Campus Timeline and Guidelines for 2016-17 Boren Scholarship
https://www.borenawards.org/

BOREN CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVE: Shannon Mischler, National Scholarship Program Manager, sjm130@pitt.edu, (412) 624-0587

IMPORTANT DATES – MARK YOUR CALENDARS

November 4th – Attend INFO SESSION PRESENTED BY BOREN REPRESENTATIVE from the Institute of International Affairs. It is at 12pm noon in 1228 Cathedral of Learning. Please REGISTER.

NOTE: if you’ve already been to a campus info session with Judy Zang, you should try to also attend this one from the visiting Boren representative in order to receive a more comprehensive overview of the award!

December 1 – FIRST campus deadline – submit completed application online. Note that we expect the 1st essay in the application to be still somewhat rough at this point.

January 7 – SECOND campus deadline: submit completed application on the Boren online application system.
--all components EXCEPT recommendation letters should be submitted online
--recommendation letters should be EMAILED ONLY to Shannon Mischler - sjm130@pitt.edu

January 13th through 26th
--Boren campus interviews
--after receiving a go-ahead from Shannon, enter LOR writers names/contact info in the Boren application system

February 3 – FINAL CAMPUS DEALINE.
Submit completed application online.

February 3rd through February 9th – National Scholarships office prepares the Boren campus evaluation for each applicant; submits applications to the Boren Program.

MID MAY – BOREN RESULTS ANNOUNCED

OCTOBER
• Register for a Boren webinar http://www.borenawards.org/webinars.html. These are very helpful!
• Thoroughly read Boren website (EVERY LINK under Boren Scholarship).
• Register immediately online to begin an application in order to receive all award-relevant communication from the Boren Program and from Pitt’s National Scholarship Advising office.
• Line up two recommendation writers. Third LOR is optional. Prepare packet described here on Tips & Advice, http://www.honorscollege.pitt.edu/scholarships/national-scholarships-advising/tips-advice. See recommendation writer guidelines below for more instructions about the LORs. ADD THESE GUIDELLINES TO YOUR RECOMMENDATION PACKET).
• Choose study abroad programs that meet Boren language requirements AND length of time. If you are applying for two programs (one per semester), they must be in the same country. Depending on the country, you should seriously consider a back-up program. Make sure the programs are Pitt approved (check with Office of Study Abroad).
• Find a faculty mentor with expertise in the country and/or topic of your national security interests. Arrange to meet with them to discuss the first Boren essay. Schedule an appointment ahead of time to receive feedback when you have a solid draft prepared.
• Go to http://www.appointmentquest.com/scheduler/2160041238 ASAP to make 4-6 appointments (between Shannon Mischler, Ian Riggins, and Judy Zang) from October through December.

NOVEMBER through December
• Meet with faculty mentor(s) to discuss country and national security issues.
• Make appointment with Pitt Writing Center to go over essays.
• Give LOR writers a copy of your essays once you have a solid draft of them. This is the second installation of the recommendation packet that you gave to them previously.
GUIDELINES FOR BOREN SCHOLARSHIP LOR WRITERS

INCLUDE THESE TWO PAGES IN THE RECOMMENDATION PACKET THAT YOU GIVE TO YOUR WRITERS!

FOCUS OF AWARD AND YOUR LETTER

--The Boren Scholarship for International Study is a highly competitive award with 2 major emphases:
Language and cultural immersion
National security

These two components are extremely important in the student’s application. A competitive applicant must clearly articulate how by increasing their familiarity with the host country’s culture and language they can help strengthen US security and ties between the US and that country (national security is broadly defined—more details on following page).

The Boren applicant must demonstrate strong interest in working for the Federal government, together with a plan to apply their language (and other skills) and Boren experience to the one-year service requirement with the government if they win the scholarship (preferably in a position with the Department of Defense, Department of State, Homeland Security, or the Intelligence Community).

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT FOR THE BOREN

Note that it is perfectly acceptable if the student has little or no previous knowledge of the language as long as they 1) provide a strong reason for beginning this language, and 2) demonstrate how they will maintain language proficiency in the future.

LOR DEADLINES

Thursday, January 7th, 2016 – send a draft of your letter to Shannon Mischler, sjm130@pitt.edu via email attachment.

By mid-January we will contact you to submit your letter on the Boren online application system. An email with log in and submission instructions will be sent to you from the Boren Program.

LOR INSTRUCTIONS

Your student was instructed to provide you with a recommendation packet containing information to assist you in writing the letter. We ask them to provide you with a copy of their unofficial transcripts, updated resume, a succinct description of their reason and goals behind their pursuit of this particular award in their selected host country, and their suggested list of points that they ask you to consider including in the letter.

By mid-December, they should follow up with a working draft of their two essays. Please do not finalize your letter until you have reviewed their essays.

CONTENT OF THE LOR

An effective letter will describe your familiarity with the applicant’s work through concrete details and examples of their accomplishments, potential, and character.

You needn’t cover everything in their student career, just the areas that you know best!

The Boren Program gives these instructions to LOR writers:
-- State how long and in what capacity you have known the applicant;
--Provide comments about the applicant’s academic, linguistic, and personal preparation for the study abroad program, especially as they relate to Boren Scholarship objectives.
--If possible, comment on the applicant’s understanding of the relationship between his or her study abroad program and U.S. national security, broadly defined, as well as his or her career interests.
-- Please add anything else that you think is relevant for the reviewers to know.

BOREN CAMPUS PROCESS

--Boren requests that all scholarship applicants undergo a campus interview. This is NOT a selection process; it is an opportunity for the institution (PITT) to give the student objective feedback on the application, and to provide Boren with an evaluation and rating of each candidate.

--If you are interested in participating on a campus evaluation committee for this award, please contact Shannon Mischler, National Scholarship Program Manager, sjm130@pitt.edu, (412) 624-0587

Interviews will be conducted in mid-January.

From the Boren website, http://www.borenawards.org/boren_scholarship:

Boren Scholarships provide up to $20,000 to U.S. undergraduate students to study abroad in areas of the world that are critical to U.S. interests and underrepresented in study abroad, including Africa, Asia, Central & Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America, and the Middle East. The countries of Western Europe, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand are excluded.

Boren Scholars represent a variety of academic backgrounds, but all are interested in studying less commonly taught languages, including but not limited to Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, and Swahili.

Boren Scholarships are funded by the National Security Education Program (NSEP), which focuses on geographic areas, languages, and fields of study deemed critical to U.S. national security. Applicants should identify how their study abroad program, as well as their future academic and career goals, will contribute to U.S. national security, broadly defined. NSEP draws on a broad definition of national security, recognizing that the scope of national security has expanded to include not only the traditional concerns of protecting and promoting American well-being, but also the challenges of global society, including sustainable development, environmental degradation, global disease and hunger, population growth and migration, and economic competitiveness.