Boren Scholarships for Undergraduates

Application Deadline: Fri, 12/06/2013
Contact Information: Dr. Timothy Lang

Scholarship Homepage Link: Boren Scholarships

Description

Boren Scholarships provide up to $20,000 to U.S. undergraduate students to study abroad in areas of the world that are critical to U.S. interests and underrepresented in study abroad, including Africa, Asia, Central & Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America, and the Middle East.

Boren Scholarships are funded by the National Security Education Program (NSEP), which focuses on geographic areas, languages, and fields of study deemed critical to U.S. national security.

Eligibility

Boren Scholarships are for undergraduate students. You are eligible to apply for the Boren Scholarship if you are:

- A U.S. citizen at the time of application
- A high school graduate, or have earned a GED
- Matriculated in an undergraduate degree program located within the United States accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Boren Scholars must remain matriculated in their undergraduate programs for the duration of the scholarship and may not graduate until the scholarship is complete.
- Applying to a study abroad program that meets home institution standards in a country outside of Western Europe, Canada, Australia, or New Zealand.

Boren Scholarships are not for study in the United States.

Requirements

- All Boren Scholars must study a foreign language appropriate to the country in which they are studying abroad. Visit the Boren Web site for a list of
languages.

- **Government Service:** In exchange for scholarship funding, all Boren Scholars must agree to work in the Federal Government in a position with national security responsibilities. The Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, State, or any element of the Intelligence Community are priority agencies. See the Boren Web site for more information on the service requirement.

- The program focuses on geographic areas, languages, and fields of study deemed critical to U.S. national security. It draws on a broad definition of national security, recognizing that the scope of national security has expanded to include not only the traditional concerns of protecting and promoting American well-being, but also the challenges of global society, including: sustainable development, environmental degradation, global disease and hunger, population growth and migration, and economic competitiveness. All applicants must demonstrate how their study programs and future goals are connected to this broad understanding of national security.

- Boren Scholarships are awarded with preference for countries, languages, and fields of study critical to U.S. national security. Preference is also given to students who will study abroad for longer periods of time, and who are highly motivated by the opportunity to work in the federal government.

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**How to Apply**

- **Closely study the Boren Scholarship Web site.**
- Contact your Boren campus representative for your on-campus deadline. Continue to work with your campus representative during the application process.
- Submit the Boren Scholarship application, which includes the items listed below. Before starting the online application, remember to read the application instructions.
- Choose a study abroad program
- Write a budget section
- Write two statements of purpose
  - **Statement I: Rationale**
    
    You will need to:

    Explain the significance of your proposed study abroad experience (including the region you selected, its culture, and the language you will study) to U.S. national security, broadly defined.

    Describe how the country, language, and study abroad program you selected will help you achieve your academic and career goals, including your plans to fulfill the service requirement.

    **Statement II: Study Abroad Program Description**

    You will need to:
Describe the study abroad program’s course of study and related cultural activities, as well as the administrative and support services provided (i.e., facilities, housing, resident director, etc.).

Describe the language component in as much detail as possible, including the number of classroom contact hours and informal language study opportunities outside of the classroom.

Describe your past experience in studying or speaking the language (or another language if relevant), as well as your plans for continuing to study and/or speak the language following your Boren Scholarship.

Submit the following supplementary materials to your campus representative.

- Two completed letters of reference. Letters of reference must be signed, original letters in an envelope with the signature across the seal, when they are submitted to your campus representative or IIE. Two letters are required, and you may include a third optional letter.
- Official, hard copy, transcripts from all colleges and universities attended. Freshmen must also include high school transcripts.
- Language self-assessment
- Language proficiency form (optional)
- A one page study abroad program description with cost information must be submitted.

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