

THE GILMAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

KEY PROGRAM ELEMENTS

- Provides study abroad scholarships of up to \$5,000 for U.S. students of limited financial means
- Facilitates increased diversity (ethnicity, disciplines, destinations) in U.S. study abroad
- Encourages increased study of critical need languages (including Arabic, Chinese, and Persian) and in non-traditional regions of the world

LEGISLATIVE GOAL

Fund the Gilman International Scholarship Program in FY 2011 at current level of **\$10.42 million** (FY 2011 request includes slight decrease to \$10.09 million), or at the highest level possible

PROGRAM DETAILS

Our long-term national security requires that more American citizens be well versed in foreign languages and cultures. By taking advantage of educational exchange opportunities abroad, U.S. students not only enhance their individual understanding of our interdependent world, but also, by applying their newly acquired skills and experience to their studies and careers, enhance the global preparedness of the United States. For many students, the predominant barrier to studying abroad is funding to do so. Congress designed the Gilman International Scholarship Program to help talented and deserving students overcome this barrier.

GILMAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: Established by the International Academic Opportunity Act of 2000, the Gilman International Scholarship Program provides study abroad scholarships of up to \$5,000 to students of limited financial means. Demand for the scholarships is enormous, as demonstrated by increases in applications over nine consecutive years. During the 2009-2010 academic year, over 4,100 applications were submitted for 1,700 awards. The \$10.42 million available in FY 2010 will allow the Gilman Program to provide over 2,200 awards, and to promote more effectively the study of critical need languages.

The Gilman Program has made this a special focus by offering a limited number of Critical Need Language Awards of \$8,000 to students studying any dialect of Arabic, Chinese, Turkic, Persian, Korean, Russian, Swahili, and the Indic languages. As a result, the number of applications from students studying one of these languages increased by 61 per cent in 2009-2010. The program also encourages students to study in non-traditional regions of the world. In 2009-2010, 66 per cent of scholarship recipients studied outside of Western Europe, the most popular study abroad region, compared to only 46 per cent of the U.S. study abroad population, as reported in *Open Doors 2009*.

The Gilman Program reaches students from across the U.S., and recipients reflect the full diversity of American society. Minority student representation in the program well exceeds national study abroad numbers. The annual percentage of African-American recipients is nearly four times that of the general U.S. study abroad population, while both Asian and Hispanic recipients are nearly three times greater. Fifty-five per cent of Gilman Scholarship recipients are ethnic minorities, compared to only 18 per cent of the U.S. study abroad population, as reported in *Open Doors 2009*. Increased Gilman Program funding will support increased study abroad participation by even greater numbers of students, building our nation's capacity for future success by building international expertise in an expanding pool of diverse young Americans.

