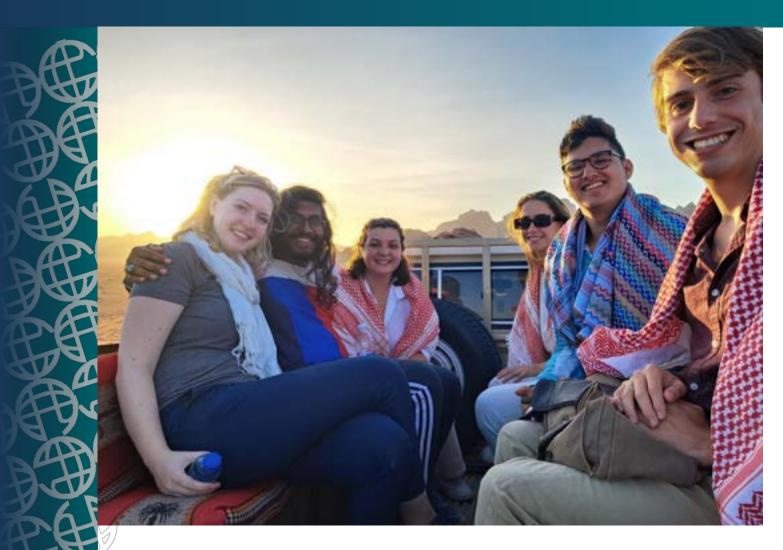
CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP



CLS is a program of the U.S. Department of State, with funding provided by the U.S. Government.



Welcome!



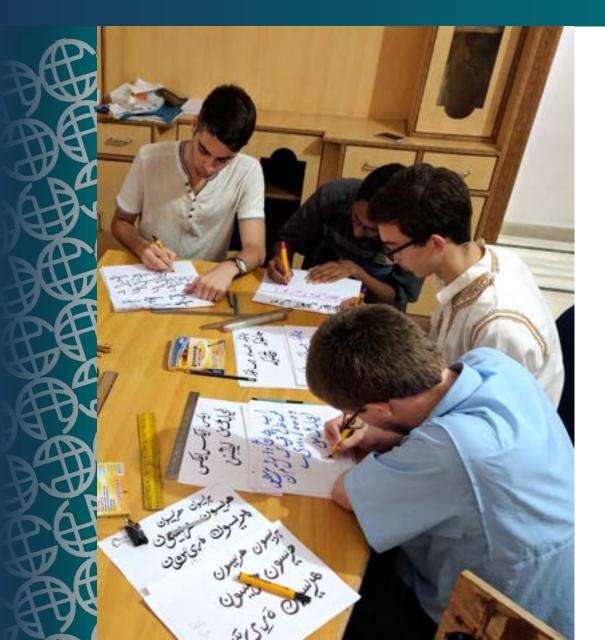
- 1. CLS Program overview
- 2. Benefits of participating
- 3. Application tips
- 4. Questions!

What is the CLS Program?

- Immersive summer opportunity to study languages and cultures essential to America's engagement with the world
- Fully-funded by the U.S. Government
 - Apply for a language program either **overseas** or offered **virtually through CLS Spark**



Why Study Critical Languages



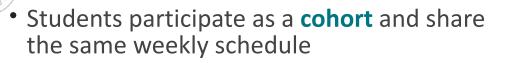
- For less-commonly taught and studied on U.S. campuses
- For U.S. students in **all fields** to study critical languages
- Critical to our engagement with the world, and to U.S. national security and economic prosperity
- Prepares U.S. students to compete in a globalized workforce

Languages Offered

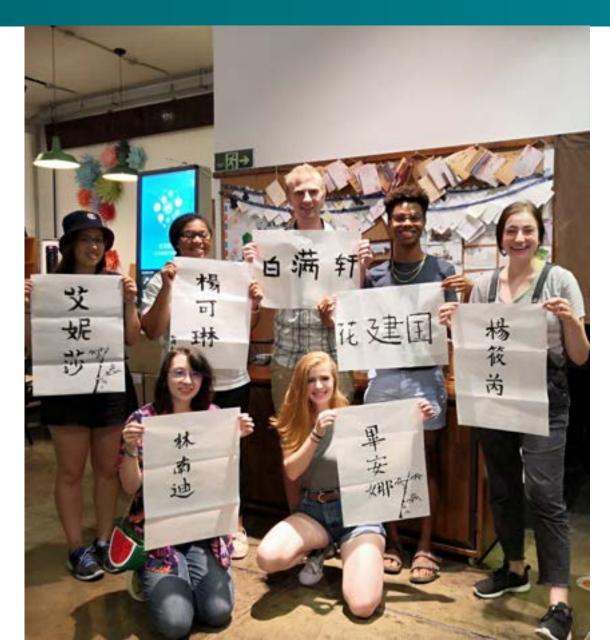
• Fourteen languages, twelve at the beginner level

The CLS Program Overseas Institutes		CLS Spark Virtual Institutes	
Experience Level	Languages	Experience Level	Languages
Open to students at all	els, Hindi, Indonesian, to beginning level	Arabic	
language levels, including beginners		students with no formal	Chinese
			Russian
One year prior study required	Arabic, Korean and Russian		
Two years prior study required	Chinese and Japanese		

CLS Program Structure, Overseas Institutes



- 15 hours of class per week
- Language agreement
- All students have a language partner
- Cultural classes and activities
- **Excursions** to explore the cultural heritage of the host country
- Students live with host families, where possible
- CLS is not a research, independent study, or internship program



CLS Spark Virtual Program Structure



- Virtual group instruction provided by host institutions abroad
- 10 hours per week of live classes and cultural activities
- Offering language instruction at **beginner level** in **Arabic, Chinese, and Russian**
- Professional development opportunities and inclusive on-program support
- For undergraduate students only

Why Participate in the CLS Program?

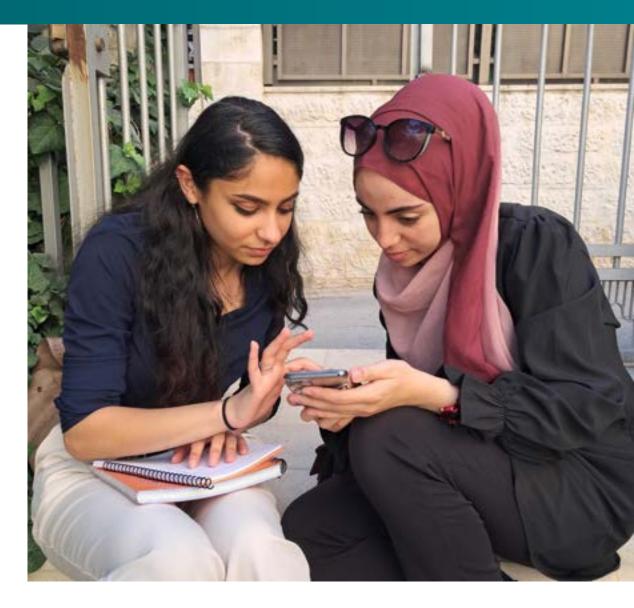
- Make substantial gains in language skills:
 - **Two semesters** worth of coursework (and academic credit through Bryn Mawr College)
 - Certified OPI certificate to demonstrate language proficiency
 - Non-Competitive Eligibility (NCE) for federal government positions
 - CLS Spark participants are considered semifinalists for the 2024 CLS Program overseas institutes



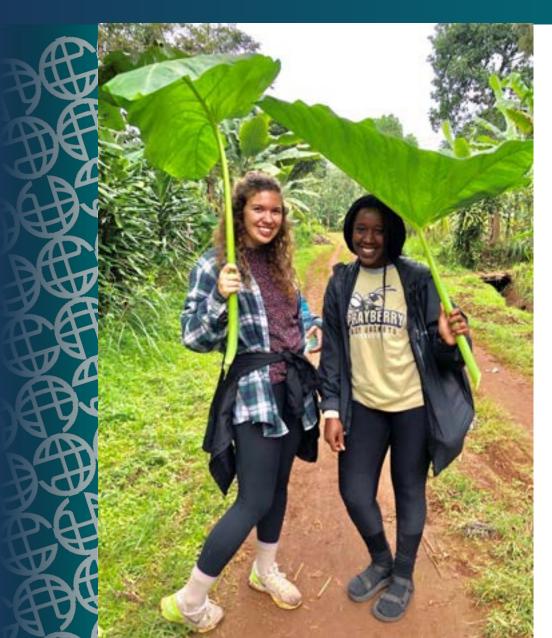
Advance Your Career!

Advance your career:

- U.S. companies give advantage to candidates with language skills
- Build experience in problem solving, adaptability, and other employable skills
- CLS Program and Department of State International Exchange alumni networks and resources



Eligibility



- U.S. citizen or national
- Enrolled in a degree-seeking program at a U.S. based institution
- Must be earning an undergraduate (associate, bachelor's) or graduate (master's, doctoral, professional) degree
 - CLS Spark requires students are earning an associate or bachelor's degree
- Graduating seniors are eligible
- No GPA requirement

An Opportunity for Everyone



• Cohorts are diverse:

- All fields of study
- All types of institutions and regions of the U.S.
- Different levels of experience with language and travel
- Over 40% identify as students of color
- 24% receive Pell Grant (financial need)
- The CLS Program does not discriminate on the basis of disability or medical condition
- Inclusive student support structures

CLS Program—Essays & Criteria

Three Short Answer Essays (200—300 words)

- Resilience and Preparation for the CLS Program
- Citizen Diplomacy
- Commitment to Language Study

• Statement of Purpose (500 words)

- No letter of recommendation required
- Applicants should demonstrate a strong connection between participating in the CLS Program and their career and academic goals
- Applicants must also show resiliency and preparation for an intensive and immersive language program



CLS Spark Virtual Program—Essays & Criteria

Three Short Answer Essays (250—350 words)

- Statement of Motivation
- Statement of Experience
- Access to language learning

• No letter of recommendation required

- Applicants should articulate readiness and resolve for contributing to a group-based intensive virtual program
- Applicants should focus on the impact of CLS Spark on their **access** to language and intercultural learning opportunities



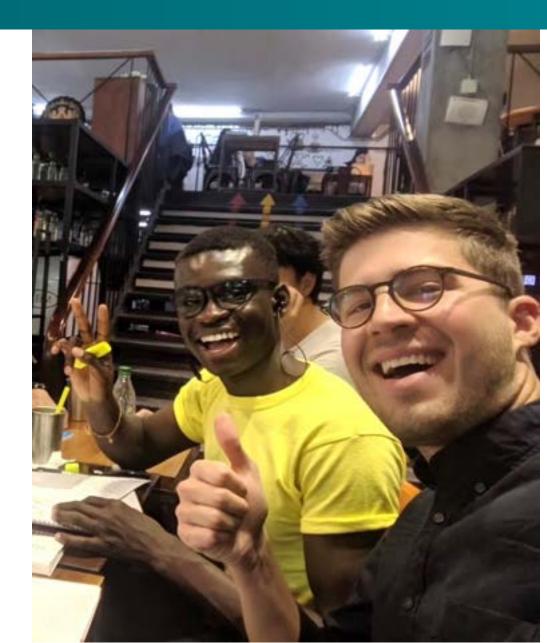
Resources!

• Do your homework

- Do research to connect the career path you are on to one of these languages/ cultures
- Application tip videos live on our website when we launch!

• Seek help on your campus!

- Study abroad, fellowships, and scholarships offices
- Teaching faculty
- Academic advisors
- Writing centers



Apply for Summer 2023



Application Open NOW

Application Deadline: November 15, 8:00pm EST

Semifinalist Notification: Late January

Finalist Notification: March

Programs Begin: June

Online application at www.clscholarship.org/apply



Stay in Touch

- Follow us for updates!
- Join us for language-specific and CLS Spark webinars.
- Register at clscholarship.org/events



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Questions?

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