

**1. Do some research.**

- **Read the scholarship application. What kind of essay should be written?**
- Make a list of the program features (courses, housing, cultural activities, excursions, field trips). Why do you want to attend this program? What features interests you? What will be helpful or relevant to your future?
- Make a list about the city and region where your program will take place (places/monuments/museums, traditions, food, culture, etc.) Why do you want to go to (*insert program site*)?
- Have you traveled to other countries? Where did you go? What did you do/see? Make a list of everything you loved about your trip.
- What has inspired you to study abroad? Be specific. Is it in the personal, academic or professional categories?

**2. PERSONAL STATEMENT ESSAYS: Focus on your trajectory- Take the reader on a journey of your life.** Make a list with 3 categories. This will be your OUTLINE. Use bullet points but write full length, articulated thoughts: *“I graduated from Glendora High School in June 2018.”*

Personal- Who you were before? Tell your story.

Academic- Your academic journey

Professional- Where are you going? Bring your study abroad location into your journey...



Start by BRAINSTORMING the categories in the following order: (1.) Academic (2.) Professional (3.) Personal.

| ACADEMIC  | PROFESSIONAL  | PERSONAL  |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HS, current college</li> <li>• Year and major. Do you have a unique major?</li> <li>• Are you a first-generation college student? Are you a “non-traditional” student?</li> <li>• Do you speak a foreign language?</li> <li>• Have you had issues or obstacles in your education?</li> <li>• How will study abroad help you with your GE/major course work?</li> <li>• Is there a course offered on the program that you’re interested in especially or that will benefit you/your major? Email the faculty for more info if needed.</li> <li>• How does the program site benefit you/your major?</li> <li>• What kinds of skills and qualities does a person with your major need to have?</li> <li>• What is your transfer plan or dream? School, major, degree (Do some research.)</li> <li>• Do you want a graduate degree? In what? Where? (Do some research.)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is your dream job? Why is this your dream job?</li> <li>• How would study abroad/international experience be helpful/needed?</li> <li>• Do you want to help people? Who? How?</li> <li>• Where do you want to work? Internationally? (Research some jobs/organizations.)</li> <li>• What experiences, studies, degrees are needed for this job?</li> <li>• “What makes a good (<i>insert your dream profession</i>)?” What skills/qualities are needed for be a good (<i>insert your dream profession</i>)?</li> <li>• Will skills needed for your dream job can be gained in the study abroad experience?</li> <li>• What skills will be challenged in the study abroad experience?</li> <li>• Be specific on how a professional (in your dream job) would need/use these skills.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is your age?</li> <li>• Where are you from? Where were you born?</li> <li>• What is your ethnicity?</li> <li>• What were you like younger? in high school?</li> <li>• Family relationships- parents, siblings, important extended family</li> <li>• What was it like growing up in your family? In your city?</li> <li>• What’s the hardest thing you have ever had to go through? What made it hard? What were you and/or your family like before? <b>How are you different as a result?</b> Describe how it made/makes you feel.</li> <li>• Describe any other incidents/issues in the same manner as above.</li> </ul> |

3. Write the Personal Statement essay.

- A good, thorough outline makes an excellent essay. Go back through the essay and circle all the best lines. Does a theme jump out at you?
  - A. Start with the personal column. Write a paragraph summarizing your personal journey.
  - B. Now write a paragraph on your academic journey. **Make sure that you add in elements of the program/location that will help you in your academic future. (Use your research.)**
  - C. Write the professional journey. **Make sure you add in elements of the program/location that will help you in your professional future. (Use your research.)**
- Do you need a short introduction or conclusion?
- Re-read the essay. Fix any grammar or spelling errors. Can you edit any sentences and make it shorter, more to the point?
- Take the essay to the Writing Center on campus or a professor willing to look it over and give you advice.
- Readers have 3-5 minutes per essay to read and decide if the essay passes. Was your essay organized? Was it easy to read? Did it answer any specific questions asked by the scholarship prompt? **Did it make the reader feel something for you?**

**GILMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOLLOW ON SERVICE PROJECT PROPOSAL**

1. Answer the following questions:

- Identify your project. What are your skills? What are your connections/resources?
- Who will you collaborate with? On campus? In your community? Who is your target population on campus or in your community? Do you have data about the target population? Do they study abroad?
- What resources do you have? What resources will you need?
- What impact do you want to make? Be realistic.

2. Write the essay:

**Paragraph I:** Write about study abroad on your campus. Statistics, facts, situation. Lack of information? Opportunities?

What is needed to improve SA on your campus? Identify and introduce your project idea.

**Paragraph II:** Explain your project. Answer the questions above. Use specific activities, materials, etc.

**Paragraph III:** Describe the intended impact. How will this help promote study abroad to your target population? How will you measure the impact?

3. Go back to your Personal Statement and add in a sentence or two about your project in the Academic section.