FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Apply Now for U.S. State Department Scholarships to Develop Language Skills Abroad!

Washington, D.C.—Applications are now being accepted for the U.S. Department of State’s National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) program. Over 650 merit-based scholarships are available for U.S. citizen high school students between the ages of 15 and 18 to study a language in the summer of 2020 or in the 2020-21 academic year. Scholarship recipients will receive intensive language learning through a study abroad experience, language classes, cultural activities, and time living overseas with a host family. Applicants may choose to study Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Hindi, Indonesian, Korean, Persian (Tajiki), Russian, or Turkish.

NSLI-Y alumni have become global leaders in a variety of fields in the private, academic, and government sectors. According to a recent alumni survey, 82% of alumni reported continuing to study their NSLI-Y language after the end of the program. Also, 94% reported that NSLI-Y informed their academic course selection and options. Over half of alumni respondents in the workforce use their language skills or understanding of their host country/region on the job. Alumni credit skills gained in NSLI-Y with making them competitive in the job market. NSLI-Y alumni take on the role of a global citizen, with 95% reporting better appreciation of other cultures. An alumnus said, “As a result of participating in NSLI-Y, I feel better able to enter an increasing global world.”

Launched in 2006 as part of a multi-agency U.S. Government initiative, NSLI-Y is a program of the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The program is designed to increase the number of young Americans with the language skills necessary to advance international dialogue, compete effectively in the global economy, and help increase understanding across cultures. NSLI-Y is administered by American Councils for International Education, in cooperation with AFS-USA, iEARN, and other partner organizations.

For more information about the NSLI-Y program, how to apply, and eligibility criteria, visit www.nsliforyouth.org. The application deadline is October 30, 2019, 4:00 PM U.S. Eastern Time.

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