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

Follow @AUOfficeofMeritAwards on Instagram and @AUcareercenter on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram.
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?pwd=RmZDMm5Fakp1ZXVlbC9tcnhxREgxd209
11/5 Workshop: Essay 1 (Framing Your National Security Argument) 12:00-1:00pm EST, https://american.zoom.us/j/94111236813?pwd=MUNpQVI2M09jQWx3VWpjeWVvL0dRUT09
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
2/1 8/21 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.

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)
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)