

GUIDELINES FOR BOREN SCHOLARSHIP LOR WRITERS

LOR DEADLINE – February 8, 2018

FOCUS OF AWARD AND YOUR LETTER

The Boren Scholarship for international study is a highly competitive award with three main emphases: language acquisition, cultural immersion, and national security. These three components are extremely important in the student's application. A competitive applicant must clearly articulate how increasing their familiarity with the host country's culture and language will strengthen U.S. security and ties between the U.S. and that country. Note that national security is *broadly* defined—more details on following page.

The candidate should also demonstrate their qualifications for this specific award in two contexts: 1) their academic and extracurricular backgrounds, and 2) their educational and professional goals and how those connect to the Boren experience. In your letter it is helpful to include not only your familiarity with their work and background, but concrete details and examples whenever possible when commenting on their accomplishments, potential, and character.

Note that it is perfectly okay 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 continue language study after the Boren experience.

LOR INSTRUCTIONS

Your student was instructed to provide you with a recommendation packet to assist you in writing the letter. The packet should include these Boren Scholarship guidelines, unofficial transcripts, updated resume, their suggested items to include in your letter, and a succinct description of their reason and goals behind their pursuit of this particular award.

Please read the student's application before completing your letter. They will give it to you as a second installment to the initial packet described above as soon as they have a solid draft of their essays later in November. Any feedback you provide the student on their essays will be helpful.

Final letters (on letterhead) should be submitted through the Boren online system by February 8, 2018.

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.

From the Boren website, <https://www.borenawards.org/scholarships/program-basics/boren-scholarship-basics>:

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.