

Civil Society Leadership Awards 2017-2018

Open Society Scholarship Programs

Deadline: September 15, 2016

Program Description

We are pleased to announce the **Civil Society Leadership Awards (CSLA)** for master's level studies beginning fall 2017. The awards provide fully-funded master's degree study to individuals who clearly demonstrate academic and professional excellence and a deep commitment to leading positive social change in their communities.

The purpose of the Program is to directly assist future leaders in countries where civil society is challenged by a deficit of democratic practice in local governance and social development. Awards are available for study at various institutions across the world in the following areas:

- **Communications & Media**
- **Culture, History & Society**
- **Development Studies**
- **Economics**
- **Education Management & Leadership**
- **Environment & Natural Resource Management**
- **Human Rights and/or Gender Studies**
- **Law (including Human Rights law)**
- **Politics & International Studies**
- **Public Health Policy & Health Management**
- **Public Policy & Administration**
- **Social Work & Social Policy**

Applicants must select a field of study that falls within the general categories listed above. For example, those interested in studying **Climate Change** or **Risk and Environmental Hazard** would select the **Environment and Natural Resource Management** option; for **Sociology** or **Anthropology**, select **Culture, History & Society**, and so on. On the application you will indicate both your general category of interest and your specific field of study within that general category.

Eligibility

Civil Society Leadership Awards are available to **citizens** of the following countries:

- **Azerbaijan**
- **Belarus**
- **Cambodia**
- **Democratic Republic of Congo**
- **Egypt**
- **Equatorial Guinea**
- **Eritrea**
- **Ethiopia**
- **Laos**
- **Libya**
- **Myanmar/Burma**
- **Republic of Congo**
- **South Sudan**
- **Sudan**
- **Syria**
- **Turkmenistan**
- **Uzbekistan**

Applicants must meet the **following criteria**:

- be a citizen of an eligible country;
- demonstrate maturity, flexibility and civil society leadership potential;
- have excellent academic records and a bachelor's degree awarded **before the deadline**;
- demonstrate professional experience in a relevant area;
- demonstrate proficiency in the language of instruction (English, German or French) at a level required for admission by partner universities;
- be able to participate in an intensive academic writing program in July or August 2017 and start their degree program in August or September 2017;
- be able to receive and maintain a visa or study permit as required by the host country; and
- demonstrate a clear commitment to return to their home country or region to continue supporting open society development.

The CSLA program does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, or disability.

Ineligibility

CSLA **does not** support:

- fields of study not listed above;
- applicants from any country not listed above;
- study in foreign language teaching, business administration or management, physical sciences, engineering, or medical sciences;
- dependent family members;
- those receiving individual grants from CSLA-affiliated entities during the fellowship period;
- applicants who are employees of CSLA-affiliated entities directly involved in the administration of scholarship programs.

CSLA Award Structure

Successful applicants will receive the following support:

- Tuition and mandatory university fees;
- Monthly stipend for room, board, and other living expenses;
- Program-related travel;
- Accident and sickness insurance during the program;
- Funds for educational materials and professional development;
- Attendance at a regional grantee conference;
- Pre-academic preparation via summer schools.

CSLA Host Universities

Finalists are matched with universities according to their chosen area of specialization, academic profile, and professional aspirations. Final decisions concerning host university placement are made by the program selection committee, which includes university admissions staff and faculty, although finalists may be asked their preference.

CSLA partners with universities worldwide. Although the list of changes yearly, partners in 2016 included:

China

University of Hong Kong – Hong Kong S.A.R.

France*

Catholic University of Lyon – Lyon
EHESP School of Public Health – Paris
Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris – Paris
University of Strasbourg – Strasbourg
* Language of instruction varies by program

Germany*

KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt - Eichstätt (German)
University of Freiburg – Freiburg im Breisgau
University of Kassel – Kassel
University of Konstanz – Konstanz
University of Osnabrück - Osnabrück, (German)
Saarland University - Saarbrücken
University of Trier – Trier
* Language of instruction varies by program

Hungary

Central European University – Budapest

India

TERI University – New Delhi

Latvia

Riga Graduate School of Law – Riga

Netherlands

Maastricht University – Maastricht

Poland

Graduate School of Social Research – Warsaw

UK

University of Cambridge - Cambridge
University of Durham – Durham
University of Essex – Colchester
University of Nottingham – Nottingham
University of St Andrews – St Andrews
London School of Hygiene and Tropical
Medicine - London

United States

American University – Washington, DC
Brandeis University – Waltham, MA
Columbia University – New York, NY
Duke University – Durham, NC
Ohio University – Athens, OH
Syracuse University – Syracuse, NY
Washington University in St. Louis – St. Louis, MO

Selection Process

Competition for the Civil Society Leadership Awards is open and merit-based. Selection is based on an applicant's fit with the program's objectives as well the graduate admissions criteria of the participating universities. Academic excellence, professional aptitude, leadership potential in the field of specialization, proven commitment to open society values, and appropriate language proficiency are all important factors in evaluation.

All eligible applicants will be reviewed by an international selection committee. The proposed field of study should be logical for the goals expressed in the essays, and the application itself should be organized and complete. Compelling candidates will be interviewed by a selection committee comprised of university representatives, CSLA staff, and partner organization representatives, such as the German Academic Exchange Service ([DAAD](#)).

Selection & Notification Cycle

- Applications must be submitted by **September 15, 2016**;
- Applications are reviewed in **October 2016** by an international selection committee;
- Those chosen to continue in the competition as semi-finalists are required to submit additional documents (transcripts and letters of recommendation) and to take an official TOEFL or IELTS test in **November 2016**. Testing costs will be covered by CSLA;
- Some semi-finalists may also be invited to submit full applications to potential host universities;

- In **November and December 2016**, semi-finalists will be invited for an in-person, Skype, or telephone interview;
- Finalists will be notified in **January 2016**. **Please note that all awards are conditional subject to university placement confirmation by CSLA staff;**
- Successful finalists will be notified via email of their placement in **April - May 2016**.

How to Apply

Interested applicants must complete and submit an online or paper CSLA application in English to be considered for CSLA support. *Please note that some universities require a separate application for graduate study at that institution. In these cases, CSLA staff will notify candidates and assist with the university application process.*

- **Online Application**

All applicants are strongly encouraged to apply online. To apply online please go to <http://civilsocietyleadershipawards.submittable.com/submit/62304> to register, and then follow instructions.

- **Paper Application**

Paper applications may be accessed [here](#) or by contacting one of the local administrative offices (see list below). Please download the application form in Word before completing or printing.

Late applications will automatically be disqualified. If you are unable to apply online, please download and complete a Word version of the application. Electronic applications and all supporting materials should be submitted to csla@infoscholar.org by **September 15, 2016**.

All paper applications submitted by mail must be **postmarked by September 15, 2016** and sent to either the **New York or London address listed** below. Alternately, paper applications may also be sent to one of the local administrative offices:

CSLA
Scholarship Programs
224 West 57th Street
New York, NY
10019, USA

CSLA
Scholarship Programs
Millbank Tower, 7th Floor
21-24 Millbank, London
SW1P 4QP, UK

Queries should be submitted via the [Inquiry Form](#).

Local administrative offices:

Azerbaijan

[Baku Education Information Center](#)
40 J. Jabbarli Street,
Caspian Business Center
Baku AZ1065
Tel/Fax: (994 12) 4482845/46
Contact: Bahar Haji-zada:
bhaji-zada@beic.az

Belarus

[American Councils for International Education](#)
Pilies g. 16-9
Vilnius, Lithuania
LT-01123
Tel: +370 688 58011
Contact: Kevin Reiling:
lithuania@americancouncils.eu

Turkmenistan + Uzbekistan

[Educational Center "Bilim - Central Asia"](#)
158/160 Kunaev St., apt.7,
Almaty 050010,
Kazakhstan
Tel.: +7 (727) 261 15 55,
Fax: +7 (727) 261 15 55
Contact: Leila Yedygenova:
lyedygenova@bilim.kz