

Boren Awards for Undergraduate International Study

<http://www.borenawards.org>.

If you are a graduate student, you will want to apply for the Boren Fellowships. That application process is very different than the Boren Scholarships for Undergraduate International Study. Please contact [Hodgie Bricke](#) in the KU [Office of International Programs](#) for more details on the Graduate Fellowship.

The Boren Scholarship is a unique opportunity for U.S. undergraduates planning to study abroad in world regions critical to U.S. interests, including the Middle East, Eastern Europe & the former Soviet Union, Asia, Africa, and parts of Latin America. Students committed to careers concerning U.S. national security may receive full funding for their study abroad through this program.

Selection is based on merit and important criteria are:

- enthusiasm for and focus on a specific career relating to U.S. national security
- aptitude in language and cultural study
- a clear academic plan that demonstrates the student will make the best of the study abroad experience
- maturity and readiness for the difficulties of life and study in less-studied regions

Students from all disciplines are encouraged to apply. Successful applicants include anthropologists, area studies majors, economists, engineers, linguists, political scientists, and many others. While prior experience abroad is an asset in the application process, it is not mandatory. Students are encouraged to think broadly about what past experiences prepare them for a Boren-funded study abroad opportunity.

As students of other cultures and languages, Boren Scholars acquire the international competence needed to communicate effectively across borders, to understand the perspectives of others, and to analyze increasingly fluid economic and political realities. They are sought after on the job market because of these skills. Scholarship recipients are required to take one year of paid employment in the State Department, Department of Defense, or Intelligence Community (see pg. 5 for a list of employment options).

Are you eligible?

To be eligible for the undergraduate scholarship, students must be U.S. citizens, matriculated as a student (enrolled full-time in a degree program) in a U.S. post-secondary institution, planning to apply to engage in a study abroad experience in a country outside of Western Europe, Canada, Australia, or New Zealand, and planning to use the scholarship for study abroad and the study abroad program ends before graduation.

NOTE: If you are interested in applying for a Boren for Latin America, please note that applications to Spanish-speaking countries are very rarely accepted. Please contact the KU Boren Campus Representative or the Office of Study Abroad Program Coordinator for Latin America for more information.

Are you a strong candidate?

Strong Boren candidates will be applying to study languages and cultures currently underrepresented in study abroad. Their program will likely be for a semester or year in geographic areas, languages, and fields of study deemed critical to U.S. national security

(www.borenawards.org/boren_scholarship/preferences.html). Boren is also eager to receive applications from students in subfields that are particularly relevant to U.S. national security such as democracy and governance and counter-proliferation studies. Over the past several years many KU students have applied for and received awards to study many languages including Arabic, Japanese, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian, and Tajik. While applications to programs in these languages are encouraged, Boren especially wants to encourage applications from the following underrepresented languages: Hindi, Korean, Persian, Turkish, and Urdu.

What is the work service requirement?

There is a work service requirement for Boren Scholarship recipients. Therefore, students interested in the program should have an interest in working for the federal government in the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, State, or the Intelligence Community. Recipients are required to make a full and good faith effort to find a job no later than three years after the date of graduation for at least one year. Recipients may elect to satisfy the service requirement by accepting suitable paid or unpaid full-time, part-time, temporary, and/or internship positions. Boren does not have the authority to require an individual to accept any position, and applicants are given priority-hiring status.

What is the Boren Scholarship application process?

Students should first speak with the KU study abroad coordinator for the country in which they wish to study. After identifying an appropriate study abroad program, offered either by KU or another organization, students may create an online login with Boren, by visiting the following link:

<https://www.iieapp1.org/nsep/nseplogin.asp>. *Students should not **complete** their applications electronically until after the KU review process is complete.*

After identifying a program and speaking with the KU study abroad coordinator for their region, students prepare two essays, which form the most important part of the application. They submit these to the KU Campus Boren Representative, along with an ARTS form, by the **December 1st KU campus deadline**. Shortly following this deadline, the KU campus review committee will interview each of the applicants.

In early February, applicants will be required to submit all application materials online and in hard copy form to the KU Boren Campus Representative. Materials due at this deadline include the completion of the online application (which includes final version of the essays submitted in December), official transcripts from all institutions attended since high school, 2-3 letters of recommendation, a language self-assessment form, and an official one-page description of the desired study abroad programs.

If you are interested in applying, please contact the Office of Study Abroad at 785-864-3742 to set up a time to meet with the KU Boren Campus Representative, and download the [supplemental guide](#) for more detailed application information.