



BOREN AWARDS

OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTION

Boren Scholarships (for undergraduate students) and Fellowships (for graduate students), initiatives of the National Security Education Program, provide unique funding opportunities for U.S. students to study less commonly taught languages in world regions critical to U.S. interests, such as Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America, and the Middle East.

Boren Scholars/Fellows represent a vital pool of highly motivated individuals who wish to work in the federal national security arena. National security has expanded to include the challenges of global society such as sustainable development, environmental degradation, population growth and migration, and economic competitiveness. In exchange for funding, Boren Scholars/Fellows commit to working in the federal government for at least one year after graduation.

ELIGIBILITY

All applicants must be:

- A U.S. citizen at the time of application
- Planning an overseas program that meets home institution standards in a country outside of Western Europe, Canada, Australia, or New Zealand. Boren Fellowships are not for study in the United States.
- Enrolled in an undergraduate degree program located within the United States accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

- Boren Scholars must remain enrolled in their undergraduate programs for the duration of the scholarship and may not graduate until the scholarship is complete.
- Either enrolled in or applying to a graduate degree program at a U.S. college or university located within the United States and accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

HOW TO APPLY

All application materials, including letters of recommendation, must be submitted to the Office of National and International Awards (ONIA) by Noon on this date. Please, note that applicants who submit after the Campus Deadline are still encouraged to apply to the Boren Fellowship, although a review of their application may not be provided.

1. Identify Prospective Study Abroad Programs. Use the Boren [website](#) to browse through eligible language and countries. The [WCU Study abroad advisers](#) can help you find the most appropriate study abroad program. Design a study plan based on your own academic interests. The length of the scholarship/fellowship will generally be guided by the plan itself and the amount of time that will be needed to complete it. It is important to have a feasible plan. Most successful applications include a combination of serious language study and research or academic internships, as well as significant time overseas (two semesters or more)

2. Start a new online application in the Boren Awards website. You may begin completing the biographical portions of the application, but do not submit the application on-line. That is the very last step.

3. Draft Application Essays. As you begin drafting your essays, do not be concerned with the length. You will go through several drafts if you are applying in a timely manner. You will submit multiple drafts to Dr. Bego for review. Tie your current academic plan, your scholarship proposal, and your future career goals into one strong narrative that makes the case for your Boren Scholarship/Fellowship. The application includes two essays, each of which includes several questions. Do not answer these questions one by one. Instead, you should write two integrated and comprehensive essays that clearly answer all the questions asked.

4. Secure Letters of Recommendation. You will need to obtain two to three letters of recommendation. The letters should come from faculty members who can comment on your academic, linguistic, and personal preparation for your proposed study abroad program, your U.S. national security argument, and your career interests. Language proficiency evaluations are optional.

5. Attend an Interview. Shortly after the campus deadline, you will be contacted to schedule an interview. The interview will be conducted by the Director of ONIA and two additional faculty members. You will receive comments and advice on how you might improve your application.

6. Hit Submit by the national deadline.

FOR RECOMMENDERS

Recommendations must be submitted via the online application system. Recommenders are given the following prompts:

- How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?
- Please comment on the applicant's academic, linguistic, and personal preparation for the study abroad program, especially as they relate to Boren Scholarships / Boren Fellowships* objectives. If possible, comment on the applicant's understanding of the relationship between his or her study abroad program and U.S. national security, broadly defined, as well as his or her career interests.
- Please add anything else that you think is relevant for the reviewers to know.