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 600 merit-based scholarships are available for high school students who are U.S. citizens and between the ages of 15 and 18 to study a language in the Summer of 2022 or for the 2022-23 academic year. Scholarship recipients will experience intensive language learning by studying abroad, taking language classes, engaging in cultural activities, and living overseas with a host family. NSLI-Y offers eight languages for study: Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Hindi, Indonesian, Korean, Persian (Tajiki), Russian, or Turkish.

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 increases the number of young Americans with the language skills necessary to advance international dialogue, promote economic prosperity and innovation worldwide, and contribute to national security by building understanding across cultures. NSLI-Y is administered by American Councils for International Education, in cooperation with AFS-USA, iEARN, and other partner organizations.

Studying through the NSLI-Y program is a formative experience with lifelong impact. Students gain critical communication and leadership skills that guide their academic and professional careers. In the words of one alum, “NSLI-Y was a life changing experience that has impacted my view of myself and the world around me in ways that will continue to shape the person I am in the future, to be a better ambassador of the United States abroad and to have improved understanding of the intercultural relationships between nations.”

For more information about the NSLI-Y program, including how to apply and eligibility criteria, visit www.nsliforyouth.org. The application deadline is November 4, 2021, by 4:00 PM U.S. Eastern Time.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its ongoing impact worldwide, the feasibility of in-person programs will be determined on a case-by-case host location basis. While every attempt will be made to determine overseas capacity several months in advance of the program, selected participants should remain flexible about their experience. If conditions do not allow for an in-person program, a virtual program may be offered.

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