

## **Blakemore Freeman Fellowships 2024 Grant Guidelines**

Blakemore Freeman Fellowships are awarded for one academic year (two semesters or three quarters) of advanced level language study in East or Southeast Asia. Eligible languages are Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Indonesian, Khmer, Thai, and Vietnamese. Fellowships cover tuition, and a stipend for related educational expenses, basic living costs and transportation. The Blakemore Foundation makes grants for study only at specific language programs.

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

### **What Type of Candidate Should Apply?**

The Blakemore Foundation is looking for individuals who will make significant contributions to their field. The ideal candidate is someone with stellar grades, outstanding recommendations, and a demonstrated commitment to the Asian country and language. Beyond commitment, we are looking for purpose: a career path that will benefit from professional fluency in that modern Asian language throughout that individual's life.

### **Selection Criteria**

- A focused, well-defined career objective involving East or SE 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 relating to an Asian country.
- Prior experience in the Asian country or involvement or participation in activities related to the country.
- Outstanding academic record.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

To be eligible for a Blakemore Freeman Fellowship, an applicant must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident (green card holder) of the United States.
- Be pursuing a professional, business, or academic career that involves the regular use of Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Thai, Vietnamese, Indonesian, or Khmer.
- By the start of the grant, have (at minimum) a bachelor's degree.
- Be at or near an advanced level in the language. By the start of the grant, applicants must have completed (at minimum) the third year of language classes at the college level, through formal classroom study at a college or university and/or in rigorous college-level language 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.

## **Acceptance by Language Program Requirements**

- Applicants need to apply independently to the approved language program. Follow the language school's posted deadlines for applications for study during the 2024/2025 academic year.
- Blakemore Freeman Fellowships are awarded contingent upon the applicant's acceptance by the language program for which the fellowship is awarded. This means that an applicant may receive a grant offer for a Blakemore Freeman Fellowship before the notification of admission by the language school involved; should the grantee subsequently not be admitted, the Blakemore Foundation's grant offer will be rescinded.
- An applicant applying for admission to a language program must not be required by that program to complete a summer program as a prerequisite to academic year admission.

No grants are available for study in the United States.

## **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.

## **Length of Study, Start Dates and Deferral Policy**

Study will normally start in fall 2024, but must start no later than May 2025, limited by the start dates of school terms at the language school or tutoring program involved. Grant start dates may not be deferred beyond May 2025.

### **Examples of Study Dates:**

Study at the Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies in Yokohama, Japan Program runs from September 2024–June 2025

Study at the Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Studies at Tsinghua University in Beijing: Fall/Spring: August 2024–May 2025 or Spring/Summer: December 2024–August 2025

Study at the International Chinese Language Studies at National Taiwan University in Taipei  
Fall/Winter/Spring: September 2024–June 2025 or Winter/Spring/Summer: December 2024–  
August 2025 or Spring/Summer/Fall: March 2025–December 2025

### **Tutoring programs**

May start anytime between August 2024 and May 2025

### **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 East or SE Asia, including tuition and/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 study
- Housing/furnishings/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 and renewal expenses
- Income taxes due on taxable portion of grant
- Other expenses incurred during study abroad 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 health insurance, 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 due mid-grant, 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.

### **No Relationship to Blakemore Foundation Board of Managers**

An applicant must not be related to a member of the Blakemore Foundation Board of Managers as listed on the Foundation's website.