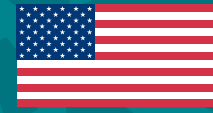




CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP



The Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program is an immersive summer opportunity for American college and university students to learn languages essential to America’s engagement with the world.

A program of the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the CLS Program is part of a U.S. government effort to increase the number of Americans studying and mastering critical foreign languages and applying those skills in their professional careers.

Students spend eight to ten weeks over the summer studying one of a dozen critical languages (see right) in classes facilitated by native speakers at a host institution abroad.

STUDY ABROAD OR STUDY AT HOME!

Each summer, the CLS Program administers intensive study abroad institutes in critical languages around the world. The CLS Program, through its CLS Spark initiative, provides beginner-level virtual instruction for Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, and Russian, as well as advanced-beginner instruction for Japanese, for competitively selected U.S. undergraduate students. Preference will be given to applicants from campuses that do not offer their Spark language.

BENEFITS



Intensive language instruction and structured cultural enrichment experiences



Academic credit and language gains certified on the ACTFL OPI test



Non-competitive eligibility for U.S. federal jobs



Admission to a diverse network of U.S. Department of State Exchange Alumni

Arabic

Chinese

Hindi

Indonesian

Japanese

Korean

Persian

Portuguese

Russian

Swahili

Turkish

Urdu

www.clscholarship.org

email: cls@americancouncils.org

phone: 202.833.7522



CLS PROGRAM DETAILS

STRUCTURE

- 8-10 weeks of language instruction
- Weekly meetings and cultural exchange with language partners
- Cultural activities to expand students' understanding of the host community's history, politics, and culture

ELIGIBILITY

- Must be a U.S. citizen or national
- Must be at least 18 years old by May of the program year
- Must be enrolled in an accredited U.S. degree-granting program at the undergraduate or graduate level at the time of application

SELECTION

Applicants should articulate how they plan to continue studying their CLS language and how the language will play a role in their future career.

The CLS Program welcomes all eligible applications and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, geographic location, socio-economic status, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Students in all disciplines are encouraged to apply, as well as students pursuing associate degrees and those attending community colleges and technical schools.

For selection criteria, visit: clscholarship.org/selection

CLS SPARK

CLS Spark is a virtual initiative which provides instruction in Arabic, Chinese, Korean, and Russian at the beginning level and instruction in Japanese at the beginning and advanced beginning levels. CLS Spark provides students with the opportunity to start their language learning journeys virtually when they may not have access to language learning on their campuses or the ability to study abroad. Alumni receive automatic semi-finalist status for the subsequent year to continue study of their Spark language through CLS.

Applications are due in November each year.



WHY STUDY A CRITICAL LANGUAGE?

Critical languages are languages essential to the United States' national security, economic prosperity, and engagement with the world, and they tend to be less commonly taught in the United States, or have relatively few proficient speakers.

Critical language skills and intercultural competence are in demand in a globalized workforce and increase a student's competitiveness across career fields.

LANGUAGES AND LEVELS

Applicants may select one of the following language programs:

Study Abroad Institutes	
Open to students at all language levels, including beginners	Hindi, Indonesian, Persian, Portuguese, Swahili, Turkish, and Urdu
One year prior study required	Arabic, Chinese, Korean, and Russian
Two years prior study required	Japanese
CLS Spark Institutes	
Open to beginners with no previous language experience	Arabic, Chinese, Korean, and Russian
Open to beginners with no previous experience and students with one year prior study	Japanese

www.clscholarship.org

email: cls@americancouncils.org

phone: 202.833.7522

