

2013 National Security Education Program Boren Scholarships Pitt Campus Guidelines and Timeline

OCTOBER

- Thoroughly read Boren website.
- Register *immediately* online at <https://nsep.iieweb.net/nsep/nseplugin.asp> to receive all relevant communication about the award and campus process from Pitt's Boren campus reps, Judy Zang and Ross Reilly. Once you are registered they will contact you to make an appointment with them.
- Register for Boren webinar <http://www.borenawards.org/webinars.html>. These are very helpful.
- Line up recommendation writers. Prepare packet and give LOR writers recommendation packet. See packet content: <http://scholarships.honorscollege.pitt.edu/recommendationletters.html>. **Don't forget to include Boren Scholarship LOR instructions in the LOR packet! SEE page 3+4.**
- Tell recommendation writers NOT to finish the letter *until they see draft of your Boren essays* (give them solid draft of your essays in November).
- Find faculty mentor with expertise in country and/or topic of your national security topic. Arrange to meet with them.
- Choose study abroad programs that meet Boren language requirements AND length of time. Both programs must be in the same country (one preferred, one backup). **Make sure the programs are Pitt approved (check with Office of Study Abroad) .**

NOVEMBER

- Meet with faculty mentor for initial discussion; make additional appointment for later in November to go over essay drafts.
- Take application essays to Pitt Writing Center *before* appointment with Judy Zang and Ross Reilly.
- Go over application minimum of two times before December deadline with Judy Zang or Ross Reilly (you can set up those appointments ahead of time *after you register online on Boren website*).
- Attend campus Boren info session -see <http://scholarships.honorscollege.pitt.edu/calendar.html>
- Give LOR writers 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.

DECEMBER 3: FIRST CAMPUS DEADLINE

- Complete application is due EXCEPT for Recommendation Letters. See http://www.borenawards.org/boren_scholarship/how_apply.html for checklist of all materials.

Boren Campus Representatives

Judy Zang, Director of National Scholarships; Ross Reilly, National Scholarships Advisor

jaz36@pitt.edu, 4x3697; rreilly@pitt.edu, 4x3698

2013 National Security Education Program Boren Scholarships Pitt Campus Guidelines and Timeline

- Submit application online (DO NOT WORRY, it only goes to the campus rep, not to Boren Program).
- Submit hardcopy of supplementary materials to Matthew Schultz, UHC receptionist on CL 36th floor. *Put documents in an envelope labeled Judy Zang, Boren Scholarship.*

JANUARY 9: LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION ARE DUE

- Minimum of two letters, may include three. See Boren website for details.
- LOR letters are to be sent or delivered to Judy Zang, UHC, 36th floor. These are hardcopy, on letterhead with original signature, sealed. **Again, before completing letters LOR writers should have received your recommendation packet including LOR guidelines and a copy of your two Boren essays to write an effective letter.**

JANUARY 14 to 25 – BOREN CAMPUS INTERVIEWS (date TBA)

More details forthcoming about interview.

After interview, your Boren application is unsubmitted by Judy Zang and Ross Reilly for you to make final revisions incorporating feedback your received from the campus interview committee.

FEBRUARY 4 – FINAL CAMPUS DEADLINE

Applicants submit FINAL application online.

MID MAY – BOREN RESULTS ANNOUNCED

Guidelines for Boren Essays

In addition to the following guidelines, please read instructions on Boren website.

FIRST ESSAY

The first essay should include the following SEVEN main components:

- Introduction (everything that follows should connect to statements in this intro). Essentially, this should be an abstract of the rest of the essay.
- Address National Security relevance of the host country. Why is this country critical to national security? After short general description, describe concretely YOUR SPECIFIC INTEREST in a particular national security issue/topic.

Boren Campus Representatives

Judy Zang, Director of National Scholarships; Ross Reilly, National Scholarships Advisor

jaz36@pitt.edu, 4x3697; rreilly@pitt.edu, 4x3698

2013 National Security Education Program Boren Scholarships Pitt Campus Guidelines and Timeline

- As stated in Boren website, national security is broadly defined. Even if your main interest in the country is a field not typically connected with national security, e.g., ART, you have to be able to make a convincing argument of how this is related to national security.
- *National Security discussion should be related to your intended field of study and career plan!* Past winners have had a variety of interests they related to national security, such as psychology, urban planning, business, minority issues, language and cultural study, education, and environmental sustainability.
- Present academic background and significant personal /extracurricular background. Items included here should convince Boren Program that you have the appropriate interests, character, academic foundation and social skills for conducting your language study in the host country.
- Language Interest: what is your background in the language you will study? If you select a language that you will study for the first time, state exactly why you are interested in learning the language. Finally, how will you maintain the language proficiency that you gain in the country through the Boren Scholarship after you return to the United States? How does it fit into your future plans? Be specific.
- Country Interest: in addition to the national security topic(s) you previously stated, what else are you interested in learning about the country?
- Career plans: what specific position with a federal agency will you seek to fulfill the service requirement? What are your future long-term career goals?

SECOND ESSAY

- Focus on your preferred program. They want to know that you are completely familiar with the study abroad program that you selected. Make sure you include how each of the components of the study abroad program suits your interests, learning style, language and country immersion goals.
 - Last paragraph should briefly describe back-up program, and why (if for some reason the first program does not work out) that the second program will be satisfactory.
-

THE FOLLOWING TWO PAGES--WHICH YOU SHOULD ALSO CAREFULLY READ--ARE GUIDELINES FOR YOUR LOR WRITERS.

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

Boren Campus Representatives

Judy Zang, Director of National Scholarships; Ross Reilly, National Scholarships Advisor

jaz36@pitt.edu, 4x3697; rreilly@pitt.edu, 4x3698

2013 National Security Education Program Boren Scholarships Pitt Campus Guidelines and Timeline

Recommendation Letter Guidelines for the Boren Scholarship

FOCUS OF AWARD AND YOUR LETTER

--The Boren Scholarship for International Study is a highly competitive award with emphases on **language and 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 US security and ties between the US and that country (national security is *broadly* defined—more details on following page).

--The candidate should also demonstrate their qualifications for this specific award in the following contexts: 1) their academic and extracurricular backgrounds, and 2) their educational and professional goals and how that connects to the Boren experience. In your letters 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 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 that they have strong language acquisition skills.

LETTER DEADLINE AND INSTRUCTIONS

--Your student was instructed to provide you with a recommendation packet containing information to assist you in writing the letter, including these guidelines, unofficial transcripts, updated resume, their suggested list of points you may want to include in the letter, and 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 share this with you after giving you the initial packet described above, as soon as they have a solid working draft of their essays. Any feedback you provide the student on their essays will be helpful.

--Final letters (on letterhead) should be directed to the Boren Scholarship Selection Committee and delivered to Judy Zang by the campus deadline, **January 9, 2013**.

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 Judy Zang. Interviews will be conducted in mid-January.

--Though the applications are submitted online, Ms. Zang mails the hard copy recommendations, transcripts, and student rating form to Boren by the foundation deadline.

Boren Campus Representatives

Judy Zang, Director of National Scholarships; Ross Reilly, National Scholarships Advisor

jaz36@pitt.edu, 4x3697; rreilly@pitt.edu, 4x3698

2013 National Security Education Program Boren Scholarships Pitt Campus Guidelines and Timeline

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.

Boren Campus Representatives

Judy Zang, Director of National Scholarships; Ross Reilly, National Scholarships Advisor

jaz36@pitt.edu, 4x3697; rreilly@pitt.edu, 4x3698