

# TIPS FOR APPLYING FOR A BENJAMIN A. GILMAN SCHOLARSHIP

[www.iie.org/gilman](http://www.iie.org/gilman)

We are eager to assist you as you apply for a Gilman Scholarship. The process is relatively simple and submitting a well-thought out and well-written proposal is essential. The deadlines are normally in early March for summer and fall study abroad and in early October for spring study abroad programs. The deadline for the Summer Early Application is normally in early October. Make an appointment with an adviser as you begin the application process.

*Here are some helpful tips:*

- The Gilman program offers webinars for applicants; check their [website](#) for dates. Video resources are also available: <https://www.gilmanscholarship.org/resources/videos/>
- You must indicate the name of a study abroad advisor who will certify your application. Therefore, we strongly urge you to meet with an advisor well in advance of the application deadline. This will give you an opportunity to make sure that you understand the application process and to discuss possible Follow-On Projects. Once you have submitted your application, you cannot make any changes.
- You must indicate the name of your [Financial Aid Counselor](#) who will certify your application. Meet with him or her *before* submitting your Gilman application. It is important that you understand how study abroad and an outside scholarship may affect your financial aid package.
- If you're participating in a semester UR study abroad program, *your estimated costs will be based on UR tuition and housing costs, not on the program's costs.*
- These are generous scholarships – the application process will require time and effort on your part; don't wait until the last minute to write your essays.
- Before submitting your online application, bring a draft of your essays to the College Writing, Speaking and Argument Program in Rush Rhees G-121. The advisors in the Center for Education Abroad will also be happy to review your drafts. Helpful essay writing tips can also be found here: <http://www.rochester.edu/college/studentfellowships/essays/index.html>
- Don't rely on spellcheck alone; PROOFREAD!

## **ESSAYS**

Write clearly and concisely; follow the essay guidelines closely. Gilman program reviewers read hundreds of applications and writing an excellent essay that addresses each of the bullet points can make the difference between receiving and not receiving an award.

### *STATEMENT OF PURPOSE ESSAY:*

- Address *each* of the six points
- Do not gloss over the last point, which asks about challenges that you face in your decision to study abroad.
- Be sure to include the full name of your study abroad program, e.g., *IES Dublin Entrepreneurship and Technology*.
- Back up your statements. For example, “studying abroad will be beneficial to my career” is insufficient. How and why will study abroad be beneficial? (whether it is directly related to your career goals, or not).
- If you are applying to a summer study abroad program, be sure that you address why you are studying abroad in summer, rather than during the semester.

*FOLLOW-ON PROJECT:*

- The Follow-On Project should be designed to promote study abroad and the Gilman program to people on campus and/or in the community. Past projects have included visits to high schools, ‘open mic’ nights on campus, programming to undergraduate department councils, and photographic exhibits. You can be creative! Don’t try to do too much; focus on one project that really motivates you. Some examples are on the [Gilman website](#).

- The description of your Follow-On Project should indicate that you have a specific project planned and have contacted those who will be involved. In other words, writing that you’re going to help the Center for Education Abroad is insufficient. Writing that you’re going to maintain a bulletin board of study abroad scholarships and staff a scholarship information table in Wilson Commons in cooperation with the Center for Education Abroad is more definite.

- **Do not wait until the last minute to request your official transcript; normal turnaround time is three to five days.**

The Center for Education Abroad  
Dewey Hall 2-161  
585-275-7532

Email: [www.rochester.edu/College/abroad/](http://www.rochester.edu/College/abroad/)

Rev 9/18