CLS Program Application Worksheet

This worksheet is designed to help plan your essay responses and to reflect on your motivations for applying to the CLS Program. This worksheet is **NOT** a part of the CLS application, which is available online at: <https://clscholarship.org/apply>

Each essay in the CLS application contains an introductory passage and a set of prompts. You are expected to answer **each** prompt throughout the course of your essay. In this worksheet, we have provided you with additional questions to help you think more deeply about what the prompts are asking of you. These questions appear in the “Ask yourself” sections and are **not** part of the actual application.

We recommend beginning your online application early, as the essays only make up one section of the longer application. In addition to using this document to prepare drafts of your essays, we encourage you to check out more resources for applicants at: [www.clscholarship.org/applicants](http://www.clscholarship.org/applicants)

Essay #1: Citizen Diplomacy & Mutual Understanding (300 word maximum)

With the goal of mutual understanding, CLS scholars bear responsibility for representing the United States as citizen diplomats in their host communities; they reflect a diversity of values, beliefs, and opinions that is fundamental to providing a balanced representation of the United States abroad. CLS scholars are expected to contribute to the goal of building mutual understanding by serving in the role of citizen diplomat. In this role, they will share what it means to be an American, learn about the host culture, and build meaningful relationships with citizens of the host community. After the program, alumni will share their overseas experiences with their communities, campuses, families, and/or peers back in the United States.

Please address the following questions:

**How might your experiences, perspectives, and/or background contribute to your role as a citizen diplomat and the overarching mission of building mutual understanding in your host community?**
[Your Response]

***Ask yourself:***

* *What distinguishes me from other applicants? Explain where you come from and how that will contribute to the dynamic among your cohort.*
* *How do I plan to share those things that make me unique with the host culture?*

**How do you plan to contribute to the mission of building mutual understanding and represent your host community upon returning to the United States?**
[Your Response]

***Ask yourself:***

* *What is something you are excited to learn about your host culture and to share upon return to the United States? Why is this topic something that other people should find important or interesting?*

**Tip: Ask a trusted friend, family member, teacher or mentor, to help you identify what unique experiences and perspectives you have that make you well-suited to serve as a bridge between the U.S. and the host culture.**

Essay #2: Preparation for the CLS Program (300 word maximum)

Studying abroad requires resilience, openness, sensitivity, and adaptability. On program, CLS scholars build relationships with people from the host community and function day-to-day in another language and in a new culture and environment alongside a diverse cohort of American students with different identities, backgrounds, and experiences. They will be exposed to new beliefs, values, attitudes, and opinions in the host culture and within their cohort.

Please address the following questions:

**What challenges do you anticipate while participating in an intensive language focused program, living in an overseas host community, and learning in a cohort-based environment?**
[Your response]

***Ask yourself:***

* *How do I expect this experience to challenge me in ways I have not been challenged before?*

**What knowledge, skills, and experiences will you draw on to meet these challenges?**
[Your response]

***Ask yourself:***

* *What copying mechanisms, skills or previous experiences can I use during challenges?*

**Give an example of a situation that required you to interact with people who were different from you or a situation that was unfamiliar in the past. Please explain what knowledge, skills, and experiences you drew on to navigate the challenge and what you took away from the situation.**
[Your response]

***Ask yourself:***

* *What challenges have I faced in the past that parallel the challenges I expect to face during CLS?*

**Tip: Try listing out the challenges in each category that you expect to encounter--academic, cultural, and social/group-based. You want to show reviewers that you have thought about each of these challenges deeply.**

**Essay #3: Commitment to Language Study (300 word maximum)**

The CLS Program seeks to support students who are committed to acquiring a high level of linguistic and cultural knowledge about the regions and locations/countries in which they study.

Please address the following points:

**What opportunities, if any, have you taken advantage of in pursuit of studying your target language?**
[Your Response]

***Ask yourself:***

* *How have I demonstrated commitment in the past?*

**How does CLS fit into your plan to develop proficiency in your target language?**
[Your Response]

***Ask yourself:***

* *Why am I committed to CLS at this juncture in my life and why is it the best avenue for me to pursue my target language?*

**How will you continue to study and engage with your target language after the CLS Program?**
[Your Response]

***Ask yourself:***

* *How will I plan to keep up with my language study after my CLS Program has ended?*

**Tip: Do research for the last question to pin down what you can do after CLS to continue to develop your language skills. Be proactive and forward-thinking.**

**Personal Statement (500 word maximum)**

The CLS Program provides an opportunity for motivated students to form a cohort of dedicated, engaged learners to intensively study a critical language in an overseas immersive environment. CLS scholars come from a diverse range of U.S. states, D.C., and territories; colleges and universities; backgrounds; and fields of study and share their unique perspectives in an openminded, mutually respectful environment. Please address the following questions:

**Why are you interested in your target language and the region where it is spoken? Why is CLS the best avenue to pursue these interests?**
[Your response]

***Ask yourself:***

* *Have I reflected deeply on my motivations for applying and why CLS is the right fit at this point in my academic career?*

**What are your academic and professional goals? How will you make the most of your CLS experience to reach these goals?**
[Your response]

***Ask yourself:***

* *Have I successfully connected the CLS Program + my goals (academic, personal and professional?)*

**What qualities, perspectives, and/or experiences do you bring to the program and to your cohort? Why do they make you a good candidate for the CLS Program?**
[Your response]

***Ask yourself:***

* *Have I shared in this essay something distinct from the previous short answer questions?*

**Tip: Imagine you are explaining to a friend, a family member, a classmate or even someone at the grocery store, why they should pay for you to participate in CLS Program. What would you explain to them to communicate that you will make the most out of this opportunity?**