

# 1. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

(For [scholarships](#) only - see Boren website for [fellowship](#) information)

## U.S. CITIZEN

### STUDENT STATUS

- The information in this brochure is only for undergraduate students. If you are a graduate student, please visit the Boren website for the fellowship information.
- You must remain matriculated in your undergraduate programs for the duration of the scholarship (you may not graduate until the funded study abroad program is complete)

### ACCEPTANCE INTO A STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

- You must be enrolled in a study abroad program of your choosing that meets VT standards (VT/ISEP exchange, Third Party programs, Autonomous study) (The Global Education Office can help in finding fitting programs)
- Boren does not choose a program for you nor do they recommend or endorse programs
- **EXCEPTION:** Boren offers Flagship Language Initiatives (Africa, South Asia or Indonesia) for which the study abroad program is included. You choose to study one of the languages offered, and Boren places you in one of the participating countries where that language is spoken (so you cannot choose your country, but rather you choose a language). Flagship programs are less competitive.

### LOCATION

- Non-traditional locations: Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America, Middle East
- Western Europe, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand are excluded
- Note: You may only study in a country with a U.S. State Department Travel warning if you are willing to sign a waiver and Virginia Tech must also certify that going to that country is allowable under the VT's policies

### LENGTH OF STUDY

- A semester program (3-6 months) is the minimum
- Preference will be given to applicants proposing at least a full academic year. If you cannot study abroad for a year, you need to be able to make a compelling case for shorter study abroad (i.e. class sequence, participation in a sport, familial responsibilities, or other compelling reasons)
- **EXCEPTION:** there are a limited number of scholarships (4%) for STEM students going on language focused summer programs for at least 8 weeks (only if your coursework does not allow you to take time off during the academic year). Options: language study only, or with academic coursework, or with a STEM-related internship. Program must start no earlier than June 1

### FOCUS ON LANGUAGE

- Language study must be a substantial component of your study abroad program (10-15 hrs. per week)
- You need to prove a serious interest / strategy in acquiring language skills before, during, after your program
- You must study a foreign language appropriate to the country in which you are studying
- There are no minimum language requirements (except with French and Spanish) - beginners often win!
- Language study should be appropriate to your level, and based on realistic goals for proficiency gains
- Language study can be in a formal classroom setting, with tutors, or with host families (or a combination)

### FOCUS ON NATIONAL SECURITY

- You must provide a detailed and compelling explanation how your country, language, field of study, overseas study, and future career plans relate / connect to U.S. National Security (the definition of National Security can be seen broadly: national defense, diplomacy, sustainable development, scientific cooperation, environmental issues, global health and food security, population growth, migration, economics)

### FOCUS ON PUBLIC SERVICE

- The Boren Awards were designed to invest in talented linguists who are interested in applying their skills to careers in the federal government
- In exchange for funding, you commit to working in an internationally focused position with the federal government (within the U.S. or overseas) for at least one year after graduation.
- Preference will be given to applicants demonstrating a longer-term commitment/desire to public service
- You need to have a good idea where you want to work within U.S. gov't and your program needs to reflect that

## 2. PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

Strongest applicants meet all preferences below. It greatly increases the chances of winning the award. However, you can still win without meeting all program preferences. If you do not meet the preferences, you need to be able to make a compelling case that increased understanding and appreciation of that particular country, language, and/or field of study contributes to U.S. national security, the goals of the Boren Scholarship and your future government career.

### PREFERRED COUNTRIES

Albania	Chile	Haiti	Lebanon*	Panama	South Africa
Algeria	China	Honduras*	Liberia	Peru	Sri Lanka
Angola	Colombia	Hungary	Macedonia	Philippines	Taiwan
Argentina	Croatia	India	Malaysia	Poland	Tajikistan
Armenia	Cuba	Indonesia	Mali*	Qatar	Tanzania
Azerbaijan	Czech Republic	Israel	Mexico	Rep. of the Côte 'Ivoire	Thailand
Bahrain	Dem. Rep. of the Congo*	Japan	Moldova	Romania	Timor-Leste
Bangladesh*	Egypt*	Jordan	Montenegro	Russia*	Tunisia*
Belarus	El Salvador	Kazakhstan	Morocco	Rwanda	Turkey*
Benin	Eritrea*	Kenya*	Mozambique	Saudi Arabia	Uganda
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Estonia	Korea, South	Nepal	Senegal	Ukraine*
Brazil	Ethiopia	Kosovo	Nicaragua	Serbia	United Arab Emirates
Bulgaria	Georgia	Kuwait	Nigeria*	Sierra Leone	Uzbekistan
Cambodia	Ghana	Kyrgyzstan	Oman	Slovakia	Venezuela
Cape Verde	Guatemala	Latvia	Pakistan*	Slovenia	Vietnam

\*You may apply for a Boren Award to study in one of these countries, however, you must include a viable alternate plan in another appropriate country for the same language (for example: applicants to study Arabic in Egypt might choose Jordan or Morocco and applicants to study Russian in Russia might choose Kazakhstan or Estonia)

### PREFERRED LANGUAGES

African and Indigenous Languages	Bosnian	Hebrew	Macedonian	Romanian	Thai
Akan/Twi	Bulgarian	Hindi	Malay	Russian	Turkish
Albanian	Cambodian/Khmer	Hungarian	Malayalam	Serbian	Turkmen
Amharic	Cantonese	Japanese	Mandarin	Sinhala	Uighur
Arabic (and dialects)	Croatian	Javanese	Moldovan	Slovak	Ukrainian
Armenian	Czech	Kanarese	Nepali	Slovenian	Urdu
Azerbaijani	French (in Africa)	Kazakh	Pashto	Swahili	Uzbek
Bahasa Indonesian	Gan	Korean	Persian	Tagalog	Vietnamese
Bambara	Georgian	Kurdish	Polish	Tajik	Wolof
Belarusian	Haitian	Kyrgyz	Portuguese	Tamil	Yoruba
Bengali	Hausa	Lingala	Punjabi	Telegu	Zulu

\*Note for French and Spanish

- French is a preferred language only through the 'African Flagship Languages Initiative', for which you must be at the intermediate high-level. Otherwise French study is only permissible for advanced speakers (or intermediate, if you are a STEM major)
- You can win for the study of Spanish, but you must articulate an especially strong national security argument and federal service plan and you must have advanced proficiency in Spanish language (or intermediate, if you are a STEM major)
- Any award for French or Spanish will be made contingent upon verification, through testing, of your language level

### PREFERRED FIELDS OF STUDY

Area Studies	Biology
Business & Economics	Chemistry
Foreign Languages	Computer & Info. Sciences
History	Engineering
International Affairs	Environmental Science
Law, Political Sciences & Public Policy	Health & Biomedical Sciences
Social Sciences (Anthropology, Psychology, Sociology)	Physics
Agricultural & Food Sciences	Mathematics

## 3. GENERAL INFORMATION

### ROTC INITIATIVE

- ROTC participants are strong candidates due to their commitment to national security and government service
- Any Army, Air Force, or Naval ROTC undergraduate student on track to commission is eligible (provided they also meet the general eligibility requirements)
- ROTC students must be in an inactive, non-drilling status during the overseas study
- Project-GO Alumni are especially encouraged to apply to continue studying the Project-GO language
- In exchange for funding, scholarship recipients commit to working in the federal government for one year. The ROTC and Boren commitment may be fulfilled concurrently

### FINANCIAL MATTERS

- Award Amounts
  - \$8,000 for a summer program (for STEM students only; 8 weeks minimum)
  - \$10,000 for a semester program
  - \$20,000 for a year-long program
- Award amounts are based on the amount needed as stated on the application up to the maximum amount
- Underestimating your expenses will not make your application more competitive (even if budget is more than Boren can award)
- The scholarship covers round-trip airfare (U.S. carrier), tuition and fees, lodging & food costs for time in country, including during program breaks, books, medical insurance (CISI), local transportation (from home to classes)
- The Boren does not cover study tours of several countries (i.e. Semester at Sea), passport, visa, and vaccinations

### CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVE

- Going through the campus representative is optional
- The campus representative can advise on making the application more competitive (on average Boren receives 800 applications for 200 spots so you have a 1 in 4 chance of winning)
- Either way, you are advised to work with someone on campus (i.e. faculty member who knows about your study abroad program, field of study and/or language of study and can help with your essays)
- Campus representative: Marielle Wijnands ([marielle@vt.edu](mailto:marielle@vt.edu))

### TIMELINE

- August: Applications open
- December 15: Campus Deadline
- February: Boren Scholarships Deadline
- April: National Review Panels and Announcements of Winners

### FEDERAL JOB AFTER THE BOREN

- Upon completion of your program, you are expected to secure a job with the federal government (less than 1% of Boren alumni had to go in repayment as they did not follow through with the service requirement)
- You have 3 years after graduating from Virginia Tech to find a job
- Boren will not place anyone in a job; securing federal employment is incumbent upon the award recipient
- There are 4 Priority Agencies (work in these offices will always fulfill the service requirement):
  - Department of Defense (civilian and military positions, incl. active duty, National Guard, or reserves)
  - Department of State, as well as the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
  - Department of Homeland Security
  - U.S. Intelligence Community (17 agencies)
- If you can demonstrate that no appropriate position is available in one of these agencies, you must seek to fulfill the requirement in a position with national security responsibilities in any federal department or agency
- Work in other agencies (like NASA, CDC, Peace Corps etc.) is evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and it should not be assumed that work outside the 4 Priority Agencies listed above counts toward the service requirement