



2024 Critical Language Scholarship Program

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Program Overview and Requirements

The Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government. It is supported in its implementation by American Councils for International Education.

The CLS Program provides opportunities for American college and university students to study languages and cultures essential to America's engagement with the world. Through immersive study abroad, the CLS Program is designed to promote rapid language gains. CLS Program scholars develop essential intercultural fluency in regions that are critical to U.S. national security and economic prosperity.

Each summer, American undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at U.S. colleges and universities spend eight to ten weeks in intensive study abroad institutes in thirteen critical languages around the world.

The CLS Program reserves the right to change or cancel any or all program institutes based on safety, health, and security considerations, and other factors.

Depending on health and safety considerations, the U.S. Department of State may choose to hold some or all of the 2024 CLS institutes virtually. In completing this application, you will be considered for the 2024 CLS Program for your chosen target language based on the existing selection criteria, regardless of program format.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the CLS Program, applicants must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or national at the time of application.
 - Others, including Permanent Residents, are not eligible, even if they anticipate naturalization by the beginning of the program.
- Be at least 18 years old by May 15, 2024.
- Be enrolled in an accredited U.S. degree-granting program at the undergraduate (associate, bachelor's) or graduate (master's, doctoral, professional degree) level at the time of application. Students who are graduating seniors at the time of application and students enrolled in one-year master's programs are eligible to apply.
 - Applicants must be enrolled in a program that results in a degree. Applicants who are taking stand-alone or continuing education classes or who are pursuing a certificate are not eligible.
 - Applicants must be enrolled at an accredited U.S. institution. Students earning degrees at foreign institutions that are not based in the U.S. or its territories are not eligible, even if those institutions are accredited by a recognized U.S. accrediting agency.
 - Applicants must be enrolled in at least one credit-bearing class at or through their home institution in the fall term of 2023. There are limited exceptions to the enrollment requirement; please read the following information carefully:
 - If applicants are enrolled in a degree-granting program but taking a leave of absence to participate in an organized term- or year-long study abroad program; national scholarship or fellowship program; or to participate in a substantive internship program, they may request an exception to the enrollment requirement. Exceptions may only be

granted in these three cases, and decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis beginning in late January.

- **If applicants are not taking classes at or through their home institution in the fall term, they must submit a CLS Enrollment Confirmation form completed by their home registrar in the U.S. Applicants must also submit a signed letter from the program provider explaining the opportunity and confirming their participation. American Councils will provide the CLS Enrollment Confirmation form and further instructions to applicants selected as semi-finalists. If selected as a finalist, American Councils may ask the finalist to submit updated documentation from the program provider confirming their successful completion of the program.**
 - Applicants must successfully complete academic requirements for the fall term in order to remain eligible for the CLS Program. Applicants who withdraw or fail to maintain a passing grade average are not eligible to participate in the program.
- Applicants in an undergraduate program (associate or bachelor's) must complete at least one full year of study (two semesters or three quarters) by the beginning of the CLS Program in Summer 2024.
- Applicants must meet the language requirements of the program to which they apply.
- Applicants may only apply once, for one language and for one of CLS' models (i.e., Overseas or Spark), each year. Applicants who submit multiple applications will be considered ineligible.

The following persons are ineligible for the CLS Program:

- Employees of the U.S. Department of State who work in offices under the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Academic Programs, in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), for a period ending one year following the termination of such employment;
- Employees of private and public agencies under contract or grant with the U.S. Department of State who perform services related to the Critical Language Scholarship Program, for a period ending one year following the termination of their services; or
- Immediate family members (i.e., spouses and dependent children) of the individuals described in the above paragraphs, for a period ending one year following the termination of such employment or service. This provision does not disqualify self-supporting members of families who live apart from their parents.

These provisions do not extend to part-time or temporary employees, consultants, or interns of the U.S. Department of State (including at U.S. Embassies and Consulates), or to contract employees of the U.S. Department of State, unless such persons perform services related to the Critical Language Scholarship Program.

For applicants to the Fulbright U.S. Student Program:

Applicants to the CLS Program may apply for and receive both a CLS Program award and a Fulbright U.S. Student Program award in the same academic year. However, participants may not accept both a CLS Program award and the Fulbright Critical Language Enhancement Award, which provides supplemental critical language study funding for Fulbright U.S. Student Program grantees, in the same academic year.

If a participant receives a Fulbright grant with a mandatory pre-departure orientation that falls during the CLS Program period, he or she may need to choose between accepting the CLS Program award and the Fulbright grant.

Participation Requirements

The health and well-being of participants and staff are top priorities of CLS. The CLS Program is a rigorous immersion program and may be physically and emotionally challenging. Each student must be committed to working hard and participating fully in the group program, beginning with the mandatory pre-program orientation through the completion of the program.

With reasonable accommodations, participants in the CLS Program must:

- Be able to stay alert and to focus attention for up to several hours at a time during classes, while participating in cultural activities, and when receiving staff instructions;
- Attend the pre-program orientation and all daily classes and activities, as dictated by the program schedule and for the duration of the program (program dates will be announced prior to the deadline for accepting the award, if offered);
- If taking prescription medications, be able to maintain proper dosage without assistance from instructors or others (except in emergency situations);
- Perform necessary self-care, including maintaining adequate nutrition and hydration, dressing appropriately for environmental conditions, maintaining personal hygiene, and managing known medical conditions;
- Comprehend and follow detailed instructions on travel, risk management, personal care, hazard avoidance, and other topics;
- With reasonable accommodations, be able to navigate transportation independently between program-provided housing and the institute site, a maximum of approximately one hour each way;
- Work effectively as a member of a team despite potentially stressful and difficult conditions. This may require problem solving on an interpersonal or group level as well as a willingness to accept differences;
- Contribute to a safe learning environment. No inappropriate verbal or physical behavior toward others, either in person or online, is tolerated for any reason; and
- Effectively communicate ideas and concerns on an individual and group level.

Note that some program dates may overlap with the spring or fall academic term at participants' institutions. Therefore, it may be necessary for participants to work with their institution to accommodate the program dates.

Medical Review

If selected for the CLS Program award, you will be required to submit a medical information form and physician's statement to the CLS Program for review by an independent medical professional. Results of the medical review will determine if you meet medical requirements necessary for program placement and participation in the CLS Program. You must also inform the program of any changes in your health status between submission of these forms and the start of the program in order to participate.

Passports, Visas, and Entry Requirements

Participants in the CLS Program must enter the host country on a U.S. passport. In most cases it is not possible for individuals with dual citizenship to participate in the country of their other nationality due to host country laws or policies requiring citizens to enter the country using the passport issued by that country alone. In some cases, this may also apply to participants whose parents hold citizenship in the host country. Applicants are responsible for determining whether they have, or are eligible to have, dual citizenship with the host country, and to address any potential consequences before accepting a CLS award.

Where necessary, participants in the CLS Program must also receive an appropriate visa from the host country (deadlines vary by country) and must meet all local requirements to enter the country legally for the purposes of participating on the CLS Program.

- **The CLS Program, American Councils for International Education and the U.S. Department of State will assist finalists with their visa applications, but cannot influence a foreign government's decision of whether or not to issue a visa. The decision to issue a visa rests solely with the government and consular mission of the country to which an individual is traveling.**
- Finalists and, in some cases, alternates may be required to work closely with program staff on preparing their paperwork well in advance of regular deadlines in order to receive a visa.
- Failure to meet deadlines or respond in a timely manner to CLS Program staff requests may result in not being issued a visa and therefore not being able to participate in the program.
- Finalists may be required to submit their passports for visa processing in the spring, prior to the program start date. This may require finalists to cancel or reschedule planned international travel in order to participate in the CLS Program.
- Finalists must also meet all other local requirements for entry on the visa status required for participation in the program; requirements may include but are not limited to vaccination requirements or negative tests for infectious disease.

Military Affiliation

The CLS Program welcomes applicants with affiliation to the U.S. armed services. All applicants with military affiliation, including all U.S. Department of Defense military and civilian personnel, service academy cadets, service members of active and reserve components, as well as inactive service members, including members of the Individual Ready Reserves (IRR), may be subject to passport or visa requirements, special waiver requirements, prohibition of travel to the host country, and/or other restrictions. Prior to completing the CLS application, all applicants with affiliation to the U.S. armed forces should carefully review the CLS Program's instructions on this topic (<https://clscholarship.org/faqs>) and seek advice from the appropriate commanding officer.

Additional Requirements

If you are selected for a CLS Program award, as a requirement of your participation, you must agree to the terms and conditions of the award. You may review a sample of the terms and conditions from a previous year. The award terms and conditions are revised on an annual basis and may change before the start of the program.

Privacy Policy and Use of Personal Data

Your privacy is important to us. American Councils for International Education (American Councils) follows a few fundamental principles with regards to your data:

- We are thoughtful about the personal information we ask you to provide and the personal information that we collect about you.
- We store personal information for only as long as we have a reason to keep it.
- We aim for transparency on how we gather, use, and share your personal information.

By starting an application to the CLS Program, you agree to our privacy policy, which incorporates and clarifies these principles. You can review our full privacy policy online.

What is Covered

Participants in the CLS Program will receive:

- Language Instruction and cultural programming;
- Textbooks and language learning materials;
- Language gains certified using the widely recognized ACTFL OPI (Oral Proficiency Interview) assessment;
- Non-competitive eligibility for U.S. government employment for up to three years after program completion;
- Academic credit issued through Bryn Mawr College;
- International and domestic travel between the student's home city in the U.S. and the CLS Program site abroad;
- Visa application fees, where applicable; and
- Room, board, and program-sponsored travel within the host country or location.

Other expenses such as, but not limited to, will not be covered:

- U.S. passport fees (except for students who are eligible and apply for [CLS Passport Assistance](#));
- The cost of medical exams and any follow-up visits necessary to pass the medical review process, as determined by the CLS Program; or
- Cost of any immunizations required for entry, as well as costs for travel health clinic appointments.

Selection Process

Applicants for the CLS Program will be selected on the basis of merit, with consideration for the following:

- Connection between language and goals;
- Contribution to the CLS Program goals of citizen diplomacy and mutual understanding;
- Preparation for the CLS Program;
- Adaptability, sensitivity, and resilience; and
- Commitment to language learning.

Read the full selection criteria at <https://clscholarship.org/applicants/selection>.

First Round Reviews: Each application is read by two independent evaluators chosen from a pool of faculty and administrators at colleges, universities, and international education institutions across the United States.

All applicants will be contacted in late January by email with a notification of whether their application passed the initial review process.

Semi-finalist Reviews: Top applicants are reviewed by panels of academic and international education experts in early February.

Finalists, alternates, and non-recipients will be notified of their statuses by email in early March.

Those selected for the award will have approximately two weeks to accept or decline. Alternates are promoted on a rolling basis throughout the spring.

Finalists and alternates will receive further information on program requirements, including the medical review and visa process, at this time.

Application Components

Your completed application to the CLS Program will consist of an application form, and uploaded copies of your unofficial transcript(s). We strongly recommend online submission of all required application materials for the CLS Program whenever possible. The 2024 CLS Program application is available online at www.clscholarship.org/apply.

Print copies are also available on request, and for download at on our website. Please contact the CLS Program at cls@americancouncils.org if you require a print copy of the application.

Note that print copies of the application will be entered into the online application form by our staff on your behalf. If your print application is missing any required information, your application will not be accepted.

Essays

There are four essay questions (three short-answer essays and one personal statement) on the application form. Your response to each essay question is strictly limited to a maximum number of words. Please review the word limit for each essay topic closely. Applicants exceeding the word limits will not be considered for the scholarship. Please see each essay section below for additional information.

Transcripts

Each applicant must submit an unofficial transcript from the college or university they are currently attending, as well as transcripts from colleges and universities attended in the past. First-year students must submit an unofficial transcript showing their courses in progress. High school transcripts are not necessary.

If you are selected for an award, you will be required to submit an official transcript from your current college or university in the spring. Any unexplained discrepancies between the unofficial and official versions of the transcripts will result in the termination of the award with no appeal.

CLS Program Online Application

Accessing the Application

To start an application, first enter the required information under "Create New Account" at <http://ais.americancouncils.org/cls>. Create a password that you will remember. After you click on "Create New Account" you will be sent a verification email to activate your account. You may return as many times as necessary before submitting your application by the deadline. The online application will close at 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time on November 14, 2023, and CLS will not accept applications submitted after the deadline.

Enter your login information in the "Sign In" section, which may be accessed from the homepage of the CLS application (<http://www.clscholarship.org/apply>). After you have logged into the CLS application, you will see a welcome screen. Click "Start" next to CLS Application for Summer 2024 to start the application process.

Saving Your Work

As you enter information into the CLS application system, make sure to click the "Save changes" button at the bottom of each page frequently. The system will time you out after 60 minutes of inactivity and will not save your work unless you click on the "Save changes" button. Unsaved work will be permanently lost and cannot be retrieved by CLS Program staff. To access your saved application, go to the online application login page and reenter your login information.

Please enter all information using appropriate capitalization and punctuation throughout the CLS Program application. For example, do not enter your name or any other information in ALL CAPS. The information provided in your online application form will be used for official CLS Program communications and documents.

Scheduled Maintenance

Occasionally, the online application system is taken down for regularly scheduled maintenance. This usually occurs late on Monday nights, if at all. If you receive an error when navigating to the application portal, you may try again in a short while. Announcements about scheduled maintenance are posted at the top of each page several days in advance, so please pay attention to those notices in the system and takes steps to ensure that you can continue to work on your application elements such as essays during those times.

IMPORTANT! Do not use your web browser's "Back" button to move between pages within this online form. This might erase information from your form that cannot be recovered. Use **only** the "Sections" menu on the left, which includes the → (next) and ← (previous) arrows to switch to the next and previous sections of the form.

How to Apply

- **Eligibility:** Check the eligibility requirements at www.clscholarship.org/applicants/eligibility.
- **Online Application:** Complete and submit the application form online, along with unofficial copies of your transcripts with grades from your current school and any previous universities attended within the last five years. Transcripts should be in text or PDF format and may **not** be digitally signed (official e-transcripts cannot be processed correctly). Applications are due November 14, 2023 at 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time.
- **Technical Problems:** Any technical problems with the application form should be reported by email to cls@americancouncils.org.

Do not wait until the due date to submit your application. Submitting your application before the due date allows time to resolve any technical difficulties or last-minute questions.

The CLS Program strongly encourages you to submit your application well in advance of the application deadline. **The CLS Program and American Councils for International Education bear no responsibility for data transmission problems in submitting the application.**

Accessibility

If you are unable to submit any portion of your application materials online, you may submit them by mail. Those documents must be received at American Councils for International Education by November 14, 2023. [A copy of the application form is available for you to print.](#)

If you must submit a paper application, it should be sent by certified post to American Councils at the following address:

ATTN: CLS Program
American Councils for International Education
1828 L St NW, Suite 1200
Washington DC 20036-5136

How to Use the Online Form

Moving from Section to Section

This online form includes several sections (pages). They are listed in the "Sections" menu that can be found in the navigation menu at the left side of each page. You may select any section from the menu to jump to that section. You may also press the → (next) and ← (previous) arrows to switch to the next and previous sections of the form. DO NOT use your web browser's "Back" button.

Completing Your Form in Multiple Sessions

It is not necessary to complete your online form in one sitting. To continue later, press the "Save Changes" button that can be found at the bottom of any page, and then log out of the system. You can log in at any time thereafter until the application deadline to complete your form.

Required Fields

A **red asterisk *** next to a question indicates a required field. You must provide this information in order to submit your form.

Character Counts Used in this Online Form

Any minimum or maximum word or character counts specified in the instructions for some questions will be as indicated by the counter tool used in this form. Please note that this count may be different from those counts indicated by Word, OpenOffice, LibreOffice, Pages, or other word-processing tools. Plan extra time to submit your application if you are preparing your essay drafts in another program and copying them into the form.

Submitting Your Application

To submit your online form, **you must press the "Submit" button** on the last page. If you do not press the "Submit" button, your form will be considered incomplete and will not be considered for selection. You will not be allowed to make any changes after you submit your application. If there are any errors or required fields

left blank in your application, you will be prompted to complete these before your application can be submitted. Be sure to save allot time before the deadline in case you need to resolve any such errors.

Uploading Documents and Photographs to Your Form

You might be asked to upload a document or photograph. In most cases, you may upload only files of the following types: PDF, JPG/JPEG, PNG, GIF, or TIF/TIFF. You may also be asked to limit the size of files that you upload to your form. Encrypted or password-protected files will not be accepted. A number of free online tools are readily available to convert or resize your files.

Section 0: Pre-Application Form

The CLS Program works with faculty members and administrators at colleges and universities across the United States who assist students with the CLS application process. As part of the application process, we share your name, email address, and information on your degree program and the language you are applying for with the designated advisor(s) at your school. The advisor(s) or your institution may use this information to promote the CLS Program or student success. The advisor(s) may also reach out to you to offer assistance and encourage you to submit an application.

When you begin an application online, you are asked to provide that information before you may begin work on the full application.

Your choice to continue indicates your consent to have this information shared as described. Please see our Privacy Policy at <https://clscholarship.org/privacy-policy> for more information about how the CLS Program protects your information.

Sections 1-3: Application Instructions, Program Overview and Requirements

The application instructions and program overview pages cover technical aspects of using the application system and describe the eligibility requirements and basic information about the CLS Program.

Section 4: Eligibility

Please complete the questions regarding your eligibility for the 2024 CLS Program.

Please read the prompts carefully and note that an answer of "No" to questions asked on this page does not necessarily indicate that you are ineligible for the CLS Program. Complete eligibility information is available at <https://clscholarship.org/applicants/eligibility>. A list of frequently asked questions is provided on the CLS website at <https://clscholarship.org/faqs>.

1) Citizenship: Only U.S. citizens and nationals are eligible for the CLS Program. Naturalized citizens must have U.S. citizenship by the CLS application deadline of November 14, 2023. Permanent residents and green card holders are not eligible to apply.

2) Age: You must be 18 years of age by May 15, 2024 in order to be eligible for the 2024 CLS Program.

3-6) Enrollment: Please answer questions about your enrollment status and the accreditation status of your university. If you are unsure about either, please refer to your college or university's office of the registrar. If you are not currently enrolled for whatever reason, please describe your educational status in the space provided in 3a.

4-5) Leave of Absence: Please note that students on a leave of absence are not considered eligible for the CLS Program, with limited exceptions made for students who have withdrawn from their academic program in order to pursue an organized semester- or year-long study abroad, a national fellowship or scholarship program, or substantive internship program, who intend to re-enroll following its completion.

If you are not taking classes at or through your home institution in the fall term, you must submit a CLS Enrollment Confirmation form completed by your home registrar in the U.S. You must also submit a signed letter from the program provider explaining the opportunity and confirming your participation. American Councils will provide the CLS Enrollment Confirmation form and further instructions to you if you are selected as a semi-finalist. If selected as a finalist, American Councils may ask you to submit updated documentation from the program provider confirming their successful completion of the program.

6) Institution: Applicants must be students at Higher Education Institutions based in the United States that are accredited by a Department of Education recognized accreditation agency. Students at institutions with suspended accreditation are not eligible to apply. Students at colleges and universities based in a country other than the United States and its territories are not eligible to apply. Students at colleges and universities located outside the United States and its territories, that are nevertheless incorporated and based in the United States are eligible to apply, as long as they meet all other eligibility requirements.

7) College-Level Study: Applicants at the undergraduate level must complete at least one full year of college-level study before participating on the CLS Program. You should indicate whether you will fulfill that requirement by the start of the program in June 2024. Note that part-time students still qualify.

8) Only One Application: Applicants may only submit one application for the CLS Program each year. If it is determined that an applicant has submitted multiple applications in the same application year, they will be determined to be ineligible to participate in the CLS Program. If you submitted an application in error and need help deleting it, please contact our staff at cls@americancouncils.org.

9) Fulbright: Applicants to the Fulbright U.S. Student Program may accept both a Fulbright grant and a CLS Program award in the same year. However, participants may not accept both a CLS Program award and the Fulbright Critical Language Enhancement Award, which provides supplemental critical language study funding for Fulbright U.S. Student Program grantees, in the same academic year.

If a participant receives a Fulbright grant with a mandatory pre-departure orientation that falls during the CLS Program period, he or she may need to choose between accepting the CLS Program award and the Fulbright grant.

10) Veteran Status: All other factors being equal, the CLS Program gives preference to veterans of the U.S. armed forces. Note that active-duty members of the military do not qualify for a veteran's preference in this case. If you are a veteran, you must provide a copy of your DD214 or NGB-22 form to prove your status, or you may decline to receive this preference. You should redact your social security number on the form before submitting it.

Prior to completing the CLS application, all applicants with affiliation to the U.S. armed forces should carefully review the CLS Program's instructions on this topic at <https://clscholarship.org/faqs> and seek advice from the appropriate commanding officer.

Section 5: Biographical Information

1-3) Name: Enter your name as it appears on your government-issued ID documents, such as your passport or driver's license. If there is a discrepancy in the personal information listed on your various government ID

documents, please use the information as listed on the passport that you anticipate using for CLS Program travel, regardless of whether you have this passport already or will be applying for it later.

Your name as entered will be used on all official CLS Program communications, so please use appropriate capitalization.

4) Gender: Although applicants are not required to disclose their gender identity on the application, responses to this question are used when reporting on the equity of the CLS Program's recruitment and selection process. If selected, applicants will be required to disclose their legal gender as indicated on their government-issued ID, which is required in order to ticket passengers for flights.

7) Permanent Residential Address: Please enter your permanent residential address, at which you are eligible to be registered to vote. The CLS Program reports to members of Congress when constituents from their states or districts receive a CLS award. Your address should fall within the congressional district you indicate.

8) Congressional Voting District: Enter the state code and district number of your congressional voting district. This should be the district where you are registered to vote or plan to vote in the next election. This information can be found on your voter registration card or by searching for your address at <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>.

Select "At Large" for states with only one Congressional representative. Those states are: Alaska, Delaware, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming. Enter "At Large" also for the District of Columbia and U.S. territories (American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands).

9-13) Current Contact Information: Please provide the primary telephone number at which you can be reached through October 2024. If you are providing an overseas, non-U.S. number, please indicate the country code, preceded by a 'plus' sign (+). Also indicate an alternate phone number. The CLS Program will use this number to reach you only in cases where we cannot reach you using your primary email address or phone number and there is time-sensitive information that we need to communicate, such as a program deadline. Consider entering the contact information for a close friend or family member.

Enter the email address at which you would like CLS Program staff to contact you. All official CLS Program communications will be directed to the indicated e-mail address so you should indicate an address that will remain valid through October 2024. You must also enter an alternate email address. We strongly recommend you not to use university email addresses as your primary form of communication, as you may not have access to this email address after the current academic year.

If you are selected to participate in the program, we will contact you using the information that you enter here, so please provide contact information that you will be available at through October 2024. If you are selected, you will have an opportunity to update your contact information at that time.

14-15) Passport Information: If you hold dual citizenship with another country, mark 'yes' and indicate which country in question 14a. If you hold citizenship in more than two countries, please select only one to indicate here.

Prior to completing the CLS application, all applicants holding dual-citizenship should carefully [review the CLS Program's instructions on this topic](#).

If you currently have a valid U.S. passport, please provide passport information exactly as it appears on the photo page of your passport. If you do not currently have a passport or access to your passport, you may select “No.” A valid U.S. passport is not required in order to apply for the CLS Program, however all finalists are required to have a valid passport by March 2024 in order to participate in the program. If you do not take measures to secure a passport by March 2024, you will be responsible for any fees associated with expediting your passport application.

Visit the U.S. Department of State website at <http://travel.state.gov> for more information on how to obtain a U.S. passport.

Note that the United States is experiencing long wait times for new passport applications and passport renewals. Routine passport service can take up to 18 weeks from the day an application is submitted to the day a new passport is received. For this reason, you are encouraged to apply for a passport or passport renewal as soon as possible.

Section 6: Current Academic Information

1-5) Current College or University: Choose the name of your current college or university and provide information on your current enrollment, including your start date, expected graduation date, and the type of degree you are pursuing.

Please note that the data in the CLS Application reflects information derived from the Department of Education’s Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), which is updated on an annual basis. If your college or university is an accredited U.S.-based institution but not listed as an option, please contact us at cls@americancouncils.org and we will happily add it as an option.

You may optionally indicate the specific campus or division of your school that you attend. Note that this field should not be used in the place of your college or university name, which is required to submit your application.

If you are attending two institutions of higher education concurrently, or you are enrolled in a dual-degree program with two institutions, then please choose one to indicate here, which we will identify you as a student of during and after the program and indicate the other as a previous institution in the Previous Academic Information section. If one institution is not an eligible institution (for instance, if it is based outside the United States), then indicate the eligible institution in this section and the second institution in the Previous Academic Information section.

6-7) Current or Anticipated Academic Major(s): First, indicate the name of your degree program at your university—this is the name of the degree that you are working towards and anticipate graduating with. Then, select your major(s)/field(s) of study from the provided list. You may not be able to find the exact name of your major or minor in the drop-down menu on the application. Please select one or more options that are as close to your degree as possible. The field of study list is derived from the [Classification of Instruction Programs](#), developed and maintained by the Department of Education’s National Center for Education Statistics.

8-9) Terms Completed: If you are not a first-semester student, you will be asked to provide additional information about your school’s term structure and your previous academic performance. Please indicate the number of terms you have completed (whether semesters, quarters or other), not including the current term.

9b) GPA: Enter your GPA at your current institution, if applicable. Please round your GPA to the nearest tenth (e.g. 3.4). If you do not have a GPA, enter N/A in this field. Do not enter your high school GPA or your GPA at a previous institution.

10-12) Spring 2024 Enrollment: Please answer the questions about your enrollment status in Spring 2024 (Spring semester or Spring quarter).

12) Anticipated Spring 2024 Courses: Please list all courses that you intend to enroll in for the Spring 2024 semester or the Winter and Spring 2024 quarters.

13) Fall 2024 Enrollment: If you're planning on being enrolled in the Fall 2024 term, please indicate 'Yes' here, along with the approximate start date for the term.

Section 7: Transcript and Grades

1-2) Provide a copy of your unofficial transcript for your current college/university. Please ensure that your unofficial transcript includes the courses that you are currently enrolled in for the Fall 2023 semester, as well as all previously completed courses. There are two methods to choose from to provide your unofficial transcript record with your online application:

Option 1: Scan and upload a copy of your transcript or grade list to the online application. The maximum allowable file size is 5MB. If your transcript file is larger than this, the file size must be reduced before uploading it. Do **not** upload a digitally signed or password protected e-transcript PDF. Most e-transcripts produced by universities are digitally signed and cannot be submitted with this tool. As a workaround, you may print your e-transcript and then upload a scanned copy of the printed transcript.

Note: Some transcripts include the Social Security Number students. If your transcript contains your social security number, please remove this information before uploading it.

Option 2: Alternatively, you may enter your courses and grades manually by completing a form. Using your online grade report or transcript, please enter information on all courses you have taken. Please provide details on any courses listed on your transcript, including those you may have withdrawn from or for which you received an incomplete. This form should match your institution's record, exactly. If you have not received a grade yet, please enter "N/A".

Note: Failure to provide unofficial transcripts may result in the disqualification of your application. Please note that the CLS Program will verify official transcripts after selection. Falsified unofficial transcripts will be grounds for disqualification.

Section 8: Previous Academic Information

If you have attended another college or university in the past, please provide this information in your online application. You may add as many additional entries as needed. Upload a copy of your unofficial transcript for each institution attended.

Section 9: Previous Programs, Honors, and Fellowships

Indicate any fellowships or academic honors that you have received, including previous CLS Program or other U.S. Government funded awards.

1) Previous CLS Participation: If you have been offered or received a CLS award in the past, you will be asked to supply additional information about your goals for participating on the program a second time, or about why you were unable to complete the program previously.

2) U.S. Government Awards: Indicate other U.S. Government-funded programs in which you have previously participated.

3) Other Honors and Fellowships: Optionally, you may also indicate up to three other fellowships or other academic honors that you have received.

4) Activities and Employment: Provide information on up to five jobs, internships, or activities that are directly relevant to your language study, academic program, or your eventual professional career.

Section 10: Language Choice

1) CLS Target Language: Select the language you are applying to study and the level at which you plan to study. Please review which levels are offered for the CLS language you want to study.

The language that you select may be referred to as the "**target language**" throughout the online application.

Choose your level based on how many years of target language study you will have completed **by June 2024:**

- No target language study, or less than one academic year of study: Beginning
- At least one academic year of target language study: Advanced Beginning
- At least two academic years of target language study: Intermediate
- At least three academic years of target language study: Advanced

For example, if you are currently in your first semester of Arabic study, and plan to continue next semester, you will have completed one year of target language study by June 2024, and should apply for the advanced beginning level.

Applicants must choose one language only. Multiple applications by one applicant will result in disqualification from the CLS selection process.

2) After choosing a language, indicate the approximate number of years of formal target language study (or equivalent) at the high school and/or college level that you will have completed by June 2024. If you are applying as a beginning-level student, you may enter "0." You will have an opportunity later in the application to provide in-depth information about your target language experience.

Section 11: Language Study and Travel

i-ii) Previous or Current Language Course Experience with your CLS Target Language: Provide information on formal language courses that you have taken previously or the primary course(s) you are enrolled in currently, and courses you intend to enroll in during the upcoming Spring or Winter term. You should not provide information for literature or other content courses unless the class is taught in the target language, including all readings and written assignments.

1) Other Language Experience with your CLS Target Language: Provide details of your previous experience studying and using your target language.

Provide any information regarding your target language background. If you have studied with a tutor, have knowledge of a specific dialect in the target language, or have a family background in the target language, please provide this information in the appropriate sections.

2) Post-Secondary Target Language Experience: If you are applying at any level above the beginning level, provide information on the approximate total number of contact hours you anticipate having in the target language by the beginning of the 2024 CLS Institutes. For example, a typical academic year is nine months (32 weeks). A typical language course is 3-5 hours per week or 96-160 classroom hours. The number of classroom hours provided should include previous, current, and anticipated Spring 2024 target language courses.

3) Future Language Course Experience with your CLS Target Language: Provide information on courses you intend to enroll in during the upcoming Spring or Winter term. You should not provide information for literature or other content courses unless the class is taught in the target language, including all readings and written assignments.

4-6) Target Language Travel: Provide information on any travel you have done to a country or countries where the target language is spoken.

7) Other Language Experience: Provide information on other languages you speak, as well as previous language study.

8) International Travel: List all significant international travel opportunities you have participated in previously for the purposes of work or study.

Sections 12: Essays

There are four essay questions on the application form. Your response to each essay question should follow the guidelines for each question regarding the number of maximum words:

- 1) Citizen Diplomacy and Mutual Understanding (300 words maximum)
- 2) Preparation for the CLS Program (300 words maximum)
- 3) Commitment to Language Study (300 words maximum)
- 4) Personal Statement (500 words maximum)

Essay responses may be written using a word processing program, then copied and pasted into the online application. Essays exceeding the word limit will not be considered for the scholarship. Please note that the word-count software used by the online application may differ from the software used by your word processing program. Be sure to leave yourself time to edit and reduce your word count, if necessary.

Before you begin your essays, it is strongly recommended that you read the information on the CLS website pertaining to your language and watch the video providing guidance for writing effective application essays for the CLS Program at www.clscholarship.org/apply. Applicants are encouraged to have an academic advisor, peer reviewer, or writing tutor review their essay responses before submitting an application to the CLS Program.

If you have previously participated in the CLS Program, you may not reuse the same essay responses from your previous application(s). If you applied previously but were not selected, you may reuse material from your previous application(s) if you wish.

Save your work frequently to avoid accidental data loss!

Section 13: Statistical Information

All questions in this section are optional. If you choose to complete the questions in this section, the information will **not** be shared with application reviewers and will not affect your eligibility for the award, or have an impact on the evaluation or selection process.

Information in this section is used when reporting on the equity of the CLS Program's recruitment and selection process and may be used in aggregate for the production of external reports or public presentations.

The U.S. Department of State and American Councils welcome all eligible applications and do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, geographic location, socioeconomic status, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity.

Section 14: Review and Submit

If any mandatory fields are missing, you must complete them before the application can be submitted. Not all questions are required.

Before you submit your application, please be sure to review all sections. Make sure you have answered all the questions and required fields, uploaded all the required documents, and that you are satisfied with your responses.

Once you submit your application, you will no longer be able to make changes to any section of the application. You will be able, however, to continue to view your application online via this system with your existing login.

If you are not ready to submit your application, please press "Save Changes" and log out of the system. You will be able to log-in at any time, thereafter, until the application deadline, and continue to complete or edit your application.

Before submitting your application, you will be asked to type your name as an electronic signature certifying that the material you entered into the online application is true and that you understand and agree to the terms of the application.

Please note: The CLS Program Application is not submitted until you press the "Submit Your Application" button and you receive an email confirmation. If you have not filled out necessary or required information in the application and attempt to submit your application, you will remain in the 'Review and Submit' section and will be able to see which sections are incomplete in the section navigation box on the left-hand side of the application; incomplete sections requiring additional information will be noted, in red text, with an asterisk. You must return to these sections, fix any errors or omissions, and submit your application again before it may be considered complete. You will receive an automated email confirming the submission of your application.

For assistance with the online application, or questions about the CLS Program, please contact us at cls@americancouncils.org, or by phone at 1-877-257-9922.