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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. High School Students: Apply Now for U.S. State Department Scholarship Programs to Learn a Critical Language Abroad!

Washington, DC – **Applications are now being accepted for the U.S. Department of State’s National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) program.** Approximately 400 American high school students (ages 15-18) will be selected to receive a scholarship to study a critical language abroad in the summer of 2025 or for the 2025-26 academic year. Participants will experience intensive language learning in an immersive environment through language classes, cultural activities, and engaging with the local community. NSLI-Y offers programs for Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Indonesian, Korean, Persian (Tajiki), Russian, or Turkish.

The NSLI-Y program provides a formative experience with lifelong impact. Participants gain proficiency in a critical language, deep cultural knowledge of the region in which the language is spoken, and communication and leadership skills that shape their academic and professional careers. In the words of alumni, “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” and “My NSLI-Y experience was the catalyst for my studies and early career ... It opened many doors I never dreamed were possible.”

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 and intercultural skills necessary to advance international dialogue and mutual understanding, promote economic prosperity and innovation worldwide, and contribute to national security. 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, including how to apply and eligibility criteria, visit www.nsliforyouth.org. The application deadline is **November 4, 2024, by 4:00 PM U.S. Eastern Time.**

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