# 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



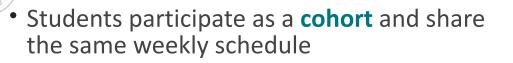
- For less-commonly taught and studied on U.S. campuses
- For U.S. students in **all fields** to study critical languages
- Critical to our engagement with the world, and to U.S. national security and economic prosperity
- Prepares U.S. students to compete in a globalized workforce

### Languages Offered

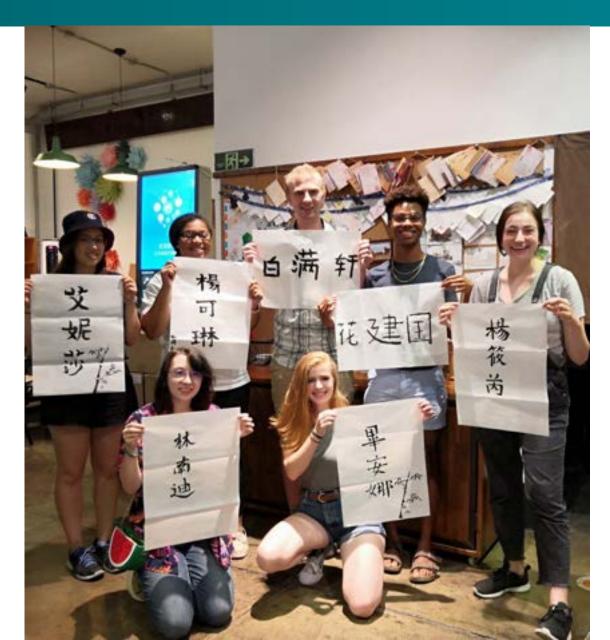
• Fourteen languages, twelve at the beginner level

The CLS Program Overseas Institutes		CLS Spark Virtual Institutes	
Experience Level	Languages	Experience Level	Languages
Open to students at all	els, Hindi, Indonesian, <b>to beginning level</b>	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



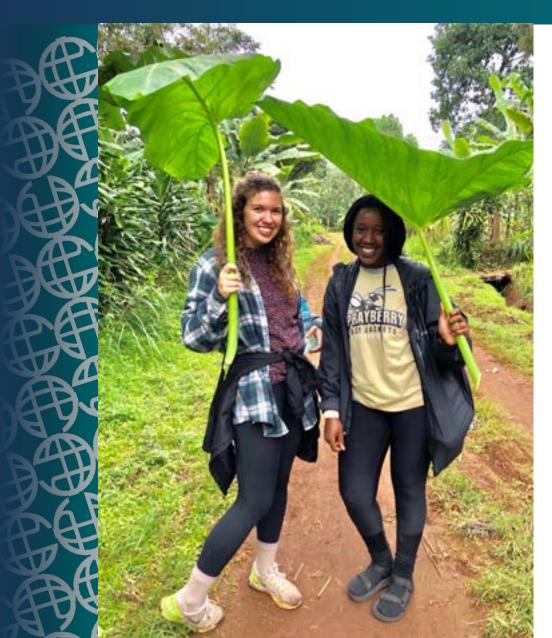
### **Advance Your Career!**

#### 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



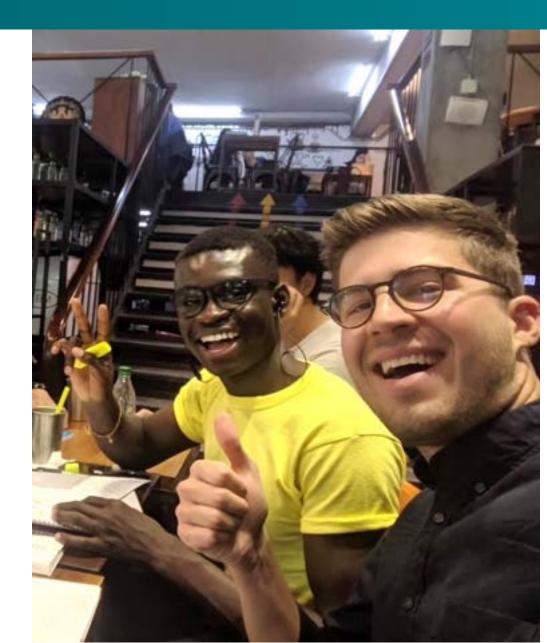
### **Resources!**

#### • 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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