

Fellowships and Study Away

NP 11/17

There are a handful of nationally competitive programs that fund traditional study away programs, each with a particular goal to diversify study away participation. The Fellowships Office is happy to support applications, including reading drafts, for any of the following:

The Gilman Scholarship provides up to \$5,000 dollars for study away, up to \$8,000 in critical language countries. The funds can be applied to expenses like airfare, visa costs, insurance, and local transportation above and beyond any Oberlin-specific financial aid. *Applicants must be low income U.S. Citizens.* There are three deadlines each year for fall, spring, and summer study-away programs:

- **For fall programs** generally beginning between July 15 and October 15, the deadline is **March 6**
- **For spring programs**, generally beginning between December 15 and April 15, the deadline will be the **1st week of October, 2018**
- **For summer programs**, generally beginning between May 1 and August 1, the deadline is **March 6.**

The Boren Scholarships, an initiative of the National Security Education Program, provide unique funding opportunities for U.S. undergraduate students to study less commonly taught languages in world regions critical to U.S. interests and underrepresented in study abroad, including Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America, and the Middle East. *The countries of Western Europe, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand are excluded.* Study away for longer than 6 months is strongly preferred for Boren Awards. The scholarship provides up to \$10,000 for traditional study. **A STEM initiative** provides up to \$8,000 for summer study away programs in related STEM fields. **The Boren African Languages Initiative** provides up to \$10,000 for language training and study away in target countries.

- The Oberlin internal **nomination deadline is January 15** (email fellowships@oberlin.edu)
- **The National deadline is February, 8**

The Freeman Asia Scholarship is designed to support U.S.-based undergraduates with demonstrated financial need who are planning to study abroad in East or Southeast Asia. The program's goal is to increase the number of U.S. citizens and permanent residents with first-hand exposure to and understanding of Asia and its peoples and cultures. A Freeman-ASIA Award provides need-based funding to assist the recipient with the cost of the study abroad program and related expenses, including airfare, basic living costs, local transportation, books, etc. Grant amounts are: Summer Award: up to \$3,000; Semester/Quarter Award: up to \$5,000; Academic Year Award: up to \$7,000

- Deadlines vary by year. The **Summer 2018** application will **open in early January 2018**. The **Fall/Academic Year 2018-2019** application will **open in February 2018**. The **Spring deadline** generally falls in **Mid-October**.

In addition to these programs, several fellowships offer international experience for students as early as their second year. These can be great options for those in STEM fields or others who may have difficulty scheduling a more traditional study away. The Fellowships Office also supports these programs:

The Critical Language Scholarship is an intensive overseas language and cultural immersion program for American students enrolled at U.S. colleges and universities. Students spend eight to ten weeks abroad studying one of 14 critical languages. The program includes intensive language instruction and structured cultural enrichment experiences designed to promote rapid language gains. **The deadline** is generally the **second week of November** for the following summer.

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The Fulbright UK Summer Institutes are three-to-four week programs for U.S. undergraduate students. Participants can explore the culture, heritage and history of the UK while experiencing higher education at a UK university (expenses paid). Open to sophomores or 3rd year double-degree students only. Minimum 3.7 gpa required.

The DAAD Research Internships in Science and Engineering (RISE) program offers undergraduate students from North American, British and Irish universities the opportunity to complete a summer research internship at top German universities and research institutions. Fellowships are funded by the German Federal Foreign Office (DAAD). Students are matched with a host university or institute according to their area of interest (biology, chemistry, physics, earth sciences, engineering, or a closely related field). **German language is not required** and the working language will be in English. **Deadline: December 15; January 7 for recommenders.**

There are many other programs, large and small, that provide funding and opportunity for students interested in Study Away. One of the best locations for learning about the breadth of these programs is through a site like this one from the NAFSA Association of International Educators:

http://www.nafsa.org/About_Us/About_International_Education/For_Students/U_S__Study_Abroad_Scholarships_and_Grants_List/

The Office of Study Away, The Career Development Center, and other offices and departments are happy to help support applications to programs that fit your needs. With some advanced planning, Study Away can be affordable!

And when you return to Oberlin...

- Find ways to integrate your experience into your academic work. Take a class that will continue a topic you focused on during your semester away or deepen your knowledge of the language, geographic location, or other curricular focus from your time away. Incorporate your experience into a senior project, private reading, research course, or capstone.
- If you established contact with a mentor, friend, or potential advisor, keep in touch. At a minimum, keep up with the published work of any potential advisors.
- Teach or tutor the language. Write/speak about/report your experience in whatever context and forums are most relevant.
- Let the Office of Study Away, the Career Development Center, the Fellowships Office, and whoever else helped support your time away know how your experience went—for better or worse. Those of us in the business of advising students want to pass on your experience to others. Let us know if we should be sending more or fewer Oberlin students down the paths you have chosen.
- When you want to go back to your host country or somewhere else abroad, make an appointment with the Office of Fellowships and Awards. **Spring of your junior year is a good time to start making post-graduation plans. Deadlines for post-graduate fellowships cluster in September and October!**