

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

## Description

NSEP was designed to provide U.S. undergraduates with the resources and encouragement they need to acquire skills and experience in countries and areas of the world critical to the future security of our nation. As a student of another culture and language, you will begin to acquire the international competence you need to communicate effectively across borders, understand other perspectives and analyze increasingly fluid economic and political realities. NSEP is especially designed to support students who will make a commitment to federal service.

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 goals

## 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?

As a U.S. undergraduate student, you are eligible to apply for an NSEP Boren scholarship if you are:

1. A U.S. citizen at the time of application.
2. A high school graduate, or have earned a GED, and are matriculated as a freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior in a U.S. post-secondary institution, including universities, colleges, and community colleges accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.
3. Applying to engage in a study abroad experience that meets home institution standards.
4. Planning to use the scholarship for study abroad and the study abroad program ends before you graduate. NSEP undergraduate scholarships are not for study in the United States.

Freshmen and sophomores are eligible to apply for scholarships for summer, semester, and full year programs.

Juniors and seniors are eligible to apply for semester and full year programs.  
Special Exception: Juniors and seniors majoring in an applied science or engineering may apply for NSEP funding for summer study abroad.

## Application Deadline

The application deadline is usually in January of every year. Be sure to check the web site for the specific date.

## Outline of Requirements

- U.S. National Security Focus

The NSEP focuses on geographic areas, languages and fields of study deemed critical to U.S. national security (see lists on international focus, academic focus, and language study pages).

- International Focus

NSEP Scholarships can be applied to study abroad in all countries except those in Western Europe and Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. Preference will be given to applications for study in areas deemed critical to national security (see list on international focus page).

- Academic Focus

Applicants must demonstrate an interest in undertaking serious study in foreign countries, as a complement to academic and career goals. This should be reflected in the Statement of Purpose. Preference will be given to applicants pursuing fields of study related to national security interests (see list on academic focus page).

- Language Study

Appropriate and integrated study of a foreign language is required for all study abroad proposals. Preference will be given to applications for study in languages critical to national security (see list on language study page).

- Length of Study

Awards are for a minimum of one academic term, including a summer term of six (6) weeks or longer. Preference will be given to applicants pursuing study abroad for a full academic year (see Length of Study information).

- Service Requirement

All recipients of NSEP awards incur a requirement to enter into an agreement, in order of priority, to work for an agency of the federal government with national security responsibilities or to work in the field of higher education in the area of study for which the scholarship was awarded. See Service Requirement page and Agencies and Offices of the Federal Government with National Security Responsibilities for a listing of applicable agencies and offices of the federal government, along with more general information regarding the service requirement. Preference will be given to applicants who demonstrate a commitment to a career in federal service.

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