

Gilman Scholarship Application

Essay Tips!

General Guidance:

- **Review the Selection Criteria-** Make sure you touch on all areas.
- **Make it personal-** What personal, academic and/or professional background do you have that led you to choose your specific program?
- **Be creative-** As a competitive scholarship, it is important to stand out. Your story is unique, own it! Let your voice come out in your writing.
- **Proofread-** Get your essay reviewed by the UCSC Writing Center, the team at UCSC Global Learning, or a trustworthy friend. It's important to have correct grammar and meet the character limit as closely as possible.

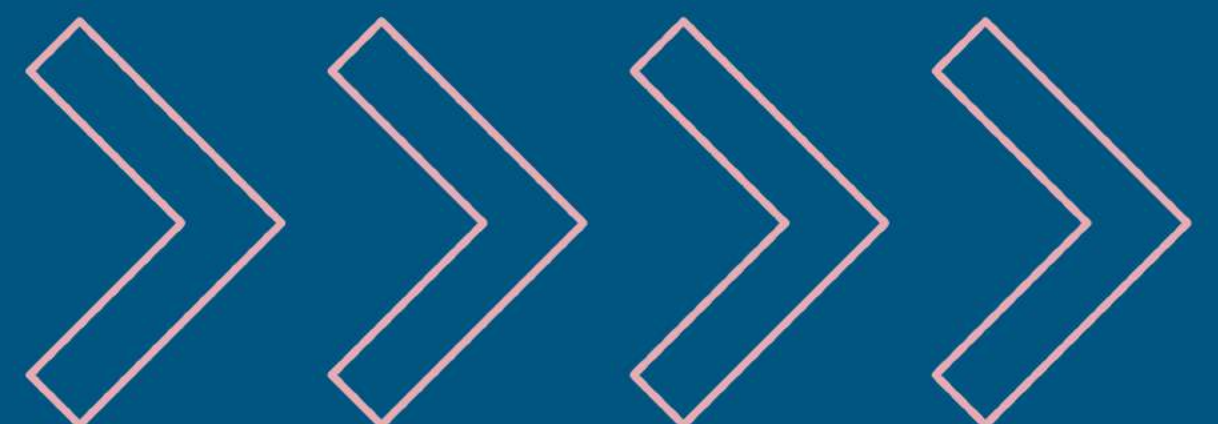
Online Resources:

- **Essay Questions:**
gilmanscholarship.org/applicants/essays/
- **Applicant FAQ's:**
gilmanscholarship.org/applicants/applicants-faq-2/
- **Application Tips:**
gilmanscholarship.org/applicants/tips/
- **“Ask Me Anything!” Videos:**
gilmanscholarship.org/resources/videos/
- **Selection Criteria:**
gilmanscholarship.org/a-gilman-podcast/

Helpful Contacts:

- **Applicant Inquiries:**
gilman@iie.org
- **UCSC Global Learning:**
globallearning@ucsc.edu
- **UCSC Writing Center:**
writingcenter.ucsc.edu

Check the next pages for prompt specific advice



UCSC's Prompt Specific Essay Advice

Prompt 1: Statement of Purpose

- How will studying or interning abroad help you achieve your future academic or professional goals?
- Why did you select your specific program and host country?
- How are you academically prepared to be a successful scholar abroad? If you have faced significant academic difficulties, tell us about those and how you are overcoming them.
- What examples of knowledge, skills, and experiences will you draw on to meet the challenges of going abroad?



Things to Keep in Mind:

- Be sure to make **thoughtful connections** between your goals and program.
- What made you choose the country in which you'll be studying? What **cultural differences** may you face, and how can you be prepared for them?
- Provide **relevant examples** of your experiences, skills, and knowledge that you will apply to be successful in your program.
- Did you describe the **impact** of the program on your future?
- Be **specific!** What about your program excites you? What classes or excursions?

This essay is your opportunity to explain how your study abroad experience will support your personal and academic objectives and lead you closer to your future career goals.




Prompt 2: Community Impact - Building Mutual Understanding

- As a U.S. citizen, how will you represent and share what it means to be an American during your program?
- How will you seek opportunities to become more culturally engaged and have meaningful interactions with people and cultures different from your own during your abroad program?



Things to Keep in Mind:

- How will you **represent** the U.S. abroad?
- Did you describe how you will contribute to **building mutual understanding**?
- How will you look for opportunities to build **meaningful relationships** and become **culturally engaged**?
- What type of **conversations** can you start to facilitate peace and understanding abroad? How can you show **cultural respect**?



This is where you demonstrate how you will apply your values and beliefs to represent the U.S. You will use this essay to explain how you plan to cultivate connections and be engaged.

Prompt 3: Community Impact - Follow-on Service Project Proposal

In no particular order, describe your Follow-on Service Project in more detail:

- What is your project and how will it increase awareness of study abroad and the Gilman Program among your peers in your home or campus community?
- Identify and explain why you chose the specific community you will be reaching. How will you integrate the impact of your experience abroad into your project? With which campus departments, student organizations, or community organizations will you collaborate?



Things to Keep in Mind:

- Does your FOSP **build** upon your understanding of the Gilman Scholarship and the study abroad experience?
- Make sure you provide a **detailed** and **feasible** plan for your project.
- What ways are there to share more information about the Gilman scholarship? (ex: holding a Gilman Q&A at the Global Learning Opportunities Fair)
- How else can you promote the Gilman Scholarship? Hone in on what strengths or skills you have that could make you qualified to promote in this manner (ex: using artistic skills to design flyers).
- Who is your intended audience? What students that have previously been disenfranchised to study abroad can you focus on to inform them about the Gilman Scholarship?

Best
of
Luck!

This is where you explain how you plan to spread awareness of the opportunities provided by the Gilman Scholarship to your peers at home or on campus.