Beatrice S. Demers
Foreign Language Fellows Program

Administered by the Rhode Island Foundation

Up to $200K awarded annually; provides awards of $1K to $25K to support foreign language study

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Eligibility

- Any RI Resident -OR- a student at a RI college or university
- Unstated: Have a passion for developing fluency in another language (commitment, dedication)
- Preference will be given to applicants from URI!
Demers Foreign Language Fellows Program

Inaugural Fellows (2011)

2011-2014 Results

415 applications
64 Fellows selected (61 from URI)
Received $594,729 in fellowships
Selection Criteria

- **Dedication** to foreign language learning
- Likelihood that the proposed program of study will promote a **high level of foreign language fluency**
  - *Note:* Because longer programs are generally more likely to support foreign language fluency, summer-only programs are less likely to be funded.
- A **diversity of languages** studied, **program types**, and **individuals** receiving fellowship

Preference will be given to applicants from the University of Rhode Island who meet these criteria.

Components of the Application

- Online Form
- Transcripts
- Two 300-word essays
- Two letters of recommendation
- Program budget
- Letter of acceptance (if available)
Choosing a Program

- Fits your profile and goals
- Make sure you are eligible
  - If you need credit seek assistance from the Office of International Education (OIE)
  - Resources for selecting a program
    - uri.edu/international
    - studyabroad.com
    - iiepassport.org
- If selected, you must attend the program you proposed in the application or the award may be rescinded.

TIPS: Letters of Recommendation

- Ask by December 1.
- Select faculty who know you well!
  - Set up a meeting, bring resume, transcript, details regarding program, bulleted list of reminders
  - They should be able to stress your passion for foreign languages.
    - discuss your track-record and your talent as a student of languages
    - how it is likely to be maintained/useful in your future career
    - suitability for the program you are proposing
TIPS: Essay One

Please tell us about yourself. Why do you wish to become fluent in another language? What experiences have you had that prepare you for foreign language study, including your academic background? (300-word limit)

Express your DEDICATION and PASSION for the language:

- **WHY** do you want to do this?
- **WHAT** have you done to prepare?
  - Language Coursework? How many years total? Have you excelled?
  - What level have you achieved this far? Have you taken related coursework on the region? Have you already been abroad? Personal connection?

TIPS: Essay Two

Please tell us about your proposed program of study. What do you plan to do? Where and when will this experience take place? What are you doing to prepare? How do you expect this experience to further your long-range goals? Please be specific. (300-word limit)

1) Describe **WHEN** and **WHERE** the program is. **WHO** is the program sponsor? Is this part of your academic plan (IEP, IBP, Flagship)? **WHAT** kind of coursework will you engage in? (emphasis on the language component)

2) **WHAT ELSE** about the program will help you to achieve greater fluency?
   - Host Stay? Intermingled with native speakers? Internship?

3) **HOW** are you preparing for this?

4) **HOW** will knowing this language impact your future goals?

5) **WILL** you be able to maintain the proficiency you gain?
TIPS: Budget

- Tuition/fees, housing, other living expenses, travel, "other" (specify below)
- Aim for accuracy. (Don’t low-ball, but be reasonable.)
- Contact the study abroad program to determine costs. (if applicable)
- Don’t forget (if not included in program budget):
  - Visa application
  - Required vaccinations
  - Supplemental Overseas Insurance

TIPS: Letter of Acceptance

- You scan and upload directly.
- If possible, garner a letter from the program regarding the "likelihood" of your acceptance.
  - Highlight language-learning opportunities
  - Make sure it is in synch with your own description
- Don’t fret; it’s not required.
More TIPS

- Open an application account online ASAP (November 1 opening).
  - Only enter names of recommenders once you have confirmed that they are willing to provide a letter.

- Transcripts
  - Unofficial copy from e-Campus is also acceptable
    - Select content/frames, print to PDF or print then scan
  - Other transcripts? Order now!!
  - High school (if freshman)

Demers Review Day!

Drop-in essay review (*bring printouts*):

**Tuesday, December 9**
10am-3pm
Lippitt Hall 302D
Recap

1. Identify a program.
   - uri.edu/international
   - studyabroad.com
   - iiepassport.org
2. Ask recommenders.
   - Resume help? web.uri.edu/career
3. Open application.
4. Order/download transcripts.
5. Draft essays. *(Come to Demers Review Day for drop-in essay review!)*
6. Finalize budget.
7. Submit by the deadline! **January 16, 2015 at NOON**
8. Apply to study abroad program.
9. Request acceptance confirmation and submit to RI Foundation.
10. Send thank you note and inform recommenders of outcome.

*Notification: April 1, 2015*

Other Opportunities: Now

- Critical Language Scholarship *(due November 12!)*
- Boren Awards *(critical languages)*
- DAAD *(German)*
- Foundation for Global Scholars
- Fund for Education Abroad
- Gilman Scholarship
- Phi Eta Sigma
- Phi Kappa Phi
- Whitaker
- ...
- Metcalf *(freshmen-juniors, RI residents)*
Other Opportunities: Later

- Critical Language Scholarship
- Boren Awards *(critical languages)*
- Fulbright *(worldwide)*
- DAAD *(German)*
- Rotary
- Whitaker