Applying to the Boren Scholarship

The campus deadline to apply for the Boren Scholarship is **Wednesday, January 10**. All application materials—including letters of recommendation—must be submitted to the Office of National Scholarships Advisement (ONSA) by 11:59 pm on this date.

To begin, visit the Boren Awards website ([www.borenawards.org](http://www.borenawards.org)) to determine your eligibility and the details and scope of the scholarship. If you would like to pursue an application, email resume and unofficial transcript to Dr. Kyle Mox ([kyle.mox@asu.edu](mailto:kyle.mox@asu.edu)). In your email, indicate what language you intend to study and to which country and for how long you intend to travel. If you are eligible and competitive, you will be invited to schedule a follow-up meeting with ONSA to discuss the application timeline, essay, and other requirements.

*Identify Prospective Study Abroad Programs*

Begin researching potential study abroad programs in your proposed host country. The program should focus primarily upon language study. Choose a program that is appropriate for someone at your current proficiency level. Resources for finding suitable programs include the ASU Study Abroad Office ([http://studyabroad.asu.edu](http://studyabroad.asu.edu)); the IIE Passport ([http://iiepassport.org/](http://iiepassport.org/)) site; and faculty members who teach the proposed language or whose research focus is related to the proposed country.

*Compose Application Essays*

Once you have identified a potential program, submit a one-page program description, including start and end dates and a preliminary budget, to Dr. Mox. You may also open a new online application (via the Boren Awards website). You may begin completing the biographical portions of the application, but **do not submit the application on-line**. That is the very last step.

Compose drafts of the two main application essays that constitute the main part of the application. Follow the Boren Awards essay guidelines exactly, and compose at least one full paragraph for each of the points listed. Do not be concerned with the length of each paragraph in the early drafts; you will likely go through several drafts if you are applying in a timely manner. Send both essays to Dr. Mox via email as attached .doc files.

*Secure Letters of Recommendation*

Before the end of the Fall semester, you will need to secure two to three letters of recommendation. The letters should come from faculty members and comment upon your academic, linguistic, and personal preparation for your proposed study abroad program, your U.S. national security argument, and your career interests. The third letter of recommendation is optional and should only be submitted if it will strengthen the application. It can come from another faculty member or from a non-college level language instructor, such as a high school language teacher or a private tutor, relevant work or internship experience.

When you meet with your prospective referees, you will need to bring a draft of your application essays, a resume, the Boren application recommendation forms (downloadable), and the ONSA Guide to Writing Boren Recommendation Letters (obtained from ONSA). Advise your referees that the letters must be submitted by (or before) **January 10**.
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Submit the Application and Attend an Interview

By 11:59 pm January 10, submit your completed online application. Immediately following the campus deadline, you will be contacted to schedule an interview. Campus interviews will be held at the end of January. After the interview, your applications will be returned to you electronically so you can make the suggested adjustments to your application. Any questions about the interview schedules or your application materials may be directed to Laura Sells (laura.sells@asu.edu).

Following the campus interviews, your online application will be returned to you so that you may make corrections or revisions. You must re-submit the application by Thursday, February 8.

Essay Guidance

The application includes two essays, both of which include several questions. Do not answer these questions one by one. Instead, you should write two integrative and comprehensive essays that clearly answer all of the questions asked.

The first application essay asks students to explain the significance of the proposed country, region, and language to U.S. national security. While the Boren Awards recognizes a broad definition of national security, you should make a specific, detailed, and focused argument. Strong applicants will generally make arguments that relate to both their academic background and their future career plans. Your topic should be timely and relevant.

The first essay should also offer a concrete explanation of your career goals and how your proposed study abroad program and language study will benefit these goals. At this point, you should also comment upon your plans to fulfill the federal service requirement. When it is relevant to do so, you may comment upon your past academic, extracurricular, and professional experiences.

The second essay will describe your proposed study abroad program. While the focus will be on your preferred program, you should also discuss your alternate program, if appropriate. You should describe in specific terms the study abroad program’s curriculum and related cultural activities, as well as administrative and support services provided (e.g. housing, advising). Describe the language study component of the program—include the number of classroom contact hours and describe opportunities for informal language study. This essay should also explain your past experience in studying or speaking this language (or another foreign language, if you have no relevant experience). It is also crucial that you relate your specific plans for continuing language study following the Boren Scholarship.

At every point, be very specific. Avoid hyperbole and unnecessary qualifiers. Omit needless words. Be concrete, clear, and direct.