

Blakemore Freeman Fellowships 2019 Grant Guidelines

Blakemore Freeman Fellowships are awarded for one academic year of full-time, intensive language study of Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Thai, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Khmer or Burmese at the advanced level in approved language programs in East or Southeast Asia.

Grants are *highly* competitive. In recent years we have been able to fund less than 10% of applicants.

Superior candidates pursuing careers in fields such as academia, STEM (science, technology, engineering, math), international business, accounting, law, medicine, journalism, architecture, teaching, social or NGO work, and government service are encouraged to apply.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for a grant, an applicant must:

- Be pursuing a professional, business, technical or academic career that involves the regular use of Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Thai, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Khmer or Burmese.
- By the start of the grant, have (at minimum) a college undergraduate degree.
- Be at or near an advanced level in the language. By the start of the grant, applicants must have completed (at minimum) the equivalent of the third year of languages classes at the college level, either through classes taken in the U.S. or through a combination of study at the college level in the U.S. and intensive language study abroad programs.
- Be able to devote oneself exclusively to full-time intensive 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.

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.

You may find more detailed information on our website at www.blakemorefoundation.org.

Eligible Language Programs

For **Japanese**, we fund study at the Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies in Yokohama, Japan. We do not award fellowships for any other Japanese language program.

For **Chinese**, we fund study at the Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Studies at Tsinghua University in Beijing, China, or the International Chinese Language Program at National Taiwan University in Taipei, Taiwan. We do not award fellowships for any other Mandarin language program.

For **Korean**, we fund study at Seoul National University, Sogang University and the Inter-University Center for Korean Language Studies at Sungkyukwan University in Seoul, South Korea. We will consider study at other language programs in South Korea on a case-by-case basis during the application review process.

Approval of language programs for study of **Burmese, Indonesian, Khmer, Thai** and **Vietnamese** will be considered on an individual basis during the application review process.

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, required visa renewal travel or for absences approved in advance by the Foundation. 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 participate in other activities 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.

Start Date for Study and Deferral Policy

Study must start no sooner than June 2019 and no later than May 2020, limited by the start dates of school terms at the language school or tutoring program involved. No deferrals of start dates will be permitted beyond May 2020.

Application and Acceptance by Language Program

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.

U.S. Income Tax Liability

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

Determining if any portion of the grant may be non-taxable for U.S. federal income tax purposes is the recipient's individual responsibility. Because of the variety of personal situations, we recommend applicants discuss their own individual case with a qualified tax advisor.

The Foundation does not issue a Form 1099-T, Form W-2 or Form 1099-Misc to recipients. No income tax is withheld from the grant and recipients are responsible for making any required estimated tax payments to the I.R.S.

Please refer to IRS Publication 970 *Tax Benefits for Education* and Form 1040-ES for further information.

Amount of Grant & Grant Disbursement

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

Tuition for the language program, and tutoring fees (if applicable) are covered in full.

The stipend for Blakemore Freeman Fellowships may be used for the following types of expenses:

- Airfare (any carrier)
- Books, equipment and study materials related to language program
- Housing/utilities/cell phone/internet access
- Food and ordinary daily living expenses
- Local commuting
- Travel within country during holidays and school breaks
- Recreational, educational or cultural activities
- 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.

Stipend funds may not be used to cover expenses of an accompanying dependent.

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.

Funds from Other Sources

A grantee may not accept other scholarships, fellowships or grants concurrently with a Blakemore Freeman Fellowship unless such funds are for assistance in meeting family expenses of the grantee or other expenses not covered by the Blakemore Freeman Fellowship.

Required Reports

Blakemore Freeman Fellows must submit a monthly 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 at the end of their grant. Financial reports regarding the use of stipend funds on forms provided by the Foundation must also be submitted at intervals during the grant and at the end of a Blakemore Freeman Fellowship. At the end of the grant, the Foundation must be provided with an official transcript from the language program at which the student was enrolled for each academic period covered by the fellowship. The transcript should list courses taken and grades received or progress made.

Relationship to Blakemore Foundation Board of Managers

An applicant must not be related to a member of the Blakemore Foundation Board of Managers.