David L. Boren Scholarship/Fellowship

Purpose
To promote long-term linguistic and cultural immersion in countries critical to national security/national interests.

Award
Tenable
For study abroad in most countries, EXCEPT for Canada, Australia, New Zealand and those in Western Europe. Spanish-speaking countries also require a high-level of language proficiency.

Number & Amount
Number varies. Amount depends on duration and program cost.
Scholarship: $20,000 maximum.
Fellowship: $30,000 maximum.

Duration
Scholarship: semester or year. Summer study abroad possible for STEM majors (8 weeks or longer). Year programs receive priority consideration.
Fellowship: one semester to one year abroad plus an option for summer language study domestically.

Eligibility
Who
US citizen. Career goals broadly related to national security and/or national interests abroad. Major related to those future goals.

When
Freshman to seniors may apply for scholarship. Matriculated graduate students may apply for the fellowship.

Selection Criteria
Quality and feasibility of planned program. Program must build/advance language skills. Career goals that relate to issues of national security (broadly construed). Record should evince commitment and ability regarding goals.

Campus Deadline
Scholarship requires a campus screening. Typically one month before actual deadline. No campus deadline for the fellowship.

Deadline
Early February in recent years.

Application
Online application. One essay about “why U.S. policymakers should be concerned with the national security implications of [chosen] issue(s)”. The second essay covering applicant’s “preparation for long-term, immersive overseas study” and should “convince selection panelists of their motivation for and commitment to careers in public service.” Two to three letters of reference. Estimate of program costs. Enrollment documentation. Transcripts. Language proficiency report. Campus review form for scholarship.

Contact
Jim Hohenbary is the Boren Campus Representative. Reach him at 215 Fairchild or (785) 532-3422. Make contact in the fall semester if possible.

Other
Award requires students to work for the government for at least one year after graduation. Departments of Defense, Homeland Security or State, or within the Intelligence Community (IC) are priority but students can make a case for other government agencies as well.

More information is available at www.borenawards.org. Those planning careers in the IC might also check out www.intelligence.gov.

9/4/2019