



Career Center

## OFFICE OF MERIT AWARDS

# SERVICES FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Our experienced advisors are eager to help you identify appropriate opportunities and compete for national merit-based scholarship and fellowship opportunities. These awards offer students and alumni the means to accomplish a variety of goals, including studying abroad, funding graduate education, and gaining research or high-level work experience.

Merit awards exist primarily to provide opportunities for academic enrichment, as opposed to tuition relief. Graduate students should keep in mind that many scholarships are intended for use after graduation, and that eligibility may be restricted to those with U.S. citizenship.

## ONLINE RESOURCES

### **NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTORY**

Review detailed listings and pinpoint nationally competitive, merit-based scholarships that relate to your academic and professional aspirations.

### **OFFICE OF MERIT AWARDS WEBSITE**

Find updates from our office and read about recent award recipients.

### **BLACKBOARD SITES**

Access advice and information about applying for specific scholarships and fellowships.  
(Please email [meritawards@american.edu](mailto:meritawards@american.edu) to request access to Blackboard sites)

## MEET WITH AN ADVISOR

**STEP 1:** The first step in setting up a meeting with one of our advisors is to identify the specific award for which you are interested in applying. **Starting Your Search:** We recommend utilizing the resources above as a starting point in your search. We also encourage you to reach out to mentors and faculty/staff in your program of study to help determine a scholarship/fellowship program that best fits your goals and interests. Though OMA does not offer general advising appointments, we host a series of **drop-in hours** and **information sessions** throughout the academic year.

**STEP 2:** When you are ready to work with an advisor on a specific award application, please email [meritawards@american.edu](mailto:meritawards@american.edu) to schedule an appointment with one of our fellowship advisors. It is important to contact us well ahead of your application deadline, as many fellowships require at least a 3-month commitment to put together a competitive application.



[AMERICAN.EDU/CAREERCENTER/MERITAWARDS](https://american.edu/careercenter/meritawards)

[meritawards@american.edu](mailto:meritawards@american.edu)

Follow @AUOfficeofMeritAwards on Instagram  
and @AUcareercenter on Facebook, Twitter &  
Instagram.

**Office of Merit Awards**  
Letts Hall Lower Level, Suite 6  
Enter across from McCabe Hall

# SELECT EVENTS AND SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES

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## ALFA FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

[culturalvistas.org/programs/abroad/alfa-fellowship-program](http://culturalvistas.org/programs/abroad/alfa-fellowship-program)

The Alfa Fellowship Program is a high-level professional development exchange program that places qualified young professionals in work assignments at leading organizations in Russia in the fields of business, economics, journalism, law, and public policy. Eligible students must be between 25 and 35 years of age by the application deadline. Students must also have a graduate-level degree or equivalent training in business, economics, journalism, law, public policy, or government, and at least two years of relevant work experience. Russian language proficiency is preferred.

**National Deadline: December 1, 2020**

## BOREN FELLOWSHIP

[borenawards.org](http://borenawards.org)

The Boren Graduate Fellowship supports students pursuing the study of languages, cultures, and world regions that are critical to U.S. interests, including Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East. Boren Fellowships are merit-based. Applicants design their own programs and may combine domestic language and cultural study with overseas study. All Fellowship recipients are required to work for one year (or longer in some instances) in a national-security related position with the Federal government, starting no later than 2 years after graduation.

### Info Sessions

**9/24 General Information Session** 12:00-1:00pm EST, [\(Zoom link\)](#)

**10/21 Boren Fellowship: Getting Started**

12:00-1:00pm EST, [\(Zoom link\)](#)

**11/5 Workshop: Essay 1 (Framing Your National Security Argument)** 12:00-1:00pm EST, [Zoom](#)

**11/11 Workshop: Essay 2 (How to Write About Your Motivations and Career Plans)** 12:00-1:00pm EST [\(Zoom link\)](#)

**National Deadline: January 27, 2021 (5:00pm EST)**

## CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG YOUTH EXCHANGE FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS (CBYX)

[culturalvistas.org/programs/abroad/congress-bundestag-youth-exchange-young-professionals](http://culturalvistas.org/programs/abroad/congress-bundestag-youth-exchange-young-professionals)

The (CBYX) is a fellowship funded by the German Bundestag and U.S. Congress that provides 75 American and 75 German Young Professionals (ages 18 ½ -24 at the start of the program) the opportunity to spend one year in each other's countries, studying, interning, and living with hosts on a cultural immersion program. The program is open to candidates in all career fields who are interested in a year of cultural exchange.

**National Deadline: December 1, 2020**

## CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP

[clscholarship.org](http://clscholarship.org)

The Critical Language Scholarship provides funding for beginning, intermediate, and/or advanced intensive overseas summer study of the following "critical need" languages: Arabic, Azerbaijani, Bangla/Bengali, Chinese, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Swahili, Turkish, and Urdu.

### Info Sessions

**10/2** 6:00-7:00pm EST, [Zoom link](#)

**10/16** 12:00-1:00pm

EST, [Zoom link](#)

**National Deadline:**

**November 17, 2020 (8:00pm EST)**

### Writing Workshops

**10/29** 4:00-5:00pm, [Zoom link](#)

**link**

**11/6** 6:00-7:00pm, [Zoom link](#)

**link**

**11/12** 12:00-1:00pm, [Zoom link](#)

## FULBRIGHT PUBLIC POLICY FELLOWSHIP

[www.cies.org/program/fulbright-public-policy-fellowship](http://www.cies.org/program/fulbright-public-policy-fellowship)

The Fulbright Public Policy Fellowship provides opportunities for U.S. early and mid-career professionals and practitioners to serve in placements in a foreign government ministry or institution around the world. Fulbright Public Policy Fellows build mutual understanding and contribute to strengthening the public sector while cultivating public policy experience in their area of expertise. The Fulbright Public Policy Fellowship also includes an independent research component that focuses on an issue related to the Fellow's in-country work.

**National Deadline: September 15, 2020**

## **FULBRIGHT GRANT**

**[us.fulbrightonline.org](http://us.fulbrightonline.org)**

The Fulbright Program funds independent research, study, and English-language teaching assistantships for students and alumni in one of 140+ nations. Recipients receive a stipend, round-trip travel, and health insurance. The Office of Merit Awards works with applicants during the summer and early fall. Tentative dates for the 2022-2023 cycle are below.

**Fulbright Kickoff: March 24, 2021**

**First Assignments Due: June 2021**

**Campus Deadline: Early September 2021**

**National Deadline: Mid-October 2021**

## **SERVICE SCHOLARSHIPS**

**[Info Session](#)**

**9/14 4:00-5:00pm EST, Zoom**

**[Writing Workshop](#)**

**10/1 4:00-5:00pm EST, Zoom**

## **MENAR**

**[menarprogram.org](http://menarprogram.org)**

The Middle East and North Africa Regional (MENAR) Fellowship is a new program that fosters a new generation of leaders with real-world experience with the culture, language, and politics of the Middle East and North Africa. The program is working to achieve this objective by offering one-year post-graduation fellowships for top graduates of American colleges at leading organizations in the Middle East and North Africa.

**National Deadline: December 2020 (TBD)**

## **PRINCETON IN AFRICA (PiAf):**

**[princetoninafrica.org](http://princetoninafrica.org)**

Founded in 1999, Princeton in Africa develops young leaders committed to Africa's advancement by offering yearlong fellowship opportunities with a variety of organizations that work across the African continent. Fellows have helped to improve education, healthcare, and living conditions; source fresh water; (continued) (MENAR continued) protect the environment; and rebuild following conflict and disasters. This program is open to graduating seniors and young alumni from any college or university accredited in the U.S.

**National Deadline: October 2020 (TBD)**

## **PRINCETON IN ASIA (PiA)**

**[piaweb.princeton.edu](http://piaweb.princeton.edu)**

Founded in 1898, Princeton in Asia (PiA) has been building bridges between the U.S. and Asia for over a century. The essence of PiA is to provide transformative, service-oriented experiences for bright, talented graduates and to serve the needs of Asia as determined by our host institutions and Asian partners. PiA arranges fellowships and internships with Asian host organizations that contribute to important global issues at the local level: education, public health, environmental sustainability, access to information/media, economic development and social justice. PiA sponsors over 150 fellowships and internships in 22 countries and regions.

**National Deadline: October 2020 (TBD)**

## **PRINCETON IN LATIN AMERICA (PiLA)**

**[pila-princeton.org](http://pila-princeton.org)**

Princeton in Latin America (PiLA) partners with NGOs and multilateral organizations and places highly qualified recent college graduates in year-long service fellowships with nonprofit, public service, humanitarian, and government organizations in Latin American and the Caribbean. PiLA enhances the mission of its partners by building their capacity to constructively impact the communities they serve, addressing the social, economic, and political barriers to egalitarian community development. Since 2003, PiLA has placed 360 fellows with partners in 20 countries throughout the region.

**National Deadline: November 2020 (TBD)**

## **AIF CLINTON FELLOWSHIP**

**[aif.org/fellowship](http://aif.org/fellowship)**

The William J. Clinton Fellowship for Service in India is an immersive, 10-month volunteer service program matching young professionals with development organizations. Fellows work on scalable and sustainable development projects in the fields of education, livelihoods, and public health. Through collaboration and capacity-building, Fellows, AIF and civil society leaders form dynamic partnerships to capacity-build, exchange knowledge and skills, and share a mutual passion for advancing social and economic development. Fellows serve on an annual basis from September 1st to July 2nd with development organizations across India.

**National Deadline: TBD**