

FUNDED PROGRAM FOR SUMMER LANGUAGE STUDY



The **Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program** is a summer study abroad opportunity for American college and university students to learn languages essential to America's engagement with the world.

Students spend eight to ten weeks abroad over the summer studying one of **15 critical languages**.

The CLS Program, a program of the **U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs**, is part of a U.S. government initiative to expand the number of Americans studying and mastering foreign languages that are critical to **national security** and **economic prosperity**. CLS plays an important role in preparing American students for the 21st century's **globalized workforce** and increasing **national competitiveness**.

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



The program includes **intensive language instruction** and structured **cultural enrichment experiences**



Full scholarship covers all travel, tuition, housing, and a living stipend



Participants may receive **undergraduate academic credit** for the equivalent of one year of language classes



Language gains certified with the widely recognized ACTFL OPI test



Non-competitive eligibility for U.S. government jobs for up to three years after program completion



www.clscholarship.org

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The CLS Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government and supported in its implementation by American Councils for International Education.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

CLS Program institutes cover approximately one academic year of university-level language coursework during an **eight- to ten-week program** and are designed to meet the needs of students from a variety of language levels and backgrounds. Some CLS institutes require one to two years of prior language study (or the equivalent), while others accept students with no prior background in the language.

Formal classroom language instruction is provided for a minimum of 20 hours per week. Extracurricular activities are designed to supplement the formal curriculum, including regular one-on-one meetings with **native speaker language partners** for conversational practice, as well as **cultural activities and excursions** designed to expand students' understanding of the history, politics, culture and daily life of their host country.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must be U.S. citizens or nationals enrolled in a U.S. degree-granting program at the undergraduate or graduate level. Students pursuing associates or professional degrees at community colleges and technical schools are also eligible and encouraged to apply.

Students in all disciplines, including business, engineering, sciences, social sciences and humanities are encouraged to apply. All applicants should have a plan to continue studying the language, and explain how the language will be used in their future careers.

The CLS Program welcomes all eligible applications and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, geographic location, socio-economic status, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity. Applications are accepted each fall for programs beginning the following summer.

LANGUAGE LEVELS

Open to students at all language levels , including beginners	Azerbaijani, Bangla, Hindi, Indonesian, Persian, Punjabi, Swahili, Turkish and Urdu
One year prior study required	Arabic, Korean, Russian and Portuguese
Two years prior study required	Chinese and Japanese

