

# Critical Language Scholarship Information Session

*September 15, 2020*

*LUC Fellowship Office*



# Critical Language Scholarship

- Upcoming November 17\* deadline for summer 2021 programs
  - \* By 7:00 p.m. CST
- Overseas immersion programs in one of fifteen languages
- Fully funded by the State Department



# Critical Language Scholarship

- For undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in a degree-seeking program in Fall of 2020
- Some languages require prior formal instruction (see website for table)
- Eligibility requirements include good mental and physical health (see Terms and Conditions document)



# Application

- Online application form including four short essay questions and a statement of purpose
- Transcript: unofficial okay for application; but if you are selected, you will have to provide an official hard-copy transcript to CLS
- Two recommendation letters
  - Neither has to be from a language teacher. Refer to application instructions for tips.



# Essays

- Four short-essay questions
  - Resilience: give an example
  - Preparation: recognizing challenges and describing how you will meet them
  - Citizen diplomacy: how will you contribute?
    - The “diversity” question: what makes *you* diverse?
  - Commitment to language study: how will you continue to study?



# Essays

- **Statement of Purpose:**
  - How does this fit with your career goals?
  - Why is now the time to go?
  - Why should CLS invest in you?

Your responses to these questions do not have to be in order, but they must all be addressed. Most of the essay should address the first point, regarding the CLS program's investment in you.



# More on content

Throughout the essays, particularly short essays one and two, focus on your preparation for an *intensive* experience.

→ This includes your “free” time. ←

In both dorm or home stays, you will be expected to interact with your hosts outside of class – in other words, you *cannot* Skype for hours with your U.S. friends or family in evenings and on weekends.



# Resources

- The CLS website
  - Information session video
  - Specific tips on finding good recommenders
  - Sample application
- The Fellowship Office
  - Lisa Knepshield serves as an national panel reader for CLS *every year*
  - Would like to see essays **no later** than November 1<sup>st</sup>, for enough lead time





# Checklist of steps

- Choose your language, making sure you have any necessary previous experience
- Familiarize yourself with the program sites
- Read ALL of the “Information for Applicants”, “Eligibility Requirements”, “Selection” criteria, and watch the video.  
(You can also read all of the “Advisor Resources” as well, if you like)
- PACE YOURSELF.
- Start an online application
- Keep referring to the CLS website and this presentation when you have questions. If they aren’t answered there, ask!
- Write your essays in Word, or whatever you use for class essays, to upload later.
- Send me your essays – as email attachments in MS Word.
- Deadline = Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm CST.



Questions?

Contact me!

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Fellowship Advisor

[www.luc.edu/fellowshipoffice](http://www.luc.edu/fellowshipoffice)

