

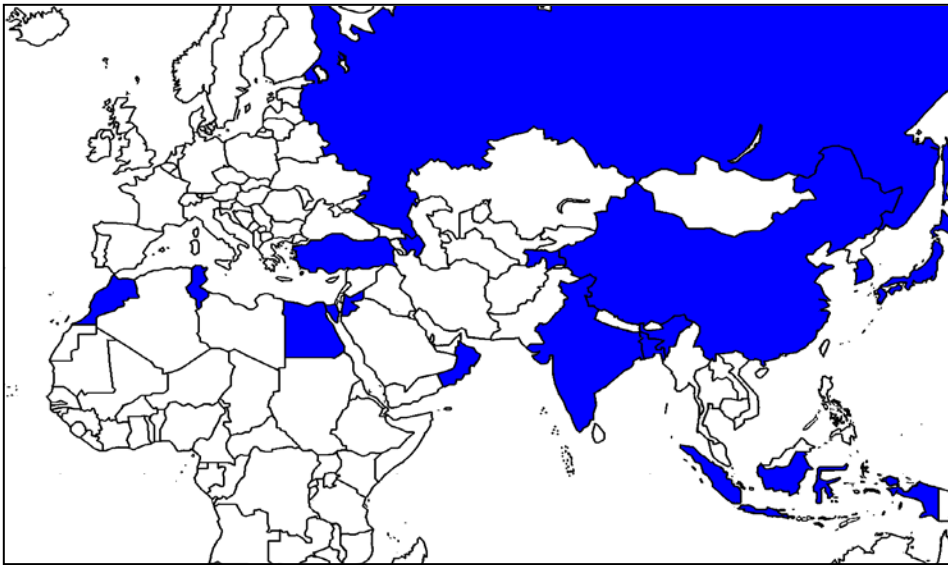
Critical Language Scholarships Intensive Summer Institute



Andrea Turpin, Senior Program Officer for the Critical Language Scholarship Program, explains what the CL scholarship is, and what the program has to offer to a group of UTSA's students.

On Wednesday, October 12th, 2011 the East Asia Institute (EAI) welcomed Andrea Turpin, Senior Program Officer for the Critical Language Scholarship Program ~ Arabic Institutes of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers, to talk about the Critical Language Scholarship Program (CLS Program).

To begin the information session, Turpin introduced what the scholarship program was and what it had to offer. The CLS Program is a fully funded group-based intensive language and cultural enrichment institute overseas offered each summer to teach thirteen of the critical need languages to both undergraduates and graduate students.



Right: Expected institute locations for the summer of 2012

U.S. degree-granting program at the undergraduate or graduate level.

In addition, the applicant must have completed at least one year of general college coursework by the program start date. To clear up any confusion, Turpin explained that one year counts as two semesters or three quarters depending on which system an applicant's university has in effect. The applicant must also be at least 18 years of age by the beginning of the program and be in good physical and mental health.

The award granted will be based on merit with consideration for the applicant's academic record and potential to succeed in a rigorous academic setting. The applicant's ability to adapt to a different cultural environment, as well as their plans for the continuation of their studies in the selected language and the plan to apply the language in future careers are also taken into consideration.

Two outside academic readers initially reads the applications. A panel of academic experts of the chosen area and language then reviews those that are selected. Finally, the

Languages offered:

- Arabic*
- Azerbaijani
- Bangla/Bengali
- Chinese*
- Hindi
- Indonesian
- Japanese*
- Korean
- Persian
- Russian*
- Turkish
- Urdu

The CLS program offers different levels of instruction for each of the following languages: Arabic, Azerbaijani, Bangla/Bengali, Chinese, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Russian, Turkish, and Urdu. The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) offers four of the aforementioned languages: Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, and Russian. The applicants who are selected to participate in this program are sent overseas to the country of the selected language and spend anywhere between seven and ten weeks there learning the language and absorbing the culture.

After the brief introduction of the CLS Program, Turpin covered more information regarding the program such as eligibility, selection process, and the benefits of the grant. To be eligible for this program the applicant must be a U.S. citizen or have obtained U.S. citizenship and currently be enrolled in a

recommendations that move past this stage are forwarded to the U.S. Department of State for the final approval. The applicants who are selected will be notified of the results anywhere between mid to late March. After receiving notification, the selected participants will be subjected to a language evaluation and will be assigned to a CLS Program site.

The grant given by the CLS Program covers all costs and also provides several benefits. Travel to and from the student's U.S. home city, the program location, and the mandatory Washington D.C. pre-departure orientation are all covered. However, the program does not cover the trip from the applicant's house to the airport. Any visa fees, room, board, group-based language instruction, program-sponsored travel within the country, and all entrance fees for the CLS Program cultural enhancement activities are taken care of as well. Passport fees, on the other hand, will not be paid by the scholarship and the applicants must have a valid passport with at least two blank pages by early February 2012. It is recommended that

recommended that applicants plan in advance to avoid delays regarding their visa.

After the explanation of the program, Turpin opened the floor for a question-and-answer session. The audience showed great interest in the program and raised many good questions. "I think this would be a great opportunity to take advantage of," said Thomas Alvarado, a Japanese language student at UTSA. "There is no better way to learn than just being immersed in a place where the language is spoken. I look forward to applying and hope that I can partake in this great opportunity."

The United States is a vastly diverse country with people from just about every walk of life living within its borders. Despite this, U.S. citizens who know priority need languages are underrepresented. Becoming proficient in a language not only opens up doors for the speaker, but also promotes awareness of global issues. Priority need languages are often involved with issues in trade and military intelligence. Cooperation with other countries on these issues brings us one step closer to unifying the international community.

Requirements:

Be a U.S. citizen/obtained U.S. citizenship

Currently enrolled in an U.S. degree-granting program (graduate or undergraduate)

Completed at least one year of general college course work by the program start date

At least 18 years of age

Good physical and mental health

To learn more about the CLS Program:

Website:

www.CLScholarship.org

Email:

cls@caorc.org

Phone:

202-633-5005



East Asia Institute
One UTSA Circle, MB 1.209
San Antonio, TX 78249
<http://www.utsa.edu/eai>
210.458.4943; eai@utsa.edu