

Blakemore Freeman Fellowships 2011 Grant Guidelines

Blakemore Freeman Fellowships are awarded for one year of advanced level language study in East or Southeast Asia in approved language programs. For grants to be awarded in spring 2011, study must start between June 2011 and May 2012.

Grants are *highly* competitive. Last year we were able to fund less than 9% of applicants.

Selection Criteria

- A focused, well-defined career objective involving Asia in which regular use of the language is an important aspect
- The potential to make a significant contribution to a field of study or area of professional or business activity in an Asian country
- Prior experience in the Asian country or involvement or participation in activities related to the country
- Good academic, professional or business background, appropriate to the career program

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for a grant, an applicant must:

- Be pursuing an academic, professional or business career that involves the regular use of a modern East or Southeast Asian language
- Have a college undergraduate degree
- Be at or near an advanced level in the language as defined below in "Definition of Advanced Level" (minimum requirement is fluency equivalent to 3 years of college-level study of the language)
- Be able to devote oneself exclusively to language study during the term of the grant; grants are not made for part-time study or research
- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident of the United States

"Professional or business career" includes, but is not limited to, careers in computer science, engineering, international business, journalism, law, medicine, NGO work, and teaching.

Definition of Advanced Level

An applicant for a Blakemore Freeman Fellowship must have:

- A minimum of three academic years of regular language study at the college level (example: completed 3rd year Chinese); or
- A minimum of one academic year of full-time intensive language study at the college-level.

- Applications for languages which are not commonly taught at U.S. universities will be considered on an individual basis.

If an applicant does not have the required minimum years of academic study of the language, the applicant may provide proof of equivalent competency (see language evaluation form at end of this document that can be used to satisfy this requirement).

Eligible Languages

Chinese	Vietnamese	Tibetan	Japanese
Indonesian	Thai	Korean	Khmer
Burmese	Malaysian		

Consideration will be given to other East or Southeast Asian languages on an individual basis. Grants will not be made for the study of Asian languages not in current use.

Eligible Language Programs

The Blakemore Foundation awards grants for study only at specific language programs as noted below.

Applicants for Blakemore language grants must apply both to the language program involved and to the Blakemore Foundation. Each language program has its own separate application due dates and forms, which may be found on its website. Application materials for the Blakemore Foundation's grants are found on our website at www.blakemorefoundation.org.

For **Japanese**, we fund study at the Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies in Yokohama, Japan (<http://www.stanford.edu/dept/IUC/>). We do not fund Japanese language study at any other institution.

For **Chinese**, we fund study at the Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Studies, located on the Tsinghua University campus in Beijing, China (<http://ieas.berkeley.edu/iup/>) and at the International Chinese Language Program at National Taiwan University in Taipei, Taiwan (<http://iclp.ntu.edu.tw/>). We do not fund Chinese language study at any other institution.

For **Korean**, we recommend study at Seoul National University (<http://lei.snu.ac.kr/site/en/klec/main/main.jsp>), Yonsei University (<http://www.yskli.com/index.asp>) or Sogang University (<http://klec.sogang.ac.kr/>). We will consider study at other Korean language programs on a case-by-case basis during the application review process.

Approval of language programs for study of **languages of SE Asia** will be considered on an individual basis during the application review process.

Application and Acceptance by Language Program

It is the applicant's individual responsibility to apply to the language program which he or she lists on the Blakemore Freeman Fellowship application. The Foundation does not apply for the applicant. Applicants may list only one language program on the application.

Blakemore Freeman Fellowships are awarded contingent upon the applicant's unconditional acceptance by the language program for which the fellowship is awarded. Example: an applicant applying to the IUP-Tsinghua program must successfully pass the IUP's oral exam and not be required by the IUP to complete a summer program as a prerequisite to academic year admission.

No grants are available for study in the United States.

Private Tutorial Programs

If there is no approved advanced-level language program available in a country, an applicant may propose a program combining study in an ordinary language program supplemented by private tutorials. If no language program exists at all in the country, an applicant may propose a program of full-time tutorials.

Length of Program

Blakemore Freeman Fellowships are made for one year of full-time language study. This may include study in the summer immediately preceding or following an academic year program. The Foundation encourages applicants who are applying for an academic year program to include a summer term in their application. The inclusion of a summer term does not affect the selection process.

Academic Year	Academic Year plus Summer Program	Summer Study Alone	Program Less than One Academic Year
Yes	Yes	No	No

Extensions of Grants

Under normal economic conditions, the Foundation is open to reasonable requests for a grant extension. A request can be made at any time during the course of a grant, explaining the reasons for the extension and accompanied by evidence of good standing in the applicant's current language program. The request may be submitted by email and should be directed to Griffith Way, Trustee.

Please note that we cannot guarantee that funding for grant extensions will be available for the 2011-2012 year.

Applicants who wish to attend a summer term preceding or following their academic year should include the summer term in their application in order to guarantee funding.

Dates of Study and Deferral Policy

Study must start between June of the year of award and May of the following year. No deferrals of grants will be permitted.

Residency Requirement

Blakemore Freeman Fellows are expected to remain in the study country during the entire period of their grant, except in the event of an emergency. Therefore, a Blakemore Freeman Fellow should not plan to return to the United States for Christmas or other holiday periods.

We encourage Blakemore Freeman Fellows to use holidays and school breaks for modest travel within their study country and to use these opportunities to expand their language usage outside the classroom.

Conflicting Activities

Blakemore Freeman Fellows must devote full-time to language study and not engage in any conflicting activities during the period covered by their grant.

Part-time employment, teaching English, extensive research on a dissertation or involvement in other projects which could hamper full-time study are not permitted.

Recreational, educational or cultural activities which do not interfere with full-time study are encouraged, particularly during school and holiday breaks.

U.S. Income Tax Liability

All grant funds from the Blakemore Foundation are taxable for U.S. income tax purposes unless the recipient qualifies for some type of exclusion or deduction.

The treatment of Blakemore language grants for tax purposes is the recipient's individual responsibility. No income tax is withheld from the stipend and grant recipients are responsible for making any required estimated tax payments. Please see IRS Publication 970 *Tax Benefits for Education* and Form 1040-ES for more information. Because of the variety of individual situations, we recommend applicants discuss their own individual case with a qualified tax advisor.

Amount of Grant

Blakemore Freeman Fellowships are intended to cover basic expenses at a graduate student level necessary to pursue a year of full-time language study in Asia, including tuition or tutoring fees, plus a stipend for travel, living and study expenses

The stipend for Blakemore Freeman Fellowships is paid periodically over the course of the grant and may be used for the following types of expenses:

- Round-trip airfare, economy class
- Books and study materials related to language program
- Housing/utilities
- Food and ordinary daily living expenses
- Local commuting
- Travel within country during holidays and school breaks
- Health insurance/medical evacuation insurance
- Immunizations appropriate for country
- Visa application fees

- Income taxes due on taxable portion of grant
- Other fees or expenses required by language program or approved by the Trustee

It is up to each Blakemore Freeman Fellow to budget the stipend funds to cover necessary costs. Thus it is to his or her advantage to obtain as low an airfare as possible in order to have more funds for travel, books, etc. Stipend funds may not be used to cover expenses of an accompanying dependent.

Unused stipend funds must be returned to the Foundation at the end of the grant.

Grant Disbursement

Tuition for the language program is covered in full by the grant and is paid directly to the language program by the Blakemore Foundation. Tutoring fees, if applicable, are reimbursed to the Blakemore Freeman Fellow based on monthly expense reports and receipts.

The stipend for travel, living and study expenses is disbursed to the Blakemore Freeman Fellow at intervals over the course of the grant. Adjustments to stipend may be considered if exchange rates or living expenses alter significantly during the period covered by the grant.

Required Reports

Blakemore Freeman Fellows must submit a monthly financial report of expenditures of the stipend along with a letter reporting on their activities during the preceding month. They must also submit two longer progress reports to the Foundation during their fellowship, the first report being due at mid-year, and a second report just prior to the end of their grant. A statement regarding the expenditure of the stipend on forms provided by the Foundation must be provided at the end of a Blakemore Freeman Fellowship. The Foundation must be provided with an official transcript from the language program at which the student is enrolled for each academic period covered by a Blakemore Freeman Fellowship. The transcript should list courses taken and grades received or progress made.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE REFERENCE FORM

To be submitted only if applicant has completed less than 3 years of academic study of the language at the college level.

Name of Applicant

Language

INSTRUCTIONS: *Please check the applicant's present language ability in relation to each of the following categories:*

SPEAKING AND LISTENING (Please check one)

- Unable to function in the spoken language
- Able to satisfy basic social needs and maintain very simple conversation in familiar topics
- Able to satisfy routine social demands and limited work requirements
- Able to participate effectively in most formal and informal conversations on practical and social topics and on professional topics in restricted contexts
- Able to use the language fluently and accurately on all levels pertinent to professional needs
- Use of language is functionally equivalent to a well-educated native speaker

READING (Please check one)

- No practical ability to read the language
- Sufficient comprehension to read very simple connected written material in a form equivalent to usual printing or typescript
- Sufficient comprehension to read simple, authentic texts on subjects within a familiar context
- Able to read within a normal range of speed and with almost complete comprehension a variety of authentic prose material on unfamiliar subjects, as well as technical material
- Able to read fluently and accurately all styles and forms of the language pertinent to professional needs, including all materials in one's special field
- Reading proficiency is functionally equivalent to a well-educated native speaker

Please indicate briefly how the evaluation was determined (e.g., 2 years of coursework, a test, etc.)

Name of Evaluator

Institution

Position or Title

Signature

Date