

NATIONAL SECURITY EDUCATION PROGRAM (NSEP)

KEY PROGRAM ELEMENTS

- Unlike most students who go abroad, NSEP award recipients study exclusively outside of Western Europe, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, focusing on countries and languages critical to national security.
 - NSEP award recipients are nearly 4 times as likely to study in Asia as other study abroad students.
 - NSEP award recipients are nearly 20 times as likely to study in the Arab world.
- In stark contrast with their fellow students, NSEP award recipients go abroad for significant periods of time, dramatically increasing language and cultural expertise.
 - NSEP award recipients are more than 17 times as likely to go abroad for a full academic year.
- NSEP focuses on critical languages and is the only federal program that requires rigorous language proficiency testing.
- NSEP is the only international program that requires its award recipients to repay its support through federal service in a national security related position.

LEGISLATIVE GOAL

Strengthen U.S. national security through successful programs to develop critical language and culture expertise, including the National Security Education Program (NSEP).

PROGRAM DETAILS

NSEP was established by Congress in 1991 to address national shortfalls in languages and cultural expertise critical to national security. Its objective is to develop the national capacity by increasing the understanding of foreign cultures and languages, strengthening U.S. economic competitiveness, and enhancing international cooperation and security.

NSEP award recipients are committed to national service. Because of its unique federal service requirement, the program attracts outstanding students committed to seek federal employment in areas related to national security. NSEP is an important source of expertise for many agencies and offices of the federal government.

NSEP's components include:

- **David L. Boren Scholarships**, which provide unique funding opportunities for U.S. undergraduates to study abroad in countries critical to U.S. national security and under-represented by U.S. study abroad. NSEP has awarded approximately 2,600 undergraduate scholarships and supported the study of more than 70 languages in more than 75 countries.
- **David L. Boren Fellowships**, which allow U.S. graduate students to add a unique international and language component to their education through specialization in area study, language study, or increased language proficiency. Boren Fellowships focus on less commonly taught languages and world regions critical to U.S. national security. NSEP has awarded more than 1,450 fellowships for more than 100 languages in more than 115 countries.
- **The Language Flagship**, which addresses the urgent and growing need for American students, across disciplines, to advance to professional levels of competency in languages critical to national security. The Language Flagship programs provide advanced language training in African languages, Arabic, Chinese, Hindi/Urdu, Korean, Persian, and Russian and Eurasian languages. The Language Flagship also supports new concepts in language instruction, including partnerships with innovative universities and school systems developing K-16 "pipeline" programs in Chinese and Arabic.