

Application Instructions

Application Deadline: November 15, 2017

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/information-for/applicants.
- **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 **not** digitally signed (official e-transcripts are discouraged due to technical issues). Applications are due November 15, 2017
- **Recommendations:** Have two references submit recommendations online supporting your application. Recommendations are due November 20, 2017
- **Technical Problems:** Any technical problems with the application form should be reported by email to cls@americancouncils.org.

[Detailed Application Instructions](#)

Do not wait until the due date to submit your application. Submitting your application before the due date is recommended for timeliness, and it also allows you time to resolve any technical difficulties or last minute questions. Submitting the application early also helps to ensure that the recommendations are submitted on time. Recommendation letters are due on November 20, 2017, five days after applications must be submitted.

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 need to submit any portion of your application materials by mail, those documents must be received at American Councils for International Education's offices by November 15, 2017. You may print a copy of the application form here:

- [Printable Application Form](#)

The application 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 THIS 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 EITHER in the navigation menu at the left side of each page OR in the drop-down menu at the top 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.

Saving Your Work

To save your work at any time, press the "Save Changes" button that can be found at the bottom of any page. It is a good idea to regularly save your work while completing the form to ensure that none of your work is lost in the event you lose your Internet connection, your computer is accidentally shut down, etc.

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 Microsoft® Word, OpenOffice.org Writer, 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 enough time before the deadline in case you need to resolve any such errors.

Downloading Documents from this Website



The free [Adobe Reader](#) is required to open and view most documents on this website.

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.

QUESTIONS?

For information about the CLS Program, please visit www.clscholarship.org

Please refer to the [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) for more information on common questions that arise during the application process.

Contact CLS Program staff during normal business hours, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. U.S. Eastern Time, Monday-Friday, toll-free at: 1-877-257-9922

Email: cls@americancouncils.org

Program Overview

Application Deadline: November 15, 2017

The Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program is an intensive overseas language and cultural immersion program for American students enrolled at U.S. colleges and universities. Students spend eight to ten weeks abroad studying one of 14 critical languages. The program includes intensive language instruction and structured cultural enrichment experiences designed to promote rapid language gains.

CLS, a program of the U.S. Department of State, is part of a wider government initiative to expand the number of Americans studying and mastering foreign languages that are critical to **national security** and **economic prosperity**. CLS plays an important role in preparing students for the 21st century's **globalized workforce** and increasing **national competitiveness**.

Most languages offered by the CLS Program do not require applicants to have any experience studying critical languages. The CLS Program seeks participants with diverse interests, and from a wide range of fields of study and career paths, with the purpose of representing the full diversity of the United States. Participants are selected based on their commitment to language learning and plans to apply their language skills to their future academic or professional pursuits. Please note that CLS is an intensive group-based language program.

The CLS Program is a program of the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the CLS Program you must:

- Be a U.S. citizen at the time of your application.
 - Non-citizens including Permanent Residents are not eligible, even if they anticipate naturalization by the beginning of the program.
- Be enrolled in an accredited U.S. degree-granting program at the undergraduate (associate's, bachelor's) or graduate (master's, doctoral, professional degree) level at the time of your application.
 - Your program must result in a degree. Applicants who are taking stand-alone or continuing education classes are not eligible.
 - Your institution must be an accredited U.S. institution. Students earning degrees at foreign colleges or universities that are not based in the U.S. or its territories are not eligible.
 - You must be enrolled at your home college or university in the Fall Semester of 2017. Please read the following information carefully:
 - If you are not taking classes at your home institution in the fall semester, please confirm that you are, in fact, enrolled. Institutions have different requirements to maintain enrollment status and you will be required to provide a signed letter from your **registrar** stating that you were enrolled during the fall semester.
 - If you are taking a leave of absence to participate in an organized semester- or year-long study abroad program, or to participate in a substantive internship program, you may still be considered eligible. You will be required to submit documentation of your study abroad or internship program. Decisions will be made on a case by case basis.
 - **In either case, you must submit a signed letter from your home college or university in the U.S. explaining your situation and your intention to re-enroll following the completion of your study abroad or internship program.**
- Be at least 18 years old by May 15, 2018.
- Undergraduate students must complete at least one academic year of study (two semesters or three quarters) by the beginning of the CLS Program.

Please note that you will be asked to select one CLS language. You will not have the option to request a particular country or location. You are eligible to apply for one language **only**. If you submit more than one application, you will not be considered for a scholarship in any language.

The following persons are ineligible for the CLS Program:

- Current 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), or for a period ending one year following the termination of such employment;
- Current 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, or for a period ending one year following the termination of their services; or

- Immediate families (i.e., spouses and dependent children) of the individuals described in the above paragraphs, or for a period ending one year following the termination of such employment. This provision does not disqualify self-supporting members of families who live apart from their parents.

These provisions do not include part-time or temporary employees, or consultants, or interns of the U.S. Department of State (including at U.S. Embassies and Consulates), or 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 in Washington, D.C. that falls during the CLS Program period, he or she may need to choose between accepting the CLS Program award and the Fulbright grant.

Felony and misdemeanor convictions Applicant situations involving a felony or misdemeanor conviction will be reviewed on a case by case basis. Minor traffic violations do not need to be reported as misdemeanors. Please note that the applicant may also be asked to submit supporting documentation.

University disciplinary action Applicant situations involving university disciplinary action will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Please note that the applicant may also be asked to submit supporting documentation.

Failure of an applicant to fully report felony and misdemeanor convictions or university disciplinary action will result in termination of the application.

MEDICAL REVIEW

If selected for a CLS award, you will be required to submit a medical information form and physician's statement 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 their health status between submission of these forms and departure in order to participate in the program.

VISAS

In order to participate in the CLS Program, finalists must receive an appropriate visa from their country of study (deadlines vary by country).

- **The decision to issue a visa rests solely with the government and consular mission of the country to which a student is traveling. The CLS Program, American Councils for International Education and the U.S. Department of State will assist**

you with your visa application, but cannot influence a foreign government's decision of whether or not to issue a visa.

- CLS Program finalists and, in some cases, alternates may be required to work closely with CLS Program staff on preparing their paperwork well in advance of regular deadlines in order to receive a visa.

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. A copy of the terms and conditions for the 2017 summer program is linked below. Note that award terms and conditions are revised on an annual basis and may change before the 2018 summer program.

[2017 Terms and Conditions of Award](#)

PROGRAM COSTS

The CLS Program covers most of the costs of participating in its overseas institutes, including:

- International and domestic travel between the student's U.S. home city, Washington, D.C., and the CLS Program site
- Related costs for a mandatory pre-departure orientation in Washington, D.C.
- Visa fees, language instruction, room, board, program-sponsored travel within the host country
- All entrance fees for program activities
- U.S. academic credit issued through Bryn Mawr College

The following expenses will **not** be covered by the CLS Program:

- U.S. passport fees
- Medical exam fees required for finalists

SELECTION TIMELINE

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

Late February: Applicants who pass the initial review process will be notified whether they have been selected for a CLS award. Alternate and non-recipients will also be notified of their status at this time.

Those selected for the award will have approximately two weeks to accept or decline.

Resources on Campus

The CLS Program does not designate official campus advisors because CLS applicants are not required to obtain support from their home institution to apply for the scholarship. However, the CLS Program maintains a list of faculty members and

administrators at colleges and universities nationwide who have volunteered to assist students with the CLS application process.

Search for a campus contact for the CLS Program here. If no one is listed for your institution, don't worry, there are many resources available to you on campus. Consider approaching staff at your school's study abroad department, fellowships advising office, honors program, career advising office, or your academic advisor. Your school may also have a writing center that would be happy to work with you on your application. Do a little research and you can make your application the best that it can be!

Also be sure to watch the official CLS Application Tips video, which is designed to help you write focused, effective essays that speak to the selection criteria for the CLS Program. We recommend this video for every student applying to the CLS Program.

1)

In preparing my CLS Application, I identified the following resources on my campus to assist me:

Check all that apply

- Academic Advisor
- Career Center
- Fellowships Office
- Honors Office
- Language Professor
- Study Abroad Office
- Writing Center
- Other

2)

If there's someone at your college or university who was a really big help to you, help us recognize them by providing their contact information below:

2a)

First Name

Last Name

2b)

Title

2c)

Department

2d)

College or University Name

Please allow one second for answers to reload when using the filter function.

IMPORTANT! If your institution is not listed here, contact us at cls@americancouncils.org

FILTER: Type in the first several letters of your university name to narrow the selection:

2e)

Email Address

Eligibility

Please refer to the Eligibility Requirements listed in the Application Instructions.

[Instructions for Completing Application](#)

1)

I am a U.S. citizen (including naturalized U.S. citizen).

- Yes
- No

2)

I will be at least 18 years old by May 15, 2018.

- Yes
- No

3)

I am currently enrolled in a degree-granting program.

- Yes
- No

3a)

If no, are you currently taking a leave of absence?

- Yes
- No

(i)

If yes, please explain below. Students on a leave of absence during the fall semester are only eligible if they are participating in an organized semester- or year-long study abroad program or a substantive internship program and intend to re-enroll following its completion.

Note that you will also be required to submit a signed letter from your home college or university in the U.S. explaining your situation and your intention to re-enroll following the completion of your study abroad or internship program. This documentation should be submitted to American Councils at cls@americancouncils.org no later than November 20, 2017.

0 words counted. Maximum of 100 words allowed.

4)

I am enrolled in an accredited U.S. institution. (Note: Students earning degrees at foreign colleges or universities that are not based in the United States or its territories are not eligible.)

- Yes
- No

5)

By the program start date (summer 2018), I will have completed at least one academic year of study at the college level (two semesters or three quarters).

- Yes
- No

6)

I understand that if I am selected for the CLS Program award, I will be required to submit a medical information form and physician's statement for review by an independent medical professional. Results of the medical review will determine if I meet medical requirements necessary for program placement and participation in the CLS Program. *The CLS Program does not discriminate on the basis of medical condition or disability.*

- Yes

7)

I understand that if I am selected for a CLS Program award, my participation depends on the decision by the host country to issue me a visa that is appropriate and valid for the CLS Program. The decision to issue a visa is made at the sole discretion of the host country and neither American Councils nor the U.S. Department of State may affect that decision.

- Yes

8)

I am submitting only one CLS Program application for only one language.

- Yes
- No

9)

I certify that I have reviewed the eligibility requirements, and that I am eligible to apply for the CLS Program.

A full description of the eligibility requirements is available at www.clscholarship.org/information-for/applicants

- Yes

10)

I have submitted or plan to submit an application to the Fulbright U.S. Student Program for the 2018-2019 award year.

If yes, please complete the additional information below.

- Yes
- No

10a)

I understand that I may not accept a 2018 Critical Language Enhancement Award, which provides supplemental critical language study funding for Fulbright U.S. Student Program grantees, and a CLS Program award in the same academic year.

- Yes

10b)

I understand that if I receive a Fulbright grant with a mandatory pre-departure orientation in Washington, D.C. whose dates conflict with the CLS Program, I will need to choose between accepting the CLS Program award and the Fulbright grant.

- Yes

11)

Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?

All other factors being equal, the CLS Program gives preference to veterans of the armed forces. If you respond yes, you will be required to upload a copy of your DD214 Form to prove your veteran status.

- Yes
- No
- Decline to State

11a)

Upload a copy of your DD214 Form as proof of your veteran status.

Instructions for Uploading Documents and Photos

- A. Click on the "Select File" button of the appropriate document or photo item.
- B. Search for the document or photo file on your computer, and then select it.
- C. You will be taken briefly to another screen while your file is validated by this system.

Select File...

*The allowed file types are: PDF, JPG/JPEG, PNG, GIF, TIF/TIFF
The file size must not exceed 5 MB.*

Disciplinary Record

1)

Are you under current indictment for or have you ever been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor (excluding minor traffic violations)?

More information and instructions can be found at www.clscholarship.org/information-for/applicants

- Yes
- No

1a)

If yes, please explain below. Include details of the date of incident and details of the citation/complaint, and state whether or not you completed the terms of your sentence.

0 words counted. Maximum of 100 words allowed.

UNIVERSITY RECORD

2)

Have you ever been the subject of academic or non-academic disciplinary action, or been suspended or expelled from a college or university for any disciplinary or honor code infraction?

- Yes
- No

2a)

If yes, please indicate below the date of incident, details of the incident, and the resulting punishment.

0 words counted. Maximum of 100 words allowed.

Language Choice

LANGUAGE CHOICE

1)

Select the Language and Level for which you are applying.

You should select the level you expect to be when the program starts in June 2018. Assess yourself according to the [Language Levels and Prerequisites guidelines](#).

Language

Choose one

Self-Assessed Level

Choose one

Self-Assessed Level

Choose one

Self-Assessed Level

Choose one

1a)

How many years of formal target language classroom study (or equivalent) will you have completed by summer 2018?

(i)

Years in high school

Choose one. If none, choose "0."

(ii)

Years in college or university

Choose one. If none, choose "0."

Biographical Information

1)

Applicant Name (please enter your legal name as it appears on your U.S. passport or other government-issued ID):

- Use **English** characters, only, without accent or diacritical marks.
- Use proper capitalization. **Do not use** all UPPERCASE or all lowercase letters.
- If you do not have a "Middle Name," leave that box blank.

First Name

Middle Name

Last Name

2)

Previous Legal Name Used

If none, leave blank

3)

Gender

As it appears on your passport or other government-issued ID

Female

Male

4)

Date of Birth

Use the date picker, or enter in U.S. date format: Mmm dd, yyyy (for example, Jan 30, 2000)

[Open Calendar](#)

5)

Place of Birth:

5a)

Country

5b)

City

5c)

U.S. State or Possession

5c)

Province/State/Governorate

If not applicable, enter "N/A"

6)

Do you hold dual citizenship with another country?

Yes

No

6a)

If yes, please select other citizenship country.

7)

Are you a naturalized U.S. citizen?

Naturalized citizens are eligible for the CLS Program, but must be naturalized by the date of the application deadline. For more information about naturalization, please visit the [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website](#).

Yes

No

7a)

If yes, please provide date of naturalization.

Use date picker, or enter in U.S. date format Mmm dd, yyyy (e.g., Apr 27, 2010)

 [Open Calendar](#)

PERMANENT ADDRESS

8)

Please enter your permanent residential address, at which you are registered to vote.

For example, if you live in Rhode Island but attend school in Illinois, then please indicate your address in Rhode Island.

8a)

Country

Please first tell us the country (including the U.S.A.)

U.S. possessions, military, and diplomatic addresses must specify U.S.A. as the Address Country.

8b)

Street Address

8c)

City

8d)

U.S. State or Possession

8d)

Province/State/Governorate

8e)

Postal/ZIP Code

If none, enter "None"

CONGRESSIONAL VOTING DISTRICT

The CLS Program informs members of Congress when constituents from their states or districts receive a CLS award.

9)

What is your U.S. Congressional District Number?

To find your congressional district, please visit house.gov

9a)

State/Territory

9b)

District

- *Select district number for your Congressional district.*
- *Enter "At Large" for states with only one (1) Congressional representative (Alaska, Delaware, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming), and for the District of Columbia and U.S. territories (American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands)*

CURRENT CONTACT INFORMATION

10)

Primary Telephone Number

Will be used for duration of program, through October 2018.

11)

Alternate Telephone Number

*We will only contact you at this number if we are unable to reach you and there is important or time-sensitive information to share. We **strongly recommend** applicants enter an alternate number or the number of a close friend or family member.*

12)

Primary Email Address

*This email address will be used to inform applicants of their selection status in January and February, 2018. We recommend **not** using your university address, because it might expire when you graduate.*

13)

Alternate Email Address

Such as your university address.

PASSPORT INFORMATION

14)

Do you have a U.S. passport with your legal name valid through December 2018 (or if you are a CLS Russian applicant, through March 2019) with two blank visa pages?

- Yes
 No

- You do **not** need to have a passport to apply for the CLS Program. However, all finalists are required to have a valid passport by March 2018 in order to participate in the program.
- You may need to apply for a new passport if:
 - You do not currently have a U.S. passport;
 - Your passport is not valid through the above dates; or
 - Your passport does not have two blank visa/stamp pages. (Note that it is no longer possible to add new pages to U.S. passports. You must apply for a new passport.)
- If you do not take measures to secure a passport by March 2018, you will be responsible for any fees associated with expediting your passport.
- For more information on securing a passport, please visit <http://www.travel.state.gov/>.

14a)

Date of Issue

Use the date picker, or enter in U.S. date format: Mmm dd, yyyy (for example, Sep 30, 2015)

[Open Calendar](#)

14b)

Date of Expiration

Use the date picker, or enter in U.S. date format: Mmm dd, yyyy (for example, Sep 30, 2020)

[Open Calendar](#)

Current Academic Information

1)

Current College or University Name

Please allow one second for answers to reload when using the filter function.
IMPORTANT! If your institution is not listed here, contact us at cls@americancouncils.org

FILTER: Type in the first several letters of your university name to narrow the selection:

1a)
Department, campus or school division, if applicable and unlisted

2)
City

3)
U.S. State or Possession

4)
Start Date
Enter in format Mmm YYYY (e.g., Aug 2016)

5)
Anticipated Date of Graduation (if applicable)
Enter in format Mmm YYYY (e.g., Aug 2018)

6)
Type of Degree

- Undergraduate (Bachelor's or Associate's)
- Master's
- Doctoral (PhD)
- Professional Degree (DDS, MD, DO, PAC, JD, etc.)

7)
Current or Anticipated Academic Major(s)

#	Field of Study
1	<input type="text"/> FILTER: Type in the first several letters of your field of study to narrow the selection: <input type="text"/>

8)
Are you a first semester student in your degree program?

- Yes
- No

8a)
Type of term

- Quarters
- Semesters

8b)

Number of Terms Completed at Time of Application

8c)

What is Your GPA on the 4-Point Scale?

SPRING 2018

10)

Will you be enrolled in courses at this college/university during the Spring 2018 academic term?

- Yes
- No

10a)

When is the anticipated date of your last final exam?

Use date picker, or enter in U.S. date format mmm dd, yyyy (e.g., Apr 27, 2018)

[Open Calendar](#)

11)

Will you be studying abroad during the Spring 2018 semester?

- Yes
- No

11a)

If so, where?

(i)

City

(ii)

Country

12)

Anticipated Spring 2018 Courses

Please list all courses you anticipate taking.

#	Course Name
1	<input type="text"/>

FALL 2018

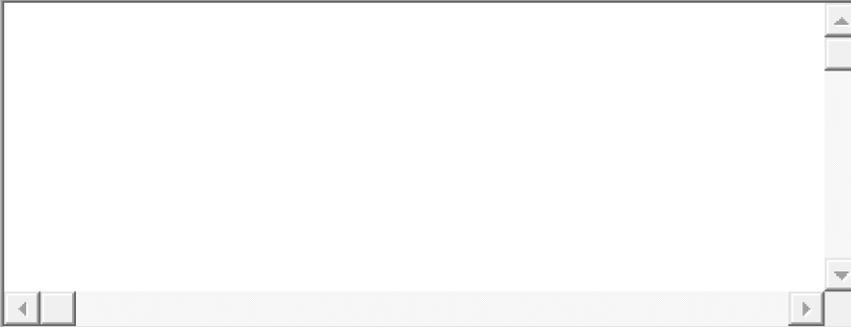
13)

Will you be enrolled in courses at this college/university during the fall 2018 academic term?

- Yes
- No

13a)

If no, please explain below.



0 words counted. Maximum of 100 words allowed.

13a)

If yes, when is the anticipated date of your first day of class for fall 2018?

Use date picker, or enter in U.S. date format mmm dd, yyyy (e.g., Apr 27, 2018)

[Open Calendar](#)

Transcript and Grades

Please provide an unofficial transcript, or list of grades, from your current college or university.

Please note that anyone who is accepted to the CLS Program will be required to submit an official transcript at a later date to verify the information provided below. Any discrepancies between the information provided in your CLS application and your official transcript will result in the revocation of the CLS award unless the institution verifies that a change (e.g., grade change, course removed, etc.) was made on your official record. Please contact us with any questions regarding the transcript reporting requirements.

1)

You may either enter your classes and grades manually, or upload a file with them listed (i.e., a grade sheet, scanned transcript, or document including a list of your courses and grades).

Choose one

- Upload Document
- Enter Courses and Grades Manually

2)

Upload an unofficial transcript or grade list from your current college/university

Instructions

- A. Click on the "Select File" button.
- B. Search for the transcript document on your computer, and then select it.
- C. You will be taken briefly to another screen while your file is validated by this system.

IMPORTANT! 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 transcript and then upload a scan of the printed transcript.

[Select File...](#)

File types allowed: PDF, JPG/JPEG, PNG, TIF/TIFF, TXT, RTF, DOC/DOCX

File size allowed: maximum 5 MB

2)

Courses Taken

Complete this section ONLY if you are unable to upload an unofficial transcript. 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 received an incomplete in. This form should match your institution's record, exactly. **If you have not received a grade yet, please enter "N/A".**

#	Semester/Quarter	Year	Department	Title	Grade
1	<input type="text"/>				

Previous Academic Information

1)

Have you attended a college/university previous to your current school?

Yes

No

2)

Please list all previous colleges and universities you attended within the last five (5) years.

a)

Country

Please first tell us the country your institution was located in (including the United States)

U.S. State or Possession

b)

U.S. University Name

Please allow one (1) second for answers to reload when using the filter function.

IMPORTANT! If your institution is not listed here, contact us at cls@americancouncils.org

FILTER: Type in the first several letters of your university name to narrow the selection:

b)

University Name (outside USA)

c)

City

d)

Type of Program

(i)

Degree Awarded

e.g., Bachelor of Arts, Master of Science, or Doctor of Education

(ii)

Date Degree Awarded

Enter in format Mmm YYYY (e.g., Aug 2014), or N/A if you did not complete your degree program

e)

Field of Study

Please allow 1 second for answers to reload when using the filter function.

FILTER: Type in the first several letters of your field of study to narrow the selection:

f)

Start Date

Enter in format Mmm YYYY (e.g., Aug 2011)

g)

End Date

Enter in format Mmm YYYY (e.g., Aug 2014)

h)

Did you have a GPA for this study program?

Yes

No

(i)

What was Your GPA on the 4-Point Scale?

(ii)

If no, please explain

0 words counted. Maximum of 100 words allowed.

i)

Upload Transcript

Please save all changes before uploading your transcript.

Instructions

- A. Click on the "Select File" button.
- B. Search for the transcript document on your computer, and then select it.
- C. You will be taken briefly to another screen while your file is validated by this system.

IMPORTANT! Do not upload a digitally signed or password protected e-transcript PDF.

File types allowed: PDF, JPG/JPEG, PNG, TIF/TIFF, TXT, RTF, DOC/DOCX

File size allowed: maximum 5 MB

[Select File...](#)

Target Language Information

1)

Which statement best describes your CLS target language study?

- I have never studied my CLS target language.
- I have studied my CLS target language, but not through formal classroom study.
- I have studied my CLS target language through formal classroom study.

PREVIOUS LANGUAGE STUDY

2)

What have you already done, and what will you do prior to participation in the CLS Program, to learn the target language?

Check all that apply

- Interactions with friends or family members who speak the target language
- Personal history with the language or related dialect
- Private or small group study or tutoring in the target language
- Independent study or personal research efforts
- Other efforts or activities to gain linguistic and cultural knowledge in the target language
- Formal classes in college/university
- Formal classes in high school/elementary school
- Study abroad program
- I am a heritage speaker (family background in the language, practicing the language at home)
- Other (explain below)

3)

Please describe the activities you have undertaken including the frequency and number of hours, content, books or materials used, chapters or topics covered and level of engagement.

0 words counted. Maximum of 200 words allowed.

TARGET LANGUAGE EXPERIENCE

4)

Are you applying at the **Beginning Level** with no experience learning your target language?

- Yes
- No

4a)

How many cumulative hours of formal classroom study in the CLS target language will you have completed by the beginning of the 2018 CLS Summer Program?

For example, a typical academic year is nine months (32 weeks). A typical language course is 3-5 hours per week or 96-160 contact hours. The number of contact hours provided should include previous, current, and anticipated Spring 2018 target language courses.

5)

Do you speak your CLS target language at home?

- Yes
- No

TARGET LANGUAGE TRAVEL

6)

Please provide information on any travel you have taken to countries where the target language is spoken.

#	Countries	Year of Visit	Sponsoring Organization (if any)	Travel Duration	Travel Purpose	Cities Visited/Length of Visit
1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

CURRENT LANGUAGE COURSE

7)

Are you currently enrolled for the Fall 2017 semester in a primary language course in your CLS target language? This would include courses in literature or other content

courses if the class is taught in the target language, including all readings and written assignments.

- Yes
- No

7a)

Course Title

7b)

Institution

If self-study or led by a tutor, please indicate that here.

7c)

Start Date

Enter in format Mmm YYYY (e.g., Aug 2017)

7d)

End Date

Enter in format Mmm YYYY (e.g., Oct 2017)

7e)

Average number of hours per week spent in classroom

PREVIOUS LANGUAGE COURSES

8)

Have you taken any courses in your target language?

- Yes
- No

8a)

Please list any previous courses taken in the target language starting with the most recent.

#	Course Title	Institution	Start Date (mm/yy)	End Date (mm/yy)	Grade	Average number of hours per week spent in classroom
1	<input type="text"/>					

PLANNED 2018 LANGUAGE COURSE

9)

Do you plan to enroll in a language course in the target language for the Winter/Spring 2018 term?

- Yes

No

9a)

Course Title

9b)

Institution

9c)

Start Date

Enter in format Mmm YYYY (e.g., Aug 2018)

9d)

End Date

Enter in format Mmm YYYY (e.g., Dec 2018)

9e)

Will you be studying abroad?

Yes

No

(i)

If yes, where will you be studying: (City, Country)

0 words counted. Maximum of 50 words allowed.

Other Language Study

1)

What was the primary language spoken in your home during your childhood?

2)

What, if any, was the secondary language spoken in your home during your childhood?

3)

What is the primary language spoken in your home today?

4)

What, if any, is the secondary language spoken in your home today?

5)

Have you studied languages other than your target language?

Yes

No

5a)

List the other language(s) you have studied

#	Language	Primary Study Method	Number of Years
1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

OTHER TRAVEL

6)

Please list all countries you have traveled to in the past five years.

0 words counted. Maximum of 100 words allowed.

Recommendation Requests

WHAT IS REQUIRED?

- Your application must include two recommendations from two different individuals. At least one of your recommendation letters should come from someone familiar with your academic performance, preferably at the university level. Both letters should be written by someone who can speak to your suitability for the CLS program.
- All letters of reference must be submitted in English and cannot be completed by a family member.

WHEN ARE RECOMMENDATIONS DUE?

- **Recommendations are due November 20, 2017, 5:00 PM U.S. Eastern Time.** It is your responsibility to follow up with your recommender and ensure that the letters of recommendation are received by the deadline. **Note that student applications are due November 15, five days BEFORE the recommendation deadline.**
- Recommenders can continue to work on and submit their recommendation letter after the applicant has submitted their application. **Do not delay the submission of your application** because your recommenders haven't submitted their letters yet.

Please Note! Applicants will not be permitted to view recommendations submitted for their applications without the permission of the recommender.

PAPER RECOMMENDATION FORMS

Recommendation forms should be submitted online through the application system. **Only if** your recommender is unable to submit an electronic letter of reference, he or she may mail a paper copy. Print and provide the following form for your recommender:

Document	Instructions
2018 Recommendation Request	Ask your recommender to send it to the address below: ATTN: CLS Program (Recommendation) American Councils for International Education 1828 L St NW Ste 1200 Washington DC 20036-5136

HOW TO GET A SOLID RECOMMENDATION LETTER

- The first step is to consider who you can approach for a recommendation. A good recommender should know you well, and be able to offer a testimony from their experience working with you. Examples of recommenders may include professors, instructors, administrators, guidance counselors, coaches, employers or community service supervisors. At least one of your recommenders should be familiar with your academic performance.
- Before approaching your recommender, consider: what would you like the CLS Program to know about you that your school records will not communicate? What makes you special, and sets you apart as a student? These things should also come across in your recommendation letter. Who can define and describe you most insightfully?
- When you have chosen your recommender, reach out to them and request a recommendation letter, explaining when the deadline is and when you expect to apply. If they agree, propose a time to meet and chat, or have a telephone conversation. Print out a copy of the general recommendation form, which you'll give to them in person at the meeting; or, if you are having a phone call, send them the file as an attachment.
- Spend some time talking with your recommenders, and explain to them the CLS Program opportunity, your interest in the target language and your interest in the CLS program experience itself. It's important that they understand your motivation, your academic background, and what you see as the benefits of CLS program participation. It's a good idea to bring a draft of your answers to the application essay questions and a copy of your resume to show to them. This will help them in writing your recommendation. In the meeting, you can also explain some of the things that make your candidacy unique, or that set you apart as a student.
- Remember: **Ask your recommenders well in advance of the deadline!** It can take a good deal of thought and time to write a good recommendation letter.

- A week before the application deadline, send each of your recommenders a friendly email reminding them of the approaching deadline. This is also an opportunity to thank them for agreeing to write your recommendation letter.
- Don't forget to thank them again after everything has been submitted. There is a chance you might approach them for another recommendation letter in the future, so keep up positive and friendly relations.

Recommendation Letter I

HOW TO REQUEST A RECOMMENDATION

- **Provide the contact information** for your reference below. **YOU MUST USE ENGLISH CHARACTERS OR YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO REQUEST A RECOMMENDATION.** CLS will use that information to send your references an email message that contains a link to a secure, online recommendation form.
- Once you have entered complete and correct contact information for your reference, a new button titled "**Request Recommendation I**" will appear below your recommender's contact information.
- **Press the "Request Recommendation I" button** to send the email notification to your reference. A record of the dates you sent these messages will then appear below the contact information.
- Once the request has been sent, you will be able to track the status of the recommendation form (notification sent, opened, saved, and submitted).

WARNING! If you **CHANGE** your recommender's email address **after** sending her/his notification message, it will **CANCEL** your previous request and **DISABLE** the secure link to your recommender's online form. It will also **ERASE** any online recommendation form that was already in progress **OR** had already been submitted. So, be sure to consider this before changing the contact information. **An erased recommendation cannot be retrieved.**

In order to request a reference, first provide a first name, last name, and email address for your recommender.

1)

First Name

Use English characters without diacritics or accents only

Last Name

Use English characters without diacritics or accents only

2)

Institution/Organization

3)

Relationship to Applicant

4)

Email Address

5)
Telephone

Press "Request Recommendation I" button to send email request

IN TESTING: CLS Reference 2018

Status History

Date	Activity Type	Recipient Email
No status found.		

Link text for recommender:

[Set Request Fields from Submitted Recommendation](#)

To see if your recommender has started or submitted his or her recommendation form, periodically return to this page and check the "Status History" table above.

Recommendation Letter II

HOW TO REQUEST A RECOMMENDATION

- **Provide the contact information** for your reference below. **YOU MUST USE ENGLISH CHARACTERS OR YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO REQUEST A RECOMMENDATION.** CLS will use that information to send your references an email message that contains a link to a secure, online recommendation form.
- Once you have entered complete and correct contact information for your reference, a new button titled "**Request Recommendation II**" will appear below your recommender's contact information.
- **Press the "Request Recommendation II" button** to send the email notification to your reference. A record of the dates you sent these messages will then appear below the contact information.
- Once the request has been sent, you will be able to track the status of the recommendation form (notification sent, opened, saved, and submitted).

WARNING! If you **CHANGE** your recommender's email address **after** sending her/his notification message, it will **CANCEL** your previous request and **DISABLE** the secure link to your recommender's online form. It will also **ERASE** any online recommendation form that was already in progress **OR** had already been submitted. So, be sure to consider this before changing the contact information. **An erased recommendation cannot be retrieved.**

In order to request a reference, first provide a first name, last name, and email address for your recommender.

1)
First Name

Use English characters, without diacritics or accents only

Last Name

Use English characters, without diacritics or accents only

2)

Institution/Organization

3)

Relationship to Applicant

4)

Email Address

5)

Telephone

Press "Request Recommendation II" button to send email request

IN TESTING: CLS Reference 2018

Status History

Date	Activity Type	Recipient Email
No status found.		

Link text for recommender:

[Set Request Fields from Submitted Recommendation](#)

To see if your recommender has started or submitted his or her recommendation form, periodically return to this page and check the "Status History" table above.

Activities and Employment

1)

List up to five jobs, internships, and/or volunteer or campus activities that you have engaged in that demonstrate leadership capacity, community involvement or a connection to your professional goals.

#	Activity Name	Start Date (ex. 01/2014)	End Date (ex. 01/2015)
1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Previous Programs, Honors, and Fellowships

CLS PROGRAM AWARDS

1)

Have you **applied** for the CLS Program in the past?

- Yes
- No

1a)

Have you **received** a CLS Program award in the past?

- I received a CLS award and completed the program.
- I received a CLS award, but did not attend or had to withdraw from the program.
- No. I have not previously received a CLS award.

(i)

If you received a CLS award previously, please indicate **all CLS Programs attended** from 2007-2017:

#	Year	Language	Level	City
1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

(ii)

If you received a CLS award but **did not attend or did not complete** the program, please explain:

0 words counted. Maximum of 100 words allowed.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

2)

Which of the following U.S. Government programs have you participated in?

Check all that apply

- Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship (Gilman)
- Boren Award (Fellowship or Scholarship)
- Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX)
- Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS)
- Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program
- Fulbright U.S. Student Program (English Teaching Assistantship)
- Fulbright U.S. Student Program (Study/Research)
- Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Abroad

- Language Flagship Fellowship
- National Security Languages Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) Program
- STARTALK
- Title VIII Award (Research and Training on Eastern Europe and Eurasia)

2a)

If you checked **any boxes** above, please indicate the program, year and country for each.

#	Program	Program Country and City (if applicable)	Language Study or N/A	Year
1				

2b)

If you received a **Fulbright U.S. Student Program (Study/Research) Award**, were you also the recipient of a Critical Language Enhancement Award (CLEA)?

- Yes
- No

HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

3)

Please list up to three other fellowships or academic honors that you have received.

#	Honor/Fellowship
1	<input type="text"/>

Short Essays

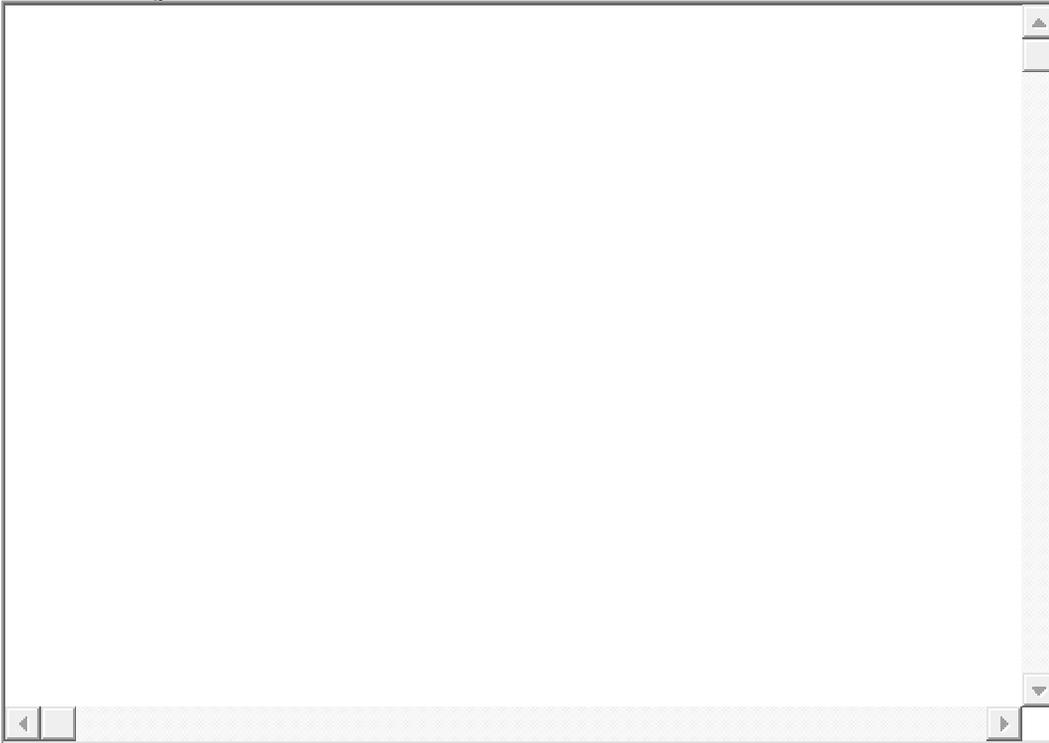
When preparing your responses, **please remember to save your progress frequently** as you go. You may also write your responses in a separate document, and then copy and paste your finished draft into the text boxes provided.

1)

The CLS Program is an intensive, group-based overseas learning experience. The program involves adapting to a new environment, living without familiar amenities, studying intensively, attending mandatory cultural activities that may not always align perfectly with your interests, building new relationships with people from the host country and your CLS peers, and functioning day-to-day in another language.

- What aspects of the CLS Program do you expect will be the most challenging for you?
- How will you meet these challenges?

Enter essay here:

A large, empty rectangular text input box with a thin black border. On the right side, there is a vertical scroll bar with a small upward-pointing arrow at the top and a downward-pointing arrow at the bottom. At the bottom left corner, there are small left and right arrow icons. The box is currently empty, intended for the user to enter their essay response.

0 words counted. Maximum of 350 words allowed.

2)

Living in a different culture exposes you to new opinions, worldviews, and ways of living day-to-day that may be completely different from what you have experienced previously. For example, you might find that there are differences in concepts of personal space, privacy, and time; socially acceptable behaviors; or the role of the individual in society.

- What are your strategies for interacting with people who are different from you or situations that are unfamiliar?
- How do you approach new environments?

Enter essay here:

A large, empty rectangular text input area. On the right side, there is a vertical scroll bar with a small upward-pointing triangle at the top and a downward-pointing triangle at the bottom. At the bottom left corner, there are two small square buttons, one with a left-pointing arrow and one with a right-pointing arrow. At the bottom right corner, there is a small square button with a downward-pointing triangle.

0 words counted. Maximum of 350 words allowed.

3)

The CLS Program is committed to developing relationships between the people of the United States and other countries, and to increasing the number and diversity of Americans who speak critical languages. CLS Program participants represent a wide diversity of experience and backgrounds, they also represent a wide range of U.S. institutions of higher education.

For more information, please refer to [the diversity statement of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs](#).

- What unique background and life experience do you bring to the CLS Program?
- How could your unique perspectives contribute to your CLS group?
- How would your unique perspective make you an effective citizen diplomat in your host community

Enter essay here:



0 words counted. Maximum of 350 words allowed.

4)

The CLS Program seeks to support students who are committed to acquiring a high level of linguistic and cultural knowledge after participating in the CLS Program.

- How do you plan to continue to build your language and cross-cultural skills, both formally and informally, after the CLS Program

Enter essay here:



0 words counted. Maximum of 100 words allowed.

Statement of Purpose

Please address the following questions in your statement of purpose essay:

- Why should the CLS Program invest in you with this award?
- What interests you about your chosen target language and the people who speak it?
- How will increased language and cultural knowledge help you achieve your future academic and/or professional goals?

Statement of Purpose

0 words counted. Maximum of 500 words allowed.

Statistical Information

This information will **not** be shared with application reviewers and will have no bearing on your selection for the CLS Program. It 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, religion, national origin, gender, age, or disability.

The information you provide below will not affect your eligibility for the award, or have an impact on the evaluation or selection process.

1)

How did you learn about the program?

[Check all that apply](#)

- CLS Alumni or Participants
- Email Announcement
- Magazine
- Newspaper
- Poster
- School Presentation
- Social Media
- Study Abroad Fair
- University Staff
- Website or Internet Search
- Word of Mouth
- Other

1a)

If you checked **University Staff** above:

[Check all that apply](#)

- Academic Advisor
- Campus Organization
- Diversity/Inclusion Office
- Fellowship Advisor
- Study Abroad Advisor
- Teacher/Professor

1b)

If you checked **Other** above, please specify:

0 characters counted. Maximum of 250 characters allowed.

2)

How would you describe yourself?

[Check all that apply](#)

- Asian

- Black or African American
- Latinx or Hispanic
- Middle Eastern or North African
- Native American or Alaska Native
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- South Asian
- White
- Multi-Racial
- Other
- I decline to state

2a)

If **Other**, please explain:

0 words counted. Maximum of 20 words allowed.

3)

Are you a first generation college student?

Answer "No" if one of your parents or grandparents graduated a four-year college in the U.S.

- Yes
- No
- I decline to state

4)

Are you a Pell Grant recipient?

- Yes
- No
- I decline to state

5)

Do you have a disability?

- Yes
- No
- I decline to state

5a)

If yes, please explain:

0 words counted. Maximum of 100 words allowed.

6)

Where did you graduate from high school, if applicable?

6a)

Country

Including the U.S.A.

6b)

City

6c)

U.S. State or Possession

6c)

Province/State/Governorate

Review and Submit

Application Deadline: November 15, 2017

FINAL REVIEW OF APPLICATION

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. Please note that due to the large volume of applications received, the CLS Program is unable to provide feedback on individual applications.

If you are not ready to submit your application, please press any "Save Changes" button in the application forms 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.

CERTIFICATION

Please type your name below to indicate your agreement with this statement:

1)

I certify:

- I completed this application and the written portions are my own work;
- Everything in this application is complete and true to the best of my knowledge;
- I understand that limited information from my application may be shared with representatives of my university, for example study abroad or fellowships advising offices, including my name, degree information and choice of language;
- I understand that American Councils and the U.S. Department of State will not discuss individual selection decisions with applicants; and
- I understand that my application is in no way an offer or a guarantee of an offer for a Critical Language Scholarship award.

Type your name

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Would you like us to contact you with information about CLS and other U.S. Study Abroad programs in the future?

2)

You may unsubscribe from emails at any point in the future.

- Yes! Please add me to your mailing list.