

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Civil Society Leadership Awards 2017-2018

Open Society Scholarship Programs

Before Applying:

- **I am not currently living in my home country. Am I eligible to apply?**

You may be eligible for the award if you are temporarily outside of your home country (and your home country is eligible for awards). For instance, if you are studying abroad for a short time, or if you have recently acquired refugee or asylum status, you will still be considered eligible.

Please ensure that you complete all the details on Page 1 of the application describing the documents you hold and the duration for which they are valid.

- **I have dual citizenship with an eligible and non-eligible country. I live in the non-eligible country. Am I eligible to apply?**

In rare circumstances we may consider applicants with dual citizenship as eligible. Please explain your situation in detail and ensure that all the information on Page 1 of the application is completed thoroughly.

- **Which universities are part of the CSLA program?**

CSLA partners with a range of universities worldwide. The pool of universities changes each year. Universities hosting CSLA awardees currently include (but are not limited to) the following:

China

University of Hong Kong – Hong Kong S.A.R.

France*

Catholic University of Lyon – Lyon

EHESP School of Public Health – Paris

Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris – Paris

University of Lille – Lille

University of Strasbourg – Strasbourg

* Language of instruction varies by program

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

* Language of instruction varies by program

Hungary

Central European University – Budapest

India

TERI University – New Delhi

Latvia

Riga Graduate School of Law – Riga

Netherlands

Maastricht University – Maastricht

Poland

Graduate School of Social Research – Warsaw

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 - London

United States

American University – Washington, DC
 Brandeis University – Waltham, MA
 Columbia University – New York, NY
 Duke University – Durham, NC
 Ohio University – Athens, OH
 Syracuse University – Syracuse, NY
 Washington University– St. Louis, MO

- **I think I am a good fit for the award, but have already applied or was accepted to a university in an eligible subject. Can CSLA provide funding for this course?**

Generally only universities selected in advance are eligible for hosting CSLA grantees. Placement options will be discussed during the selection process but admission to a university independent of CSLA does not guarantee an award.

- **Are all eligible programs available in English?**

No, the program partners with a number of French and German universities where some master degree course are offered in French (e.g., Catholic University of Lyon, University of Strasbourg, etc.) or in German (e.g. University of Osnabrück, KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt). Options will be discussed during selection and placement process.

- **How is a program finalist matched with a university?**

Scholarship Programs staff will arrange placements for successful CSLA candidates in cooperation with our partner university colleagues. Finalists are matched with universities according to their chosen area of specialization, academic profile, and professional aspirations. Final decisions concerning host university placement are made by the program selection committee, which includes university admissions staff and faculty, although finalists may be asked their preference. All placements are made in conjunction with the host universities, and candidates must meet their standards for admission, which differ from university to university. CSLA and university staff will be in touch with successful candidates to communicate any additional university admission procedures that need to be completed.

- **Why do you have a limited number of universities eligible for the CSLA award?**

We work with a wide range of universities which offer quality instruction in the social sciences and humanities and share our commitment to open society values. These universities have agreed in advance to provide significant tuition discounts for CSLA candidates, and they actively participate in our selection process. Our university partnerships also enable us to cluster grantees at institutions, which strengthens a sense of community among CSLA scholars.

- **I am unsure about which field of study I would like to study. Can I choose more than one field?**

No. Please think about what your specific interests are in terms of your future career, and research the parameters of similar academic fields to determine what best matches your interests. Then choose a field of study that most closely fits your goals, and explain in the essays the reason you chose this field. In some cases CSLA staff may guide semi-finalists toward a more appropriate field of study at the time of the interview.

Admittance to a master's level course requires a strong, clear, subject-specific interest, and in some cases, appropriate previous training. Certain law courses, for instance, require a bachelor's degree in law for admittance.

- **What does the award cover and what would I need to pay for?**

CSLA grantees receive full funding for their degree studies, including accommodation and travel to the CSLA summer school prior to their studies, return travel to their host university, a living stipend for the duration of their studies, tuition, fees and health insurance, a small fund for professional development, and travel to grantee conferences. During the application process, language testing fees will be paid for those applicants who have been invited for an interview by CSLA.

- **When will I need to take a language test, and should I take the IELTS or TOEFL test? I see that I may need one for admission to a university.**

All applicants who do not have a valid language test score (taken within the past 2 years) and who are invited to an interview will be advised to take a language test in November 2015.

You will be advised by program staff of the appropriate test and a timeline for taking the test.

For candidates who wish to study at a CSLA host university in the United Kingdom, an IELTS test is mandatory, as the TOEFL is not accepted. Other universities generally accept both IELTS and TOEFL.

For universities in France offering study in the French language, semi-finalists will need to have evidence of one of the following tests of French language competence at a satisfactory level: Test de connaissance du français (TCF); Test d'évaluation de français (le TEF); Diplôme d'études en langue française (DELF); or the Diplôme approfondi de langue française (DALF). Exceptions are made for citizens of the Democratic Republic of Congo, as French is recognized as the official language of instruction.

For universities in Germany, programs with instruction in English usually accept TOEFL and may recognize IELTS results. For programs with instruction in German, candidates may be requested to take a TestDaf examination.

- **Can I apply for CSLA award if I am already studying in one of CSLA host countries?**

CSLA prioritizes applications from students who are currently living in their home countries or region and have not yet started a master's program elsewhere.

- **Can I reapply if my previous CSLA application was unsuccessful or if I had to decline a CSLA offer in a previous competition?**

Yes. You can reapply for a new competition but you will need to complete a new application with all required attachments in order to compete with a new pool of applications.

Completing the Application

- **Do I need to submit grade transcripts or recommendation letters?**

Not at this point. Only those selected to continue in competition as semi-finalists will need to submit transcripts and recommendation letters. You will be notified of your status and given further instructions after the first round of selection is completed in October.

- **Who is the 'Required Accommodations' section for? Should I complete it?**

This section is available for those who have special needs or disabilities. This is to inform CSLA staff and help them to make the necessary accommodations during the application and placement process.

- **Should I mail a paper application as well as submit my application online to be sure CSLA staff receive it?**

You can check through [Submittable](#) if your application has been received after you submit it. There is no need to submit a separate paper application if your online application was received.

- **I have printed my application and want to submit it to a CSLA office. There are several addresses. Which office should I send it to?**

You may send your completed paper application to the office geographically closest to you if you are submitting the application by post. All applications are reviewed by CSLA staff, regardless of where the application is received.

After you submit your application:

- **What happens to my application after I submit it? When should I expect to hear from CSLA staff?**

After you submit your application, it will be reviewed by CSLA staff and international experts to assess your fit to the goals of the program. Applicants will be informed of their status in **October 2015**; those who were reviewed favorably will move forward to semi-finalist status.

Semi-finalists are required to take a language test in **November 2015**, and CSLA staff will help coordinate test registration and payment. Semi-finalists are also required to submit official university transcripts and letters of recommendation. Instructions for submitting these documents will be included in notification sent to semi-finalists.

Interviews of semi-finalists will be held in person (if possible) or via Skype/telephone with CSLA staff, international experts, and faculty from CSLA host universities in **November and December 2015**. CSLA staff may discuss possible university placement options with you at this stage.

CSLA staff and university partners will hold a final selection meeting in **January 2017** to choose finalists. You will be informed in writing if you are a CSLA finalist and will be considered for placement at a partner university.

CSLA staff will work to place finalists at partner universities between **January and March**. Some candidates may remain unplaced, especially if they have failed to obtain an adequate language test score.

After placements are made, a CSLA grant letter will be issued and finalists will become CSLA grantees.

- **Will I need to apply directly to universities once I am selected for the program?**

In some cases, you will need to apply to a CSLA host university directly. Semi-finalists who are being considered for placement at universities in China, France, Germany, Hungary, The Netherlands, or the UK will be asked by CSLA staff or staff from our host universities or partner organizations (e.g. [DAAD](#)), to complete additional application forms. There will be no fee for submitting these applications. CSLA staff will advise you of the need to apply and work with you on this process.

- **I have further questions about the process and my application. How can I contact CSLA staff?**

If you have further questions about the process before or after applying, please feel free to complete our online [Inquiry Form](#), or to contact the partner offices in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Lithuania.