

# UNIVERSITY FELLOWSHIPS

 MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO

Office of University Fellowships Newsletter

Fall 2015

## Reflection on My Critical Language Scholarship

**By: Laura Berg '15, Anthropology**

During the summer of 2014 I spent two months studying Japanese in Himeji, Japan under the Critical Language Scholarship Program (CLS) through the United States Department of State. Recipients of this program receive an all-expense paid scholarship, a two-day orientation in Washington D.C., and intensive language training in the country and language for which they applied. Through my experience with CLS, I found the application process and the language training in Japan to be rigorous, yet incredibly rewarding.

My favorite part of the experience was the intensive Japanese language training and, in particular, its concentration on spoken communication. While my classes and living quarters were with 26 American students, during the two months we were not allowed to speak English. Monday through Friday we had speaking and listening classes every morning and reading and writing every afternoon. Twice a week we experienced Japanese culture through activities such as learning kendo from the university's kendo club, visiting a sake factory, and volunteering to clean up at a local park. All of these experiences were incorporated into our classroom learning. During the two months I found it difficult to express myself effectively in Japanese and was often too scared to do so. Despite this, the intensive language training CLS provided gave me the confidence I needed to continue pursuing Japanese both during that time and now.

For more information on CLS, see the reverse side of this newsletter!

### In This Issue

- Student Reflection:  
Laura Berg
- Important Deadlines
- Featured Awards
- Fall Programs for  
Students & Faculty

### Staff

*Ginny Walters, University  
Fellowship Coordinator*

*Kit Arbuckle,  
Graduate Assistant*

### Contact Us

Office of University Fellowships  
265 Morris Hall

Email:  
[fellowships@mnsu.edu](mailto:fellowships@mnsu.edu)

Website:  
[mnsu.edu/fellowships](http://mnsu.edu/fellowships)

Twitter:  
[@MNSUFellowship](https://twitter.com/MNSUFellowship)

Facebook:  
[facebook.com/  
mnsufellowship](https://facebook.com/mnsufellowship)

## Featured Awards

### Goldwater Scholarship

Awarded to outstanding sophomores and juniors studying math, natural sciences, or engineering who intend to pursue a research career and a doctoral degree. Every Goldwater Scholar can receive up to \$7,500 per year to pay for academic costs not covered by other scholarships. For more information, visit: [goldwater.scholarsapply.com](http://goldwater.scholarsapply.com).

### Humanity in Action Fellowship

This award seeks to educate, connect, and inspire the world's future leaders in the fields of human rights and social justice through a fully-funded summer-long international experience. Sophomores through recent graduates are eligible to apply. For more information, visit <http://www.humanityinaction.org/programs/14-hia-fellowship>.

### Critical Language Scholarship

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, this program offers a fully-funded overseas language and cultural and linguistic immersion program during the summer for American undergraduate and graduate students. First-year through graduate students are eligible to apply. For more information, visit <http://www.clscholarship.org>.

### Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships (SURFs) & NSF REUs

At various universities and clinics around the U.S., sophomores through recent graduates can find SURFs and REUs that fit their unique research goals. Email [fellowships@mnsu.edu](mailto:fellowships@mnsu.edu) to set up an advising appointment if you were interested in this opportunity.

## Award Deadlines

### Goldwater

Campus: December  
National: January

### Truman

Campus: November  
National: February

### Critical Language Scholarship

National: October

### Gilman Scholarship

National: October

### Fulbright

Campus: August  
National: October

### Marshall, Mitchell, & Rhodes

Campus: August  
National: October

### NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program

National: November

### Udall

Campus: January  
National: March

*If you are interested in applying for an award, please contact the Fellowships Office for advising.*

### Fall Student Programs

Please follow social media for updated info!

- **Goldwater Information Sessions:**  
Monday, Sept. 21, 10 A.M.-11 A.M. — AH 234  
Thursday Oct. 8, 3 P.M. -4 P.M. — AH 231
- **Truman Information:**  
Tuesday, Oct. 20, 11 A.M.-12 P.M. — AH 220  
Wednesday, Nov. 11, 3 P.M. -4 P.M. — AH 233
- **Boren & Gilman Information:**  
Monday, Nov. 16, 1 P.M. -2 P.M. — AH 234
- **Udall Information:**  
Wednesday, Nov. 18, 1 P.M. -2 P.M. — AH 234
- **Information about SURFs & REUs:**  
Wednesday, Oct. 21, 10 A.M.-11 A.M. — AH 304
- **Application Writing Workshop:**  
Thursday, Oct. 22, 4 P.M. -5:30 P.M. — MH 265

### Fall Faculty Programs

- **CETL Brown Bag:**  
Learn about the Office of University Fellowships  
Tuesday, Sept. 29, 12 P.M.-1 P.M.
- **CETL Brown Bag:**  
Writing Recommendation Letters for Award Applicants  
Tuesday, Oct. 20, 12 P.M.-1 P.M.

Faculty are always welcome to contact [fellowships@mnsu.edu](mailto:fellowships@mnsu.edu) for more information regarding the office in general or specific award opportunities for students.