



# 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

Experience Level	Languages
Open to students at all language levels, including beginners	Azerbaijani, Bangla, Hindi, Indonesian, Persian, Portuguese, Swahili, Turkish and Urdu.
One year prior study required	Arabic, Korean and Russian
Two years prior study required	Chinese and Japanese

## CLS Spark Virtual Institutes

Experience Level	Languages
Virtual program <b>only open to beginning level</b> students with no formal classroom experience	Arabic
	Chinese
	Russian

# CLS Program Structure, Overseas Institutes

- Students participate as a **cohort** and share the same weekly schedule
  - 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 **semi-finalists 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](http://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](https://clscholarship.org/events)



@CLScholarship



@CLSScholarship



fb.com/CLScholarship



# Questions?

---

[cls@americancouncils.org](mailto:cls@americancouncils.org)

[CLSscholarship.org/applicants](https://CLSscholarship.org/applicants)



[@CLSscholarship](https://www.instagram.com/CLSscholarship)



[fb.com/CLSscholarship](https://fb.com/CLSscholarship)



[@CLSScholarship](https://www.twitter.com/CLSScholarship)