Deadline for Applications: September 15, 2015

Program Description
We are pleased to announce the Civil Society Leadership Awards (CSLA) for master’s level studies beginning Fall 2016. The awards provide fully-funded master’s degree study to individuals who clearly demonstrate academic and professional excellence and a deep commitment to leading positive social change in their communities.

The purpose of the Program is to directly assist future leaders in countries where civil society is challenged by a deficit of democratic practice in local governance and social development. Awards are available for master’s degree study at various institutions across the world in the following areas:

- Communications & Media
- Culture, History & Society
- Development Studies
- Economics
- Education Management & Leadership
- Environment & Natural Resource Management
- Gender Studies
- Law & Human Rights
- Politics & International Studies
- Public Health & Health Management
- Public Policy & Administration
- Social Work & Social Policy

CSLA Award Structure
Successful applicants will receive the following support:

- Tuition and mandatory university fees;
- Monthly stipend for room, board, and other living expenses;
- Program-related travel;
- Accident and sickness insurance during the program;
- Funds for educational materials and professional development;
- Attendance at a regional grantee conference;
- Pre-academic preparation via summer schools in Turkey or Thailand
Eligibility

Civil Society Leadership Awards are available to citizens of the following countries:

- Azerbaijan
- Belarus
- Cambodia
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Egypt
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- Laos
- Libya
- Republic of Congo
- South Sudan
- Sudan
- Syria
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan

Awards for study at German universities are only open to citizens of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Ethiopia, Sudan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- be a citizen of an eligible country;
- demonstrate maturity, flexibility and civil society leadership potential;
- have excellent academic records and a bachelor’s degree awarded before the deadline;
- have proficiency in the language of instruction (English, German or French) at the desired university program, as evidenced by standardized language test scores;
- be able to participate in an intensive academic writing program in July or August 2016 and start their degree program in August or September 2016;
- be able to receive and maintain a visa or study permit as required by the host country; and
- demonstrate a clear commitment to return to their home country or region to continue supporting open society development.

The CSLA program does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, or disability.

Further information about the Program, including a list of participating universities and eligible graduate degree programs, is available here:

http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/grants/civil-society-leadership-award-20150713

How to Apply

Interested applicants must complete and submit an online or paper CSLA application in English to be considered for CSLA support.

- **Online Application**
  All applicants are strongly encouraged to apply online. To apply online please go to http://civilsocietyleadershipawards.submittable.com/submit/44212 to register, and then follow instructions.

- **Paper Application**
  Paper applications may be accessed via:
  http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/grants/civil-society-leadership-award-20150713
  or by contacting one of the local administrative offices (see list below)

Deadline

The deadline for submitting all application materials is **September 15, 2015**.
The Open Society Foundations work to build vibrant and tolerant democracies whose governments are accountable to their citizens. To achieve this mission, the Foundations seek to shape public policies that assure greater fairness in political, legal, and economic systems and safeguard fundamental rights. On a local level, the Open Society Foundations implement a range of initiatives to advance justice, education, public health, and independent media. At the same time, we build alliances across borders and continents on issues such as corruption and freedom of information. The Foundations place a high priority on protecting and improving the lives of people in marginalized communities.

Investor and philanthropist George Soros established the Open Society Foundations, starting in 1984, to help countries make the transition from communism. Our activities have grown to encompass the United States and more than 70 countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America. Each Foundation relies on the expertise of boards composed of eminent citizens who determine individual agendas based on local priorities.

The Open Society Scholarship Programs support individuals passionate about improving their knowledge and their ability to advance positive social change in their home countries.

University-based education will empower these individuals to explore and develop intelligent and humane ideas generated by free and open inquiry, critical analysis, and a nuanced understanding of the complex challenges facing open societies.

Through professional degree and international research awards, we help individuals in constrained environments access academic resources more readily available in open societies. We prioritize grants to individuals in countries particularly challenged by repressive governance and constant threats to human rights.

Using transparent, open and merit-based competitions, we offer awards for advanced study in the social sciences and humanities. Awards include enhancements such as preparatory summer programs, regional conferences, and internship opportunities, all designed to strengthen the networks and communities of the open society leaders we seek to build.

The Scholarship Programs collaborate with universities, private donors, and government agencies around the world, as well as with other Open Society programs and affiliated organizations.