

The National Security Education Program (NSEP) David L. Boren Fellowship

Description

The National Security Education Program (NSEP) David L. Boren Graduate Fellowships enable U.S. graduate students to pursue specialization in area and language study or to add an international dimension to their education. Boren Fellowships support students pursuing the study of languages, cultures, and world regions that are critical to U.S. national security but are less frequently studied by U.S. graduate students, i.e., areas of the world other than Western Europe, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. It is hoped that recipients of Boren Fellowships will comprise an ever-growing cadre of experts whose enriched educational and professional experiences will enable them to provide leadership and direction in our national commitment to economic growth, international peace and security, and the promotion of democracy abroad. The Academy for Educational Development (AED) considers it a distinct pleasure to serve as the administrative agent for this important program.

Your future and our country's prospects are shaped by decisions you make now. As you play a larger leadership role through career activities and wider participation in the life of our society after graduation, your experience abroad will build your professional strength, resourcefulness and ability to contribute and compete. At the same time, you will contribute to your country's national security and economic well-being.

NSEP was established by the *National Security Education Act of 1991*, which created the National Security Education Board, the National Security Education Program, and a trust fund in the U.S. Treasury to provide resources for scholarships, fellowships and grants. It is guided by a mission that seeks to lead in development of the national capacity to educate U.S. citizens, understand foreign cultures, strengthen U.S. economic competitiveness, and enhance international cooperation and security.

The National Security Education Act of 1991 was authored by Senator David L. Boren from Oklahoma. Senator Boren is a strong supporter of international education, and is now President of the University of Oklahoma.

Four principal objectives form NSEP's mission:

- To equip Americans with an understanding of less commonly taught languages and cultures and enable them to become integrally involved in global issues.
- To build a critical base of future leaders, both in the marketplace and in government service, who have cultivated international relationships and worked and studied alongside foreign experts.
- To develop a cadre of professionals with more-than-traditional knowledge of language and culture, who can use this ability to help the United States make sound decisions and deal effectively with global issues.
- To enhance institutional capacity and increase the number of faculty who can educate U.S. citizens toward achieving these goal.

Fields of Study

Preferred majors include:

Agriculture	Anthropology	Biology
Business	Chemistry	Computer Sciences
Economics	Engineering	Environmental Sciences
Food Science	Health Sciences	History
Law	Mathematics	Physics
Political Science	Psychology	Sociology

Who is Eligible?

AED welcomes applications from U.S. citizens enrolled in or applying to a graduate degree program in an accredited U.S. college or university located within the United States. Boren Fellowship recipients must provide evidence of admission to and enrollment in a graduate degree program at an accredited U.S. college or university located within the United States, and must be willing to enter into a service agreement.

Application

Applicants design their own programs and may combine domestic language and cultural study with overseas study. All Fellowships must include study of a modern language other than English and the study of an area and culture. (Note: Boren Fellowship support may not be used for study of French or Spanish unless such language instruction is at an advanced level or combined with study of business, science, or engineering.) The deadline for each year is usually in January.

Selection

Boren Fellowship award recipients are selected on the basis of merit in a two-stage national merit review process. The selection process includes consideration of the relationship between the applicant's proposed study to U.S. national security and how the applicant proposes to use knowledge and expertise gained from NSEP support to contribute to U.S. national security, among other selection criteria.

Award Period and Level of Support

Boren Fellowship awards are made for a minimum of one and a maximum of six academic semesters (24 months). Fellowships provide support for overseas or domestic study, or a combination of both. The maximum award for overseas study is \$10,000 per semester for up to two semesters (\$20,000 total). A maximum of \$12,000 is available for a program of domestic study only. Support for domestic study is limited to language or area studies which enhance a degree program. The maximum level of support for a combined overseas and domestic program is \$28,000.

NSEP Areas of Emphasis

Each year, NSEP publishes a list of geographic areas, languages, and fields of study identified as critical to U.S. national security. This year's list includes 87 countries and 48 languages. In addition, it emphasizes a diverse list of fields of study, including business, economics, history, international affairs, law, science and engineering, health and biomedical sciences, political science, and other social

sciences. Applicants for NSEP David L. Boren Graduate Fellowships are strongly encouraged to focus their studies on one of these geographic areas, languages, and/or fields of study. NSEP remains interested in encouraging applications for study in other countries and world regions where a compelling argument can be made that an increased understanding and appreciation represents an important contribution to U.S. national security.

Study in countries where there is no U.S. diplomatic presence is not permitted using NSEP funds. The list of NSEP "areas of emphasis" include geographic areas where study abroad opportunities are likely to be extremely limited. Applications are encouraged for study of regions where access may be limited; these applications will not be penalized for exclusion of a study abroad component

The NSEP Service Requirement

Boren Fellowship recipients are required to seek employment with an agency or office of the federal government involved in national security affairs. Boren award recipients, who after making a "good faith" effort are unable to identify federal employment involved in national security affairs, may fulfill the requirement by working in any agency of the federal government or in the field of U.S. higher education in an area of study for which the Fellowship was awarded. Eligible federal agencies include, among others, the Departments of Commerce, Defense, Energy, Justice, and State and the Intelligence Community, as well as more than 25 committees and subcommittees of the U.S. Congress. For more information about this important topic, please visit the NSEP service requirement page.

The National Security Education Program (NSEP) David L. Boren Undergraduate Scholarships

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