Application Instructions

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 ^Application_DeadlineDate^.
- **Technical Problems:** Any technical problems with the application form should be reported by email to cls@americancouncils.org.

Detailed instructions for the CLS Program are available here

Detailed instructions for CLS Spark are available here

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.**

Paper Applications

Only 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

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, Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. U.S. Eastern Time.

Toll-free number: *1–877–257–9922*
Email: *cls@americancouncils.org*

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 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.

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. We also recommend preparing and saving your essay responses in a separate location, such as a Word document, to ensure that your work is not lost in the event of a technical issue.

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 allot enough time before the deadline in case you need to resolve any such errors.

Downloading Documents from this Website

Most documents on this website are provided in PDF format. A PDF reader such as Adobe Reader is required to open and view these documents.

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.

Campus Advisors Acknowledgement and Consent

Application Deadline: ^Application_DeadlineDate^

Campus Advisors Acknowledgement and Consent

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 about your degree

program and the language for which you are applying 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.

We also encourage you to reach out to CLS advisors on your campus proactively. You can search for CLS advisors on your campus on the [CLS Program website](). If you do not have a CLS advisor on your campus, or if you would like additional assistance, staff at your school's study abroad department, fellowships advising office, honors program, career advising office, and/or your academic advisor may be good resources. 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!

Please enter all the information requested below, and then press the Save and Continue button to proceed to the CLS application. You may change your answers to these questions at any time during the application period by editing them on the application form.

1)
I have reviewed the [CLS website]() and identified an advisor and/or other resources on my campus who can assist me in understanding the CLS Program and preparing an effective application.

Yes
No

2)
If selected, I acknowledge that CLS will share the names of finalists with CLS Advisors through direct email and press releases to promote the program and student success.

Yes

Program Overview and Requirements

Application Deadline: ^Application_DeadlineDate^

Critical Language Scholarship Program

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.

Click here to read more about the CLS Program requirements

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.

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](#) and seek advice from the appropriate commanding officer.

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.

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.

Program Benefits

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);
- Cost of medical exams and any follow-up visits necessary to pass the medical review process, as determined by the CLS Program; and
- Cost of any immunizations required for entry, as well as costs for travel health clinic appointments.

For more information and a more exhaustive list of expenses that are not covered, please visit the CLS website (https://clscholarship.org/about).

Selection Criteria and 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.

All other factors being equal, the CLS Program gives preference to veterans of the United States armed forces.

All other factors being equal, applicants are selected with the goal of representing geographic diversity within the United States and a diversity of U.S. colleges and universities and fields of study.

Preference may be given to candidates with limited or no previous study abroad experience.

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

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.

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

CLS Spark

CLS Spark Program, an initiative of CLS, 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.

CLS Spark provides opportunities for American undergraduate college and university students to study Arabic, Chinese and Russian virtually at the beginning level. Designed to leverage best practices in online language learning, CLS Spark provides American undergraduate students the opportunity to study critical languages virtually when they may not have access to language learning on their campuses or the ability to study abroad.

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.

Click here to read more about CLS Spark requirements

Eligibility

To be eligible for CLS Spark, applicants must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or national at the time of their 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) level at the time of their application. Students who are graduating seniors at the time of application 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 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 study abroad or internship 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 on how to submit documentation. 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 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 have no formal classroom training in the languages offered (Beginning Chinese, Beginning Russian and Beginning Arabic).
- 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 CLS Spark:

- Individuals who have been selected for and participated in the CLS Program (CLS Program alumni);
- Students at the graduate level (master's, doctoral or professional degree programs);
- 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.

Participation Requirements

With reasonable accommodations, participants in CLS Spark must:

- Have reliable Internet access to some type of electronic device to participate in live classes weekly including the ability to be on camera and use a microphone;
- Complete pre-program orientation virtual sessions (both recorded and live);
- Complete pre-program assessments and surveys, where applicable;
- Attend all classes and activities and complete homework assignments, 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);
- Complete mid- and post-program surveys; and
- Complete post-program proficiency testing.

Additional Requirements

If you are selected for a CLS Spark 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.

Program Benefits

Participants in CLS Spark 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; and
- A stipend towards supplemental equipment and connectivity costs (for example, a web camera or microphone).

The following expenses will **not** be covered:

- The cost of necessary equipment (for example, a new laptop);
- The cost of phone or internet connectivity plans;
- Living expenses; or
- Physical and mental health expenses.

Selection Criteria and Process

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

- Impact of participation
- Motivation for language learning
- Readiness and resolve
- Unique background and experience

Preference will be given to veterans of the U.S. armed forces, and to applicants from states or institutions historically underrepresented in study abroad or in the CLS Program.

Applicants will be selected with the goal of representing geographic diversity within the United States and a diversity of U.S. colleges and universities and fields of study.

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

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 at this time.

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

Program Choice

Click here to review the Program Languages and Levels

CLS Program Languages and Levels

The CLS Program provides instruction in thirteen critical languages through summer study abroad institutes.

Language	Beginner (No Prior Language Study Required)	Advanced Beginner (Requires One Year of Prior Study)	Intermediate and Advanced (Requires Two Years of Prior Study)
Arabic		✓	✓
Azerbaijani	✓	✓	✓
Chinese		✓	✓
Hindi	✓	✓	✓
Indonesian	✓	✓	✓
Japanese			✓
Korean		✓	✓
Persian	✓	✓	✓
Portuguese	✓	✓	✓
Russian		✓	✓
Swahili	✓	✓	✓
Turkish	✓	✓	✓
Urdu	✓	✓	✓

CLS Spark provides instruction in three critical languages only as virtual instruction (no travel).

Language	Beginner (No Prior Language Study Required)	Advanced Beginner (Requires One Year of Prior Study)	Intermediate and Advanced (Requires Two Years of Prior Study)
Arabic	✓		
Chinese	✓		
Russian	✓		

1)

Select the program for which you are applying.

Choose one

CLS Spark Virtual Institutes (beginning Arabic, Chinese, or Russian, only)
CLS Program In-Person Institutes

Eligibility

Please refer to the Eligibility Requirements listed in Program Overview and Requirements.

Certify Your Eligibility

1)
I am a U.S. citizen or national (including naturalized U.S. citizen).
Naturalized citizens are eligible for the CLS Program, but must be naturalized by the date of the application deadline, November 14, 2023. For more information about naturalization, please visit the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website (https://www.uscis.gov/).

Yes
No

2)
I will be at least 18 years old by May 15, 2024.

Yes
No

3)
I am currently enrolled in a degree-granting program. Students who are taking stand-alone or continuing education classes or who are pursuing a certificate are not eligible.
*Note that applicants for **CLS Spark** must be enrolled at the undergraduate level*

Yes
No

3a)
If no, please explain:
0 words counted. Maximum of 100 words allowed.

4)

Are you currently taking at least one class for credit at or through your home institution?

Students who are not taking classes at or through their home institution are only eligible if they are participating in an organized semester- or year-long study abroad program, a national fellowship or scholarship program, or a substantive internship program and intend to re-enroll following its completion.)

Yes
No

4a)

If no, please explain:

Students who are not taking classes at or through their home institution are only eligible if they are participating in an organized semester- or year-long study abroad program, a national fellowship or scholarship program, or a substantive internship program and intend to re-enroll following its completion.

0 words counted. Maximum of 100 words allowed.

5)

Are you currently studying abroad?

*If **yes** and your study abroad program does not (or will not) show up on your transcript by the spring term, you will be required to submit additional documentation confirming your participation in and completion of the study abroad program. CLS Program staff will provide further instruction to applicants selected as semifinalists on how to submit documentation.*

Yes
No

6)

My institution is an accredited institution based in the United States.

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

7)

By the program start date (Summer 2024), I will have completed at least one academic year of study at the undergraduate level (two semesters or three quarters).

Yes
No

8)

I am submitting only one CLS Program application for only one language and for one model (i.e., Overseas or Spark).

Yes

9)

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

A full description of the eligibility requirements is available at https://clscholarship.org/applicants/eligibility.

Yes

10)

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. Active duty members of the military do not qualify for a veteran's preference. If you respond yes to this question, you will be required to attach a copy of your DD214 or NGB-22 Form as proof of your veteran status.

Yes
No
Decline to State

10a)

Upload a copy of your DD214 or NGB-22 Form as proof of your veteran status.

Instructions for Uploading Documents

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

File types allowed: **DOC/DOCX, PDF, JPG/JPEG, PNG, GIF, TIF/TIFF**
Maximum file size: **5 MB**

11)

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.

For more information about participation requirements, please visit the CLS website (https://clscholarship.org/applicants/participation-requirements)
The CLS Program does not discriminate on the basis of medical condition or disability.

Yes

12)

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 has control over visa decisions by host countries.

For more information about participation requirements, please visit the CLS website (https://clscholarship.org/applicants/participation-requirements).

Yes

Biographical Information

Applicant Information

1)
Applicant Name (please provide your preferred name that you would like to be called):

- *Use **plain letter** 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)
Is your legal name different from your preferred name?

 Yes
 No

2a)
Legal Name (if different, the name on your government-issued ID)

- *Use **plain letter** 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.*

Legal First Name

Legal Middle Name

Legal Last Name

3)
Have you had a different legal name before?

 Yes
 No

3a)
Previous Legal Name Used

- *Use **plain letter** 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.*

Previous Legal First Name

Previous Legal Middle Name

Previous Legal Last Name

4)

Gender
Please check the option that best describes your gender. This information will not be shared with application evaluators.
ChooseFemaleMaleNon-binaryI do not wish to respond

5)
Date of Birth
Please use the date picker below.

6)
Place of Birth
FIRST choose birth country, THEN choose birth state/province/region.

Birth Country	- Choose -
Birth City	
Birth State/Province/Region	- Choose -

Permanent Address and Congressional District

Please enter your permanent residential address, at which you are eligible to register 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.

7)
Permanent Residential Address
For example, if you live in Rhode Island but attend school in Illinois, then please indicate your address in Rhode Island.
FIRST choose country, THEN choose state/province/region.

Country	- Choose -
Street Address	
City	
Province/State/Governorate	- Choose -
Postal/ZIP Code	

8)
U.S. Congressional District
To find your congressional district, please visit https://house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative.

8a)
State/Territory
- Choose -

8b)
District

- *Select district number for your Congressional district.*
- *Enter "At Large" " for states with only one 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)*

- Choose -

Current Contact Information

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 the summer of 2024. If you are selected, you will have an opportunity to update your contact information at that time.

Please note that all applicants may be contacted by the CLS Program with surveys to provide feedback on their application experience.

9)
Primary Telephone Number
Will be used for duration of program (i.e. October 2024).

10)
If selected as a finalist, I give American Councils permission to:
Choose one
Standard texting rates apply.

 Call AND text my primary phone number
 Call my primary phone number ONLY
 Text my primary phone number ONLY
 I do not consent to being contacted by my primary telephone number about selection updates

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** you 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 notify you of your selection status in January and March 2024, as well as through the duration of the program. We recommend **not** using your university address, because it might expire when you graduate.*

13)
Alternate Email Address
Will be used to continue to communicate with CLS alumni after their university addresses expire.

Passport Information

14) Do you hold dual citizenship with another country?
Please note that you will be required to travel on your U.S. passport.

Yes
No
14a)
If yes, please select other citizenship country.
Choose one
- Choose -

15)
Do you have a U.S. passport with your legal name valid through March 1, 2025 with two blank visa pages?

Yes
No

- You do **not** need to have a passport to **apply** for the CLS Program. Please note that CLS host countries have different requirements for passports and visas. Some require passports to be valid three months after departure while others require passports to be valid six months after departure. If selected as a finalist, it is your responsibility to communicate with your program officer and ensure you have a valid passport. All finalists are required to have a valid passport by March 2024 in order to participate in the program.
- You may need to apply for a new passport if:
  - You do not currently have a valid 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 valid passport by March 2024, you will be responsible for any fees associated with expediting your 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.
- For more information on securing a passport, please visit https://travel.state.gov.

15a)
Date of Issue
Use the date picker below

15b)
Date of Expiration
Use the date picker below

Opt-in to Email Communications from American Councils

(i)
May we contact you by email to communicate information about your application?
Choose one

Yes
No

NOTE: You may give or withdraw your consent to receive application support emails from us at any time. You can do this by writing to us by email at: cls@americancouncils.org

Current Academic Information

Please indicate your current college or university.

Please note that we share the names of finalists with CLS Advisors through direct email and press releases to promote the program and student success. Please refer to the Campus Advisors Acknowledgement and Consent section for more information.

1)
Current College or University Name
FIRST type the name of your institution to filter the available choices, THEN select your institution from the drop-down list.
Please allow one second for answers to reload when using the filter function.
If the name of your institution does not appear in the list, please try spelling out any acronyms or searching for one of the words included in the institution's name.
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:*
- Choose -

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

2)
University City and State

City	
U.S. State or Possession	- Choose -

3)
Start Date

Enter in format Mmm YYYY (e.g., Aug 2022).

4)

Anticipated Date of Graduation (if applicable)

Enter in format Mmm YYYY (e.g., Aug 2025).

5)

Type of Degree

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

6)

What is the name of your current degree program?

For example, "Associate of General Studies," "BA in East Asian Studies," "Master of Public Health," or "Doctor of Philosophy in Education," or "Doctor of Dental Surgery".

7)

Current or Anticipated Academic Major(s)

#	Field of Study
1	*FILTER: Type in the first several letters of your field of study to narrow the selection, and then select the best match for your field of study from the drop-down menu:* - Choose -

8)

Are you a first-term student in your degree program?

 Yes
 No

9)

Type of term

 Quarters
 Semesters
 Other

(i)

If "other", please explain

0 words counted. Maximum of 50 words allowed.

9a)

Number of Terms Completed at Time of Application

9b)

What is Your GPA on the 4-Point Scale?

Spring 2024

10)

Will you be enrolled in courses at this college/university during the Spring 2024 academic term?

 Yes

No
10a)
When is the anticipated date of your last final exam?
Use the date picker below

11)
Will you be studying abroad during the Spring 2024 academic term?

Yes
No
11a)
If so, where?

Country	- Choose -
City	

12)
Anticipated Spring 2024 Courses
Please list all courses you anticipate taking between January and June 2024

#	Course Name
1	

Fall 2024

13)
Will you be enrolled in courses at this college/university during the Fall 2024 academic term?

Yes
No
13a)
If yes, when is the anticipated date of your first day of class for fall 2024?
Use the date picker below

Transcript and Grades

Please provide a list of the courses you have taken and the grades you have received at 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. Significant 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 full 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.
This document should reflect in-progress work for Fall 2023.
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.*
IMPORTANT! *Some transcripts include the Social Security Number of students. If your transcript contains your social security number, please redact this information before uploading it.*

File types allowed: **DOC/DOCX, PDF, TXT, RTF, JPG/JPEG, PNG, TIF/TIFF**
Maximum file size: **5 MB**

2)

Courses Taken

Referring to your 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. Include in-progress courses for Fall 2023.
If you have not received a grade yet, please enter "N/A".

#	Semester/Quarter	Year	Department	Title	Grade
1	- Choose -				

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.

a)

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

b)
College or University Name (outside USA)

c)
Type of Program
- Choose -

(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 2015), or leave it blank if you did not complete your degree program.

d)
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:*
- Choose -

e)
Start Date
Enter in format: Mmm yyyy (e.g., Aug 2015).

f)
End Date
Enter in format: Mmm yyyy (e.g., Aug 2018).

g)
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.

h)
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.*
IMPORTANT! *Some transcripts include the Social Security Numbers of students. If your transcript contains your social security number, please remove this information before uploading it.*

File types allowed: PDF, JPG/JPEG, PNG, TIF/TIFF, TXT, RTF, DOC/DOCX
File size allowed: maximum 5 MB

Previous Programs, Activities, Honors, and Fellowships

CLS Awards

1)
Have you **applied** for a CLS award (CLS Program or CLS Spark) in the past?

 Yes
 No

Please note: applicants who have previously received a CLS award (for the overseas program or CLS Spark) and completed the program are not eligible to apply for CLS Spark.

1a)
If yes, have you **received** a CLS award (i.e., Overseas or Spark) in the past?

 I received a CLS award and completed the program.
 I received a CLS award but did not attend the program.
 I received a CLS award but declined.
 I received a CLS award but did not successfully complete the program.
 No. I have not previously received a CLS award.

(i)
If you have received a previous CLS award, are you applying for the same language as the CLS Program you completed previously?

 Yes, I am applying for the same language as a CLS Program I completed previously
 No, I am applying for a different language from the CLS Program I completed previously

(i-i)
If no, please explain how you are maintaining your language skills in the language for which you first received a CLS Award. Please address how learning an additional language will contribute to your academic and professional goals. Please comment on how you plan to use knowledge of both of these languages in your professional future.
0 words counted. Maximum of 150 words allowed.

(i)

If did not attend or declined, please provide a short description of the reason that you declined the previous offer to participate in CLS. Please describe the difference that would allow you to participate in the program if awarded a CLS this year.

0 words counted. Maximum of 150 words allowed.

(i)

If did not successfully complete, please provide a short description explaining why you had to withdraw or were asked to leave the CLS Program.

0 words counted. Maximum of 150 words allowed.

(ii)

If you completed the program previously, please explain why the CLS Program is the best way for you to continue your language study. Please comment on why your additional participation in CLS would be a good investment for the U.S. government.

0 words counted. Maximum of 150 words allowed.

1b)

Please indicate **all CLS Programs attended** from 2006-2023:

#	Year	Language	Level	City
1		- Choose -	- Choose -	

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)
Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellowship
Charles B. Rangel Summer Enrichment Program
Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX)
Donald M. Payne International Development Fellowship Program
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 Abroad (YES Abroad)
Language Flagship Program
National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y)
STARTALK
Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Graduate Fellowship Program
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 Name	Program Location (if applicable)		Language Studied (if applicable)	Year
1	- Choose -	Program Country	- Choose -		
		Program City			
		Program State/Region	- Choose -		

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	

Activities and Employment

4)

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 (Mmm YYYY)	Still Participating?	End Date (Mmm YYYY)
1			- Choose -YesNo	

Language Choice

CLS Spark

CLS Spark is a **virtual program** and participants in Spark do not study abroad. Participants who complete CLS Spark are considered automatic semifinalists for the CLS Program in the same target language the year following their completion of CLS Spark, if they choose to apply.

Instruction for CLS Spark is designed for absolute beginners, starting with learning alphabets, characters, and phonetics. The focus on absolute beginners allows students who have not taken formal courses to benefit from high-quality language instruction taught by experienced teachers abroad.

If you do have language classes available to you in these languages on your campus, you will need to make a compelling argument in your CLS Spark application for why you have not been able to take courses in your chosen target language and why CLS Spark provides you with a unique and necessary opportunity to study the target language.

1)
Indicate the Language for which you are applying:
Select the Language for which you are applying for CLS Spark Virtual Institutes in the "Indicate Your Language" drop-down menu.
Indicate Your Language: - Choose -

2)
By checking the box, I acknowledge that CLS Spark is a virtual program. Participants in CLS Spark do not travel.

   Yes

CLS Program

The CLS Program consists of traditional study abroad programs held in countries and locations around the world. Applicants apply for a language and not a specific country and location. Finalists will be placed in different locations according to a variety of factors. Program sites for each summer are finalized in the spring prior to the notification of applicants.

To review the locations that have hosted the CLS Program institutes in previous years, see the CLS Program's website and the language pages at https://clscholarship.org/languages.

1)
Indicate the Language for which you are applying:
Choose one
- Choose -ArabicAzerbaijaniChinese (Mandarin)HindiIndonesianJapaneseKoreanPersianPortugueseRussianSwahiliTurkishUrdu

1a)
Self-Assessed Level

- *Select the Level for which you are applying in the "Indicate Your Level" drop-down menu.*
- *You should select the level you expect to be when the program starts in June 2024. Assess yourself according to the Language Levels and Prerequisites guidelines.*

Indicate Your Level: - Choose -

2)
How many years of formal target language classroom study (or equivalent) will you have completed by Summer 2024?

Note that if you have acquired your language proficiency via means other than formal classroom study, you will have an opportunity to describe your informal study experience in Section 11 (Language Study or Travel).

2a)
Years in high school
Choose one
- Choose -011.522.533.544.555+

2b)
Year(s) in college or university
Choose one
- Choose -011.522.533.544.555+

Language Study and Travel

Instruction for CLS Spark is designed for absolute beginners, starting with learning alphabets, characters, and phonetics. The focus on absolute beginners allows students who have not taken formal courses to benefit from high-quality language instruction taught by experienced teachers abroad.

If you have taken formal language classes already, consider applying for the overseas CLS Program.

You are applying for the following CLS Target Language: *
^Application_ProgramModulePreferences^

* See Section 10: Language Choice

Instruction for the CLS Program is designed for learners of all levels, including absolute beginners who start with learning alphabets, characters, and phonetics. Accurate information about your language study and travel provides reviewers with the ability to best assess your candidacy for the CLS Program.

You are applying for the following CLS Target Language: *
^Application_LanguageChoice^

* See Section 10: Language Choice

a)
Which statement best describes your post-secondary language experience with your CLS target language?

 I have taken classes in my CLS target language
 I have studied or have other experience in my CLS target language, but have not taken formal classes

I have never taken classes in my CLS target language nor do I have any other experience in my CLS target language

Post-Secondary Language Course Experience with Your CLS Target Language

(i)
Have you taken any courses in the target language previously?

Yes
No

Please list any previous courses taken (excluding the Fall 2023 semester) in the target language starting with the most recent.

#	Course Title	Institution	Start Date (Mmm Yyyy)	End Date (Mmm Yyyy)	Grade	Average number of hours per week spent in classroom
1						

(ii)
Are you currently enrolled for the Fall 2023 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

-

Course Title

-

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

-

Start Date
Enter in format: Mmm yyyy (e.g., Aug 2023).

-

End Date
Enter in format: Mmm yyyy (e.g., Oct 2023).

-

Average number of hours per week spent in classroom

Other Language Experience with your CLS Target Language

1)
Which statements best describe any additional ways, if any, in which you have engaged with the target language?

Target Language Experience

1)
Which statements best describe the ways, if any, in which you have engaged with the target language?
Check all that apply.

  Private or small group study or tutoring in the target language
  Formal classes in college/university
  Formal classes in high school/elementary school
  Interactions with friends, family, coworkers, or community members who speak the target language
  Self-study (e.g., apps or software, podcasts, films, TV, books, music, etc.)
  I am a heritage speaker (family background in the language, practicing the language at home)
  None of the above

2)
Please describe any coursework and/or activities you have undertaken in the target language. Please include, if applicable, the frequency and number of hours, content, books or materials used, chapters or topics covered and level of engagement. If you have taken formal coursework in your target language in college or high school, please describe it. If you are a heritage speaker, please indicate the degree of your language use at home. If you are a true beginner, you may have limited to no activities to describe.
0 words counted. Maximum of 150 words allowed.

3)
Do you plan to enroll in a language course in the target language for the Winter/Spring 2024 term?

  Yes
  No
-
Course Title

-
Institution

-
Start Date
Enter in format: Mmm yyyy (e.g., Jan 2024).

-

End Date
Enter in format: Mmm yyyy (e.g., May 2024).

Target Language Travel

4)

Have you previously traveled to or lived in any countries where the target language is spoken?

 Yes
 No

4a)

Please provide information on any travel you have taken (excluding Fall 2023) to countries where the target language is spoken starting with the most recent.

#	Country	Year of Visit	Sponsoring Organization (if any)	Travel Duration	Travel Purpose
1	*Filter choices:*- Choose -				

5)

Are you currently traveling to or living in a country where the target language is spoken?
This would include studying, researching, or completing an internship abroad.

 Yes
 No

5a)

Please provide information below:

#	Country	Year of Visit	Sponsoring Organization (if any)	Travel Duration	Travel Purpose
1	*Filter choices:*- Choose -				

6)

Do you plan to travel to or live in any countries where the target language is spoken for the Winter/Spring 2024 term?

 Yes
 No

6a)

Provide information below:

#	Country	Year of Visit	Sponsoring Organization (if any)	Travel Duration	Travel Purpose
1	*Filter choices:*- Choose -				

Other Language Experience

7)

Have you studied or do you speak languages other than English or your target language?

 Yes
 No

7a)

List the other language(s) you speak or have studied:

#	Language	Primary Study Method	Number of Years Spoken/Studied
1		- Choose -	

Other International Travel

8)

Please list all significant international travel opportunities you have participated in previously for the purposes of work or study, including the country name, reason for travel, and the approximate dates and length of your visit.

#	Country	Reason for Travel	Approximate Dates and Length of Visit
1	*Filter choices:*- Choose -		

Essays

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

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 relevant video** providing guidance for writing effective application essays for 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.

1)

Citizen Diplomacy and Mutual Understanding

A key goal of the CLS Program is to increase the number and diversity of Americans who study and speak critical languages in order to develop mutual understanding between the people of the United States and people of other countries. Through the CLS Program, CLS scholars are expected to cultivate a better understanding of the culture, values, and ideas of their host community and promote a better understanding of American culture, values, and ideas with their host community.

With the goal of mutual understanding, CLS scholars bear responsibility for representing the United States as citizen diplomats in their host communities; they reflect a diversity of values, beliefs, and opinions that is fundamental to providing a balanced representation of the United States abroad (see the diversity statement of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of

Educational and Cultural Affairs, which sponsors and oversees the program).

CLS scholars are expected to contribute to the goal of building mutual understanding by serving in the role of citizen diplomat. In this role, they will share what it means to be an American, learn about the host culture, and build meaningful relationships with citizens of the host community. After the program, alumni will share their overseas experiences with their communities, campuses, families, and/or peers back in the United States.

Please address the following points:

- How might your experiences, perspectives, and/or background contribute to your role as a citizen diplomat and the overarching mission of building mutual understanding in your host community?
- How do you plan to contribute to the mission of building mutual understanding and represent your host community upon returning to the United States?

Enter essay here:

0 words counted. Maximum of 300 words allowed.

2)

Preparation for the CLS Program

Studying abroad requires resilience, openness, sensitivity, and adaptability. On program, CLS scholars build relationships with people from the host community and function day-to-day in another language and in a new culture and environment alongside a diverse cohort of American students with different identities, backgrounds, and experiences. They will be exposed to new beliefs, values, attitudes, and opinions in the host culture and within their cohort.

Please address the following points:

- What challenges do you anticipate while participating in an intensive language-focused program, living in an overseas host community, and learning in a cohort-based environment?
- What knowledge, skills, and experiences will you draw on to meet these challenges?
- Give an example of a situation that required you to interact with people who were different from you or a situation that was unfamiliar in the past. Please explain what knowledge, skills, and experiences you drew on to navigate the challenge and what you took away from the situation.

Enter essay here:

0 words counted. Maximum of 300 words allowed.

3)

Commitment to Language Study

The CLS Program seeks to support students who are committed to acquiring a high level of linguistic and cultural knowledge about the regions and locations/countries in which they study.

Please address the following points:

- What opportunities, if any, have you taken advantage of in pursuit of studying your target language?
- How does CLS fit into your plan to develop proficiency in your target language?
- How will you continue to study and engage with your target language after the CLS Program?

Enter essay here:

0 words counted. Maximum of 300 words allowed.

4)

Personal Statement

The CLS Program provides an opportunity for motivated students to form a cohort of dedicated, engaged learners to intensively study a critical language in an overseas immersive environment. CLS scholars come from a diverse range of U.S. states, D.C., and territories; colleges and universities; backgrounds; and fields of study and share their unique perspectives in an open-minded, mutually respectful environment.

Please address the following questions:

- Why are you interested in your target language and the region where it is spoken? Why is CLS the best avenue to pursue these interests?
- What are your academic and professional goals? How will you make the most of your CLS experience to reach these goals?
- What qualities, perspectives, and/or experiences do you bring to the program and to your cohort? Why do they make you a good candidate for the CLS Program?

Enter essay here:

0 words counted. Maximum of 500 words allowed.

1)

Motivation and Commitment

CLS Spark seeks to support students who are motivated and committed to advancing their knowledge of other languages and cultures to support their long-term academic and professional goals.

Please address the following points:

- What interests you about your chosen language and the region in which it is spoken?
- How will increased knowledge of your target language and culture help you achieve your long-term academic or professional goals?
- What aspects of this program do you anticipate will be the most challenging? What knowledge, skills, and experience will help you sustain your engagement and learning throughout this program?

Enter essay here:

0 words counted. Maximum of 350 words allowed.

2)

Access to Language Learning Opportunities

CLS Spark seeks to provide true beginners of Arabic, Chinese, and Russian with an opportunity to begin their language learning journey. Students who have taken formal language classes already should look into applying for the overseas CLS Program. Spark prioritizes providing access to critical language learning opportunities for those who lack access or who have encountered barriers to pursuing significant study abroad or language learning opportunities.

Does your campus currently offer courses in the language you are applying to study with CLS Spark?
Choose one

  Yes
  No

Please address the following points:

- What barriers have you encountered in your pursuit of studying your chosen target language?
- How will CLS Spark help you overcome these barriers?
- How do you plan to continue your language learning journey after CLS Spark?

Enter essay here:
0 words counted. Maximum of 300 words allowed.

3)

Statement of Experience

A key goal of CLS Spark is to increase the number and diversity of Americans who study and speak critical languages in order to develop mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. Languages offer an opportunity for communication and exchange between people of different backgrounds, both within a U.S.-based cohort and with our partner communities abroad. Spark provides an opportunity for motivated students interested in a common language to form a dedicated, engaged group of learners. Spark scholars will share their unique perspectives in an open-minded, mutually respectful, virtual environment.

Please address the following points:

- How will your unique experiences, perspectives, and/or background contribute to your cohort?
- How will your unique experiences, perspectives, and/or background contribute towards the goal of building mutual understanding?

Enter essay here:
0 words counted. Maximum of 350 words allowed.

Statistical Information

This information will **not** be shared with application evaluators 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, national origin, sex, age, religion, geographic location, socioeconomic status, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

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
Career Counselor

1b)
If you checked **Other** above, please specify:

2)
What is your race or ethnicity?
Check all that apply.
Note: *Categories adhere to Office of Management and Budget's Statistical Policy Directive No. 15:*

Race and Ethnic Standards for Federal Statistics and Administrative Reporting, which also guide the U.S. Census.

American Indian or Alaska Native
Asian
Black or African American
Hispanic or Latino
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
White
Some Other Race

2a)

If **Some Other Race**, please explain:

3)

Are you a first-generation college student?

Answer "No" if one of your parents or grandparents graduated from a four-year college.

Yes
No
I decline to state

4)

Are you a Pell Grant recipient?

Note: Federal Pell Grants are generally awarded only to undergraduate students. If you are a graduate student, please indicate whether you received a Pell Grant as an undergraduate.

Yes
No
I decline to state

5)

Are you a veteran, or active or reserve duty member of the U.S. Armed Forces?

Yes
No
I decline to state

6)

Do you have a disability?

Yes
No
I decline to state

7)

Where did you graduate from high school, if applicable?

FIRST choose country, THEN choose state/province/region.

Country	- Choose -
City	
Province/State/Governorate	- Choose -

8)

Select the location that best describes where you grew up.

Major City
Other City or Town
Rural Area

Review and Submit

Application Deadline: ^Application_DeadlineDate^

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. 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 allot enough time before the deadline in case you need to resolve any such errors.

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

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.

1)
Please type your name below to indicate your agreement with this statement:
Type your name

Additional Information

2)

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

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

Yes! Please add me to your mailing list.