

Boren Undergraduate Scholarship

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Website: [Boren Undergraduate Scholarship](#)

Campus Contact: Barbara Gorka, barbara.gorka@temple.edu, 215 204 0708

Internal Deadline: January 20 annually

Award Description:

Boren Scholarships provide up to \$20,000 to U.S. undergraduate students to study abroad in areas of the world that are critical to U.S. interests and underrepresented in study abroad, including Africa, Asia, Central & Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America, and the Middle East. The countries of Western Europe, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand are excluded. For a complete list of countries, click [here](#).

Boren Scholars represent a variety of academic backgrounds, but all are interested in intensive study of less commonly taught languages, including but not limited to Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, and Swahili. For a complete list of languages, click [here](#).

Boren Scholarships are funded by the National Security Education Program (NSEP), which focuses on geographic areas, languages, and fields of study deemed critical to U.S. national security. Applicants should identify how their study abroad program, as well as their future academic and career goals, will contribute to U.S. national security, broadly defined. NSEP draws on a broad definition of national security, recognizing that the scope of national security has expanded to include not only the traditional concerns of protecting and promoting American well-being, but also the challenges of global society, including sustainable development, environmental degradation, global disease and hunger, population growth and migration, and economic competitiveness.

To view the Program Basics for the Boren Scholarship, click [here](#).

Boren Scholarships promote long-term linguistic and cultural immersion, and therefore study abroad proposals for two or more semesters are strongly encouraged. Preference will be given to undergraduate applicants proposing at least 6 months overseas (summer combined with fall, or spring combined with summer). Boren-funded programs can begin no earlier than June 1. Summer-only programs must be eight (8) weeks or more and are limited to [science, technology, engineering and mathematics \(STEM\) students](#).

Internal Application Instructions and Checklist:

The Boren undergraduate scholarship **requires institutional evaluation**. Applications made directly to the awarding body will not receive institutional endorsement. Interested candidates are encouraged to meet with Barbara Gorka, Director of Fellowships Advising, and submit a draft of Essay 1 **before the end**

of the fall semester. Candidates should also attend [Foundations of Study Abroad](#) (held in Education Abroad, 200 Tuttleman) and meet with an Education Abroad advisor before the end of the fall semester.

Submit the following application components by **January 20**.

1. _____ **Campus Waiver and Agreement.** Complete the [online agreement](#).
2. _____ **Online Boren Scholarship Application.** Review the [Application Instructions](#) carefully. The application includes basic information about you and your proposed program, your proposed study abroad program and [budget](#), language self-assessment, career plans, [two essays](#) (see below), two or three letters of recommendation (see below), official transcript (see below), and an optional language proficiency form.

For your information, here is additional information about the most critical components of your application materials:

Essay 1 (National Security Essay). Please discuss the following points in one integrated essay, giving equal attention to each point. A. Explain the significance of your proposed country, region, and language to [U.S. national security](#). The Boren Awards recognize a broad definition of national security, but you should make a specific, detailed, and focused argument. B. Describe how the country, language, and overseas program you selected will help you achieve your career goals, including your plans to fulfill the [federal service requirement](#). If appropriate, you may also include relevant past academic, extracurricular, volunteer, internship, and professional experiences. Be specific. Maximum 800 words, single spaced. **Strive to submit a draft of Essay 1 to the Director of Fellowships Advising, Barbara Gorka (Barbara.gorka@temple.edu), before the end of the fall semester.**

Essay 2 (Study Abroad Program Description--both the preferred program and alternate, if applicable). Describe the study abroad program's course of study and related cultural activities, as well as the administrative and support services provided (i.e., facilities, housing, resident director, etc.). Describe the language component in as much detail as possible, including the number of classroom contact hours and informal language study opportunities outside of the classroom. Describe your past experience in studying or speaking the language (or another language if relevant), as well as your plans for continuing to study and/or speak the language following your Boren Scholarship.

Transcripts. Upload an "unofficial official" copy of your Temple transcript. Wait until your fall grades have been posted to your transcript before [ordering your transcript](#) from the Registrar. Once you open the official e-transcript or the paper transcript, it becomes unofficial. However, it is okay to save the transcript as a PDF and upload to the Boren application portal. You should *not* upload the academic record that's accessible from the TU Portal.

Two or Three Letters of Recommendation. Your application must include two letters of recommendation. You may also include a third letter of recommendation and a language proficiency form. For more information, please visit [recommendations and evaluations](#). Letters should: 1) Be academic and comment on your academic, linguistic, and personal preparation for the study abroad program, especially as they relate to the Boren Scholarship objectives, and 2) Speak to your ability to carry out your proposed study abroad plan, your U.S. national security argument and your career interests. The third letter of recommendation is optional and should only be submitted if you believe it will strengthen your application. It can come from another professor or from a non-college level language instructor, such as a high school language teacher or a private tutor, relevant work or internship experience.