



Career Center

OFFICE OF MERIT AWARDS

SERVICES FOR UNDERGRADUATE 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.

Undergraduates should keep in mind that many scholarships are intended for use after graduation, and that eligibility may be restricted to sophomores, juniors, seniors and those with U.S. citizenship. High-performing second-year students or transfer students may be eligible to join our Early Identification Program.

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 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 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.

If you would like to request disability-related accommodations or accessibility information, please contact meritawards@american.edu

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

meritawards@american.edu

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



SELECT EVENTS AND SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES

BOREN SCHOLARSHIP

borenawards.org

The Boren Undergraduate Scholarship supports study abroad for 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. All scholarship recipients are required to work for one year in a national security-related position with the Federal government, starting no later than 2 years after graduation.

Info Sessions

10/22 Boren Scholarship: Getting Started

12:00-1:00pm EST, [https://american.zoom.us/j/98233415478?](https://american.zoom.us/j/98233415478?pwd=RmZDMm5Fakp1ZXVlbC9tchxREgxdz09)

[pwd=RmZDMm5Fakp1ZXVlbC9tchxREgxdz09](https://american.zoom.us/j/98233415478?pwd=RmZDMm5Fakp1ZXVlbC9tchxREgxdz09)

11/5 Workshop: Essay 1 (Framing Your National Security Argument)

12:00-1:00pm EST, [https://american.zoom.us/j/94111236813?](https://american.zoom.us/j/94111236813?pwd=MUNpQVI2M09jQWx3VWpjeWVxL0dRUT09)

[pwd=MUNpQVI2M09jQWx3VWpjeWVxL0dRUT09](https://american.zoom.us/j/94111236813?pwd=MUNpQVI2M09jQWx3VWpjeWVxL0dRUT09)

11/11 Workshop: Essay 2 (How to Write About Your Motivations and Career Plans)

12:00-1:00pm EST, [https://american.zoom.us/j/98703570078?](https://american.zoom.us/j/98703570078?pwd=NF10bXh1YkxJbThMQ3ZLQjV4enh4UT09)

[pwd=NF10bXh1YkxJbThMQ3ZLQjV4enh4UT09](https://american.zoom.us/j/98703570078?pwd=NF10bXh1YkxJbThMQ3ZLQjV4enh4UT09)

AU Campus Deadline: January 13, 2021

National Deadline: February 3, 2021, 5pm EST

CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP

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 & Writing Workshops

10/21 4:00-5:00pm EST,

<https://american.zoom.us/j/92664380107>

10/28 12:00-1:00pm, Zoom

11/4 4:00-5:00pm, Zoom

National Deadline: November 17, 2020 (8:00pm EST)

FULBRIGHT GRANT

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.

(***Interested applicants should begin looking into this process during the spring semester of their Junior year; October of Senior year is the earliest an undergraduate student can submit an application***)

Fulbright Kickoff: March 24, 2021

First Assignments Due: June 2021

Campus Deadline: Early September 2021

National Deadline: Mid-October 2021

FULBRIGHT UK SUMMER INSTITUTES

fulbright.org.uk/going-to-the-uk/uk-summer-institutes

The US-UK Fulbright Commission offers special summer institutes for US citizens to go to the United Kingdom. These summer programs provide the opportunity for undergraduates (with at least two years of undergraduate study left to complete) to go to the UK on a three to six-week academic program at a highly regarded UK university, explore the culture, heritage and history of the UK, and develop their academic ability by improving presentation, research, and communication skills.

National Deadline: Early February (TBD)

GILMAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

gilmanscholarship.org

The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship program offers grants to undergraduate students who have limited financial means to pursue academic studies or internships abroad. This award is intended to better prepare US students to assume significant roles in an increasingly global economy and interdependent world. To be eligible, applicants must be Federal Pell Grant recipients.

Spring/Summer 2021 Programs: October 6, 2020 (11:59pm CT)

Fall 2021 Program: March 2, 2021 (11:59pm PST)

KILLAM FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

fulbright.ca/programs/killam-fellowships

The Killam Fellowship Program provides an opportunity for U.S. undergraduate students to spend one semester studying in Canada. Students may participate in the program either as a direct exchange student (registering at their home university, paying their home fees, and attending the host university as an exchange visitor) or as a self-placed visiting student (registering at the host university and paying host tuition fees).

[Info Session](#)

10/27 4:00-5:00pm EST, Zoom

AU Campus Deadline: November 8, 2020 (10am EST)

National Deadline: January 31, 2021

PUBLIC POLICY & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

ppiaprogram.org/ppia

The Public Policy and International Affairs Fellowship Program (PPIA) is designed to prepare college juniors and rising seniors, primarily from historically unrepresented groups, for graduate studies in public and/or international affairs and for professional roles in public service. Fellows participate in a seven-week Junior Summer Institute (JSI) before their senior year, and receive funding for graduate school in public policy/administration or international affairs. Some sites allow applications from international students.

National Deadline: November 15, 2020

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION: RESEARCH EXPERIENCES FOR UNDERGRADUATES (NSF-REU)

nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu

The National Science Foundation (NSF) funds a large number of research opportunities through its Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Sites program. An REU Site consists of a group of undergraduates who work in the research programs of the host institution. Each student works on a specific research project with faculty and other researchers. Students are granted stipends and, in many cases, assistance with housing and travel. Candidates must have U.S. citizenship or permanent residency. An REU Site may be at either a US or foreign location.

[Info Session](#)

10/26 4:00-5:00pm, Zoom

National Deadline: Varies by site/program - (CLICK HERE for a full list of REU sites)

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA) ERNEST F. HOLLINGS UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

noaa.gov/office-education/hollings-scholarship

The NOAA Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship is designed to provide undergraduate students with awards including academic assistance (up to \$9,500 per year) for two years of full-time study and a 10-week, full-time paid (\$700/week) internship at a NOAA facility during the summer. The internship provides the scholars with hands-on, practical experience in NOAA-related science, research, technology, policy, management, and education activities. Awards also include funds to attend a mandatory NOAA Scholarship Program orientation and the annual Science & Education Symposium, scientific conferences where students present their research, and a housing subsidy for the summer internship.

[Info Session](#)

11/11 6:00-7:00pm EST, Zoom

National Deadline: January 2021 (TBD)

TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP

truman.gov

The Harry S. Truman Scholarship is granted to US college juniors who demonstrate leadership potential and a commitment to public service. Truman scholars receive financial support for graduate study, leadership training, and fellowships with other students who are committed to making a difference through public service. A campus nomination is required for this award.

[Info Session](#)

2/18/21 12:45-2:15pm EST, Zoom (for 2021-2022 application cycle)

National Deadline (for 2020-2021 competition cycle): February 2, 2021

AU Campus Deadline (for consideration for nomination for the 2021-2022 competition cycle): March 15, 2021

UDALL SCHOLARSHIP

udall.gov/OurPrograms/Scholarship

The Morris K. Udall Foundation awards scholarships to students committed to careers related to the environment, tribal public policy, or Native American health care. Nominated students must intend to pursue a career in tribal public policy or health care.

[Info Session](#)

10/22 4:00-5:00pm EST, Zoom

National Deadline: March 2021 (TBD)

AU Campus Deadline: (for 2021-2022 competition cycle): November 6, 2020 (10am EST)

UK SCHOLARSHIPS (RHODES, MARSHALL, MITCHELL, AND FULBRIGHT UK)

The Office of Merit Awards works closely with a select number of students who are nominated each year by a staff and faculty committee to apply for scholarships that fund graduate study in the United Kingdom, including the Rhodes, Marshall, Mitchell, and Fulbright UK scholarships. Recruitment for these scholarships begins in the spring, and students work on their applications throughout the summer and early fall to submit their applications in September or October, depending on the scholarship.

AU Campus Deadline (for 2021-2022 competition cycle): February 22, 2021 (10am EST)

SCHWARZMAN SCHOLARS

schwarzmanscholars.org

Schwarzman Scholars is a fully-funded international scholarship program designed to prepare future leaders for success in a world where China plays a key global role. Anchored in an 11-month professional master's degree in Global Affairs at Beijing's prestigious Tsinghua University, the Schwarzman Scholars experience includes extensive leadership training, a network of senior mentors, practical training and internships, and travel seminars around China. The program is open to students and young professionals up to 28 years old of any citizenship who are proficient in English and have obtained an undergraduate degree. This award is unusually competitive, and candidates are generally identified through the process that we use to identify candidates for UK scholarships.

National Deadline: September 22, 2020 for U.S. & global applicants

Applicants who hold passports from Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Macao should apply between January 1st and May 20th, 2020. (*Permanent resident card holders: contact admissions@sc.tsinghua.edu.cn to verify your correct application portal)

SERVICE SCHOLARSHIPS

[Writing Workshop](#)

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

MENAR

menarprogram.org

The Middle East and North Africa Regional (MENAR) Fellowship fosters a new generation of leaders with real-world experience with the culture, language, and politics of the Middle East and North Africa. (continued)

(MENAR continued) 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: mid-December 2020 (TBD)

PRINCETON IN AFRICA (PiAf)

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; 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 28, 2020 (11:59pm EST)

PRINCETON IN ASIA (PiA)

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: November 9, 2020 (3:00pm EST)

PRINCETON IN LATIN AMERICA (PiLA)

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 12, 2020

AIF CLINTON FELLOWSHIP

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

Foreign Service Fellowship Programs

(THOMAS R.) PICKERING FOREIGN AFFAIRS FELLOWSHIP

pickeringfellowship.org

The Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship prepares students to enter the U.S. Department of State's Foreign Service. Fellows receive tuition, fees, and a stipend for two years of graduate study. In addition, the fellowship funds one domestic and one overseas internship with the US Department of State. Fellows enter directly into the Foreign Service upon graduation. This program encourages the application of members of minority groups historically underrepresented in the Foreign Service, women, and those with financial need.

[Info Session](#)

[2/25/21 4:00-5:00pm EST, Zoom](#)

National Deadline: October 21, 2020

(CHARLES B.) RANGEL INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

rangelprogram.org/summer-enrichment-program

The Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Summer Enrichment Program is a six-week summer program where students live at Howard University, attend classes, and participate in a variety of programs with foreign affairs professionals in Washington, DC. This program encourages the application of members of minority groups historically underrepresented in the Foreign Service, women, and those with financial need.

[Info Session](#)

[11/5 4:00-5:00pm EST, Zoom](#)

National Deadline: February 2021 (TBD)

(DONALD M.) PAYNE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

paynefellows.org

The USAID Donald M. Payne International Development Graduate Fellowship Program seeks to attract young people who are interested in pursuing careers in the Foreign Service of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The Payne Fellowship Program plans to award seven fellowships for a two-year master's degree and Fellows who successfully complete the Payne Program and USAID Foreign Service entry requirements will receive appointments as USAID Foreign Service Officers. This program encourages the application of members of minority groups who have historically been underrepresented in international development careers and those with financial need.

[Info Session](#)

[2/25/21 4:00-5:00pm EST, Zoom](#)

National Deadline: November 1, 2020 (11:59pm EST)