Boren Scholarships

Boren Scholarships provide American undergraduate students with the resources and encouragement they need to acquire skills and experiences in areas of the world critical to the future security of our nation. These scholarships offer up to $20,000 for an academic year abroad.

Boren Fellowships

Boren Fellowships provide U.S. graduate students the opportunity to add an international and language component to their graduate education through specialization in area study, language study, or increased language proficiency. The maximum award is $30,000 for up to two years of study.

“Studying abroad as an NSEP awardee has given me a unique perspective on national security and opened my eyes to the IC’s need for individuals proficient in the less frequently studied languages and cultures.”

Language Flagship

The Language Flagship sponsors a network of 26 undergraduate programs at 22 institutions of higher education across the U.S. that strives to graduate students of all majors with a professional-level (Interagency Language Roundtable or ILR Level 3) proficiency in one of ten languages including Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Korean, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Swahili, Turkish and Urdu. The Language Flagship combines domestic language study with an overseas capstone experience that includes direct enrollment at overseas universities and internship placements that combine practical use of language with the student’s career interests.

Additional information on NSEP programs can be found at www.iie.org/nsep.

Students can contribute to the work of the nation before they graduate, as most of the IC organizations offer summer internship programs and some offer internships during the academic year. Some of the IC agencies also offer co-operative education programs, which are formal programs linking a student’s major with relevant work experience. Most of the co-op programs are for college-level students; however, NSA has a High School Work Study Program designed for students enrolled in Business or Technical Computer classes who plan to participate in a school-sponsored work experience program during their senior year. NSA’s Vo-Tech Program is designed for students enrolled in printing/graphic arts or manufacturing classes who will be participating in a school-sponsored work experience program during their senior year. NSA also has a Gifted and Talented Program open to high school seniors who have demonstrated an aptitude for engineering, math and science and provides paid full-time employment the summer after their senior year. Interns and co-op students engage in substantive, meaningful assignments while earning a competitive hourly wage and gaining valuable practical experience. Competition is particularly keen for these programs, with application deadlines six to nine months prior to the work period.

Applicants are expected to meet the same employment standards as permanent employees, including a background investigation for a security clearance. Foreign language skills, previous study or residency abroad, and military service are beneficial. Some agencies require medical examinations in addition to a background investigation. Unpaid internships are offered by a few agencies. For example, most of the internships at the Department of State and at the Federal Bureau of Investigation are unpaid.

For additional information on career opportunities within the US Intelligence Community, please visit www.intelligence.gov.

“I could not have asked for a better internship opportunity, a better way to gain hands-on experience in the Intelligence Community, or a better way to start my career...”
We invite students who are U.S. citizens to "test drive" the U.S. Intelligence Community (IC) through one of our student programs. We offer a ride like you have never experienced before. But you’ll need to plan ahead and apply early, have at least a 3.0 GPA, undergo a background check, drug screening and a polygraph. This is a great opportunity for you to check out the IC and for the IC to determine if you are a "fit".

The IC is composed of 17 agencies. Check out our career website at www.intelligence.gov to learn more about these agencies. Each has a unique mission that you can support while you are still a student. All are dedicated to working collaboratively to protect our Nation’s security. There are many doors into the IC. Here are short descriptions of a number of different programs.

Students planning careers in the IC may wish to consider applying to colleges or universities participating in the IC Centers for Academic Excellence (CAE) programs. The CAE program establishes long-term partnerships with universities through competitively awarded grants. Grantees develop or enhance their curricula to build skill sets needed in the IC, host workshops and colloquia on national security or intelligence topics, and encourage foreign language proficiency and cultural awareness.

To learn more about the IC CAE, visit its website at www.dia.mil/cae.

Most IC agencies participate in the Pat Roberts Intelligence Scholars Program (PRISP) to recruit and train individuals with skills in foreign languages, regional and cultural expertise, science, technology, engineering, mathematics and other areas critical to IC missions. PRISP funding can be used to pay hiring incentives, including reimbursement for prior educational expenses and hiring bonuses, or to fund additional education or training. PRISP recipients are required to serve a minimum of a year in the IC for each year of a PRISP award. Please consult the web site of the individual IC agencies for specifics on that agency’s program.

The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) and the National Security Agency (NSA) provide scholarships for undergraduates. These programs are known by a variety of names—Undergraduate Training Program, Stokes Educational Scholarship Program or Undergraduate Training Assistance Program. This program targets high-potential high school seniors and high-performing college sophomores majoring in areas critical to the mission of the participating agencies. Selectees receive a salary and full benefits, as well as tuition and other educational expenses. The service obligation for this program is one and one-half times the length of the funded educational program. Consult each agency’s website for specifics on their program. CIA also offers the Graduate Training Program (Graduate Stokes Program) for students entering their first or second year of graduate study. The service obligation is one and one-half times the length of the funded educational program.

The IC agencies that are part of the US Department of Defense also participate in specialized scholarship programs such as the Information Assurance Scholarship Program for students at NSA/DHS-designated Centers of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education (http://www.nsa.gov/ia/academic_outreach/nat_cae/index.shmtl) and the Science, Mathematics and Research for Transformation (SMART) Scholarship for Service program for math, science, engineering, and other critical technical skills (www.smart.asee.org).

In addition to programs sponsored by IC agencies, the National Security Education Program (NSEP) sponsors a number of programs for the study of critical languages and foreign cultures. All funding for these programs requires award recipients to seek employment in the Federal government and serve for at least one year in the Departments of Defense, State, or Homeland Security or in an agency within the Intelligence Community or in another federal position with national security responsibilities.