Civil Society Leadership Awards 2016 -2017

Open Society Scholarship Programs

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

Applicants must select a field of study that falls within the general categories listed above. For example, those interested in studying Climate Change or Risk and Environmental Hazard would select the Environment and Natural Resource Management option; for Sociology or Anthropology, select Culture, History & Society, and so on. On the application you will indicate both your general category of interest and your specific field of study within that general category.

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.

Ineligibility
CSLA does not support:

- applicants from any country not listed above;
- foreign language teaching degrees, business administration or management degrees, physical sciences, engineering, or medical degrees;
- fields of study or universities not listed on page 5-6;
- dependent family members;
- individuals receiving other Open Society individual grants during the fellowship period;
- applicants who are employees of the Open Society Foundations (OSF) and are directly involved in the administration of scholarship programs.

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.
Selection Process

Competition for the Civil Society Leadership Awards is open and merit-based. Selection is based on an applicant’s fit with the program’s objectives as well as the graduate admissions criteria of the participating universities. Academic excellence, professional aptitude, leadership potential in the field of specialization, proven commitment to open society values, and appropriate language proficiency are all important factors in evaluation.

All eligible applicants will be reviewed by an international selection committee. The proposed field of study should be logical for the goals expressed in the essays, and the application itself should be organized and complete. Compelling candidates will be interviewed by a selection committee comprised of university representatives, OSF staff, and partner organization representatives, such as the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

Selection & Notification Cycle

- Applications must be submitted by September 15, 2015;
- Applications are reviewed in October 2015 by an international selection committee;
- Those chosen to continue in the competition as semi-finalists are required to take an official TOEFL or IELTS test in November 2015. Testing costs will be covered by CSLA;
- Some semi-finalists may also be invited to submit full applications to potential host universities;
- In November 2015, semi-finalists will be invited for an in-person, Skype, or telephone interview;
- Finalists will be notified by January 2016. Please note that all awards are conditional subject to university placement confirmation by CSLA staff or partner organizations;
- Successful finalists will be notified via email of their placement by April 2016.

How to Apply

Interested applicants must complete and submit an online or paper CSLA application in English to be considered for CSLA support. Please note that some universities require a separate application for graduate study at that institution. In these cases, OSF will notify candidates and assist with the university application process.

- 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)

Late applications will automatically be disqualified. If you are unable to apply online, please download and complete a Word version of the application. Electronic applications and all supporting materials should be submitted to csla@infoscholar.org by September 15, 2015.
GUIDELINES

THIS FORM IS FREE AND MAY BE DUPLICATED

All paper applications submitted by mail must be postmarked by September 15, 2015 and sent to either the New York or London address listed below. Alternately, paper applications may also be sent to one of the country administrative offices:

CSLA
OSF Scholarship Programs
224 West 57th Street
New York, NY 10019, USA
Email: csla@infoscholar.org

CSLA
OSF Scholarship Programs
Millbank Tower, 7th Floor
21-24 Millbank, London
SW1P 4QP, UK
Email: csla@infoscholar.org

Local administrative offices:

Azerbaijan
Baku Education Information Center
40 J. Jabbarli Street, Caspian Business Center
Baku AZ1065
Tel/Fax: (994 12) 4482845/46
Contact: Bahar Haji-zada:
bhaji-zada@beic.az

Belarus
Educational Advising Center
European Humanities University
Tauro g. 12
LT-10101 Vilnius, Lithuania
Tel: 00370 5 274 0622
Contact: Kevin Reiling:
advising@ahu.lk

Turkmenistan + Uzbekistan
Educational Center
"Bilim - Central Asia"
158/160 Kunaev St., apt.7,
Almaty 050010,
Kazakhstan
Tel.: +7 (727) 261 15 55,
Fax: +7 (727) 261 15 55
Contact: Leila Yedygenova:
lyedygenova@bilim.kz
## CSLA Host Universities and Field of Study Categories

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Communications &amp; Media</th>
<th>Culture, History &amp; Society</th>
<th>Development Studies</th>
<th>Economics</th>
<th>Partner Host Universities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Graduate School of Social Research</td>
<td>American Cambridge Central European U. Graduate School of Social Research KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt Maastricht Nottingham Sabanci</td>
<td>American Brandeis Cambridge Durham Maastricht Nottingham Sabanci Sciences Po*** St Andrews Strasbourg*</td>
<td>American Cambridge Durham Graduate School of Social Research Kassel Konstanz Syracuse Trier***</td>
<td>China University of Hong Kong – Hong Kong S.A.R.</td>
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<td>Environment &amp; Natural Resource Management</td>
<td>Gender Studies</td>
<td>Law (LLM) &amp; Human Rights</td>
<td>Germany KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt - Eichstätt University of Freiburg – Freiburg im Breisgau University of Kassel – Kassel University of Konstanz – Konstanz University of Osnabrück – Osnabrück, Saarland University - Saarbrücken University of Trier – Trier</td>
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<td>Latvia Riga Graduate School of Law – Riga</td>
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* denotes courses will be taught in French
** denotes courses will be taught in German
*** denotes students may pick an English language program or French/German program.
**** Eligible courses in public health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine should be announced in summer 2015

Netherlands
Maastricht University – Maastricht

Poland
Graduate School of Social Research – Warsaw

Turkey
Sabanci University – Istanbul

UK
University of Cambridge – Cambridge
University of Durham – Durham
University of Essex – Colchester
University of Nottingham – Nottingham
University of St Andrews – St Andrews
**** London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

United States
American University – Washington, DC
Brandeis University – Waltham, MA
Columbia University – New York, NY
Syracuse University – Syracuse, NY
Washington University in St. Louis – St. Louis, MO

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