building relationships with your host community.
- How will you share what it means to be an American with your host community?



*2026 Gilman Scholar from Georgia to Belize*



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International Scholarship



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# Community Impact Essay 2



2024 Gilman Scholar from Ohio to Tanzania

## Short Essay 4:

### Contributions to U.S. Communities and Follow-on Service Project Proposal (500 word max)

- Describe your Follow-on Service Project, including how it will highlight the critical role of study abroad in enhancing career readiness and strengthening U.S. global leadership, as well as showcase support available through the Gilman Program.
- Explain the primary audience for your follow-on service project and why you selected them.



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The Power  
of International  
Education

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# Supplemental Award Essay: CNLA

## *Critical Need Language Award*

Students applying for the **Critical Need Language Award (CNLA)** must submit an additional essay (300 word max) answering the following questions:

- What are your motivations for learning and/or improving proficiency in your targeted language for your academic and/or career success?
- Describe your plan to develop your language skills while studying abroad, both inside and outside of the classroom setting.



*2017 Gilman Scholar from Georgia to South Korea*



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International Scholarship



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# Supplemental Award Essay: STEM

## *STEM Supplemental Award*



*2026 Gilman Scholar from Texas to Singapore*

Students applying for the **STEM Supplemental Award** must submit an additional essay (*300 word max*) answering the following questions:

- Please summarize your STEM-related coursework overseas and how it contributes to your future academic and/or career goals.



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International Scholarship



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# Essay Tips

- Double-check the **requirements**: Make sure you're answering **all** the prompt questions and following the word limit and formatting requirements.
- **Work with your advisor**: They'll have insight into what makes for a competitive essay.
- Ask someone to **proofread**: Go to a writing center or professor to ask for feedback. They can note where you may need to clarify.



*2025 Gilman Scholar from Arizona to France*



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# Selection Criteria

*How your Gilman Program application will be reviewed*



Impact of Program and Destination on Student's Academic & Career Trajectory



Preparedness for Program Abroad

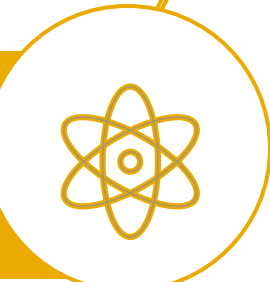


Representing America Abroad and Hometown Impact

**CNLA:** Commitment to proficiency in a Critical Need Language



**STEM:** Commitment to a STEM Field



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# Application Deadlines



*2026 Gilman Scholar from Ohio to Costa Rica*



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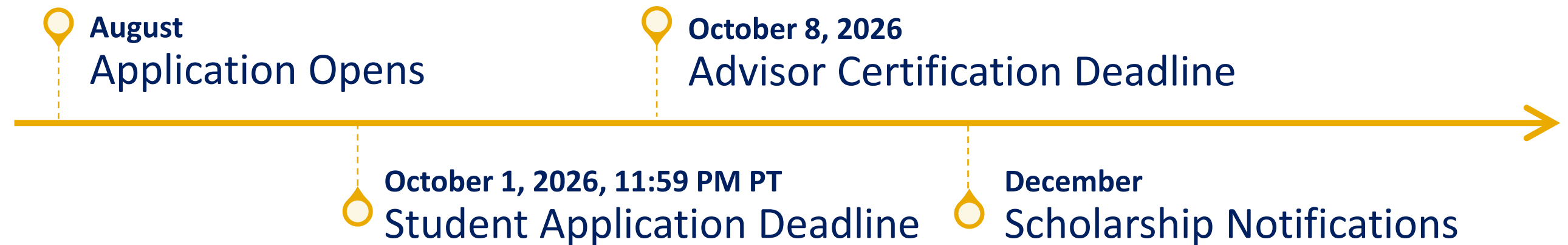




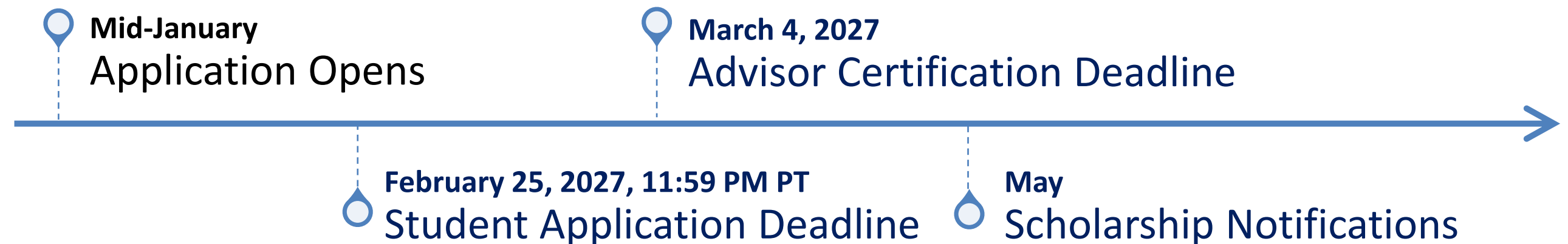
# Application Cycles

## *Gilman & Gilman-McCain Programs*

*Fall Cycle:*  
Programs starting  
**Dec 2026 – Oct 2027**



*Spring Cycle:*  
Programs starting  
**May 2027 – Apr 2028**



*\*There is an **additional application cycle for Gilman-McCain applicants** opening in mid-November with an early January deadline.*



**Benjamin A. Gilman**  
International Scholarship

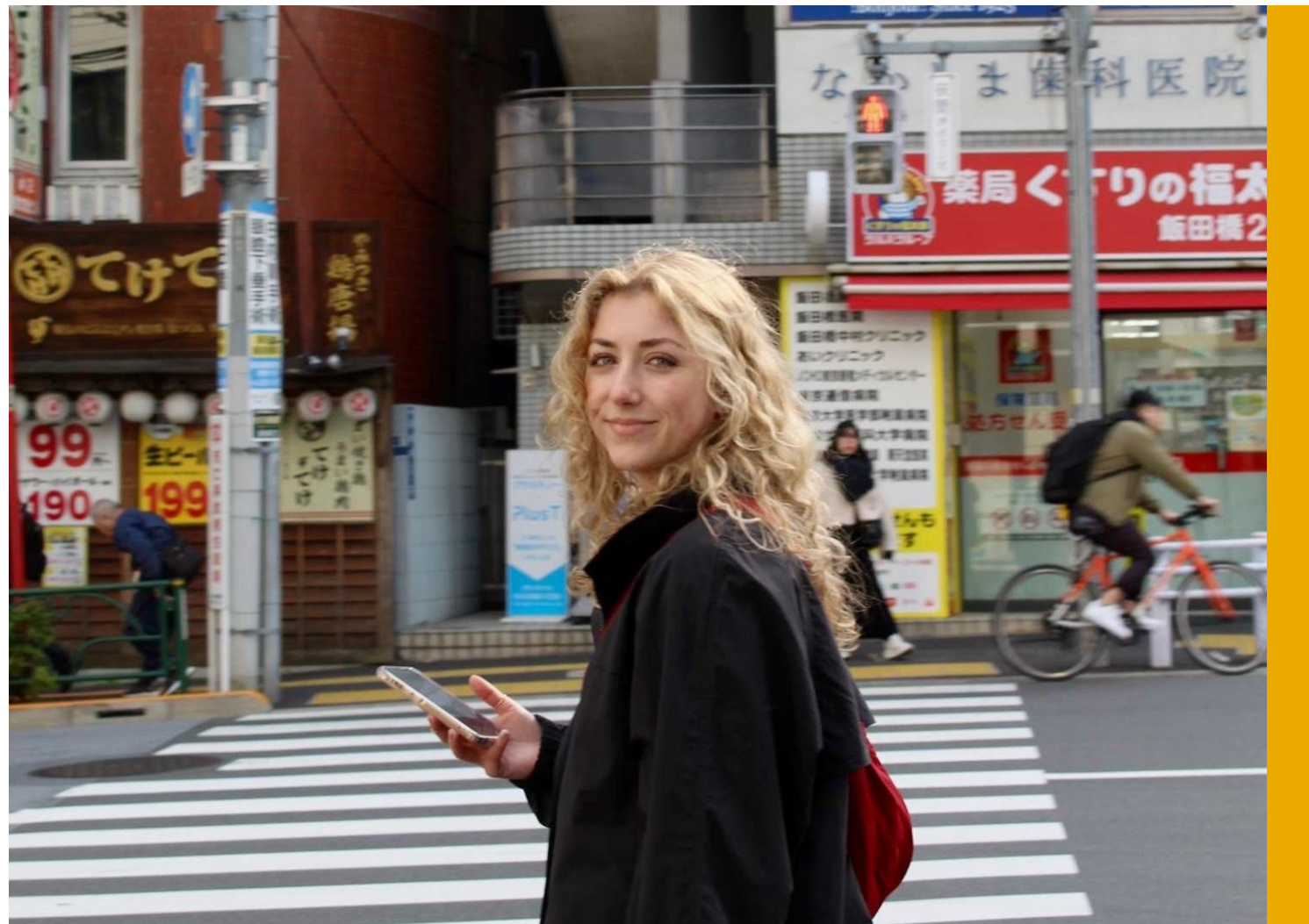


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# Stay Connected



*2023 Gilman Scholar from Maine to Japan*



**GilmanScholarship.org**



**Gilman@iie.org**



**800.852.2141 Ext. 1**



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# Advisor Resources

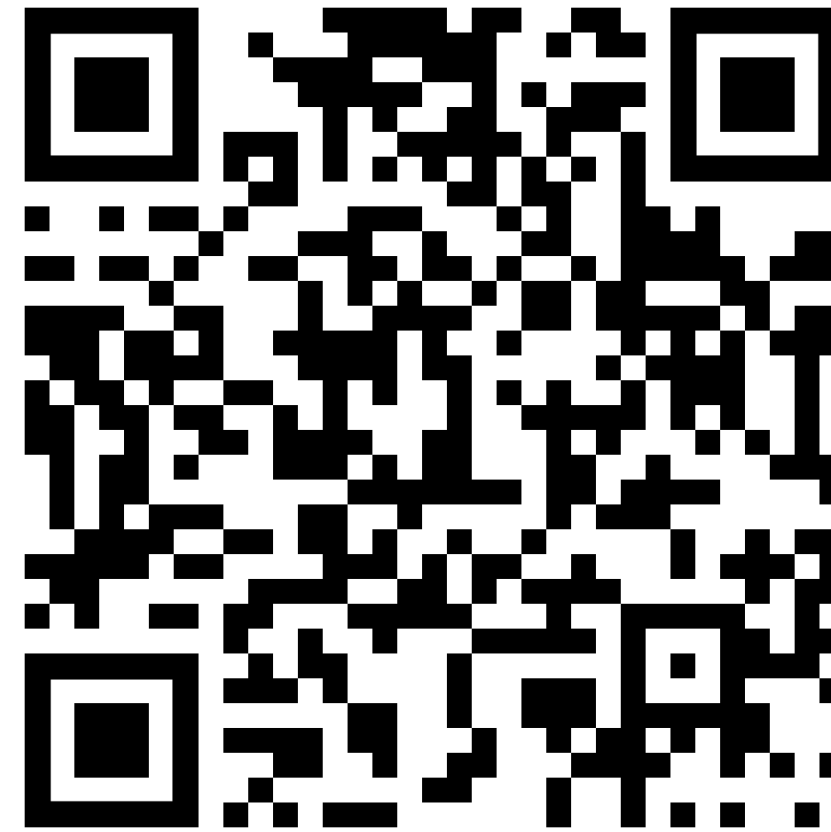


## Learn & Connect

- Advisor Newsletter
- Webinars, office hours and more
- Serve as a Selection Panelist
- Email: [GilmanAdvisors@iie.org](mailto:GilmanAdvisors@iie.org)

## Outreach Resources

- Flyers, presentations, images and more



[GilmanScholarship.org/AdvisorResources](https://GilmanScholarship.org/AdvisorResources)



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