

## GUIDELINES

# Civil Society Leadership Awards 2016 -2017

## Open Society Scholarship Programs

Deadline for Applications: September 15, 2015

### Program Description

We are pleased to announce the **Civil Society Leadership Awards (CSLA)** for master's level studies beginning Fall 2016. The awards provide fully-funded master's degree study to individuals who clearly demonstrate academic and professional excellence and a deep commitment to leading positive social change in their communities.

The purpose of the Program is to directly assist future leaders in countries where civil society is challenged by a deficit of democratic practice in local governance and social development. Awards are available for master's degree study at various institutions across the world in the following areas:

- **Communications & Media**
- **Culture, History & Society**
- **Development Studies**
- **Economics**
- **Education Management & Leadership**
- **Environment & Natural Resource Management**
- **Gender Studies**
- **Law & Human Rights**
- **Politics & International Studies**
- **Public Health & Health Management**
- **Public Policy & Administration**
- **Social Work & Social Policy**

Applicants must select a field of study that falls within the general categories listed above. For example, those interested in studying **Climate Change** or **Risk and Environmental Hazard** would select the **Environment and Natural Resource Management** option; for **Sociology** or **Anthropology**, select **Culture, History & Society**, and so on. On the application you will indicate both your general category of interest and your specific field of study within that general category.

### Eligibility

Civil Society Leadership Awards are available to **citizens** of the following countries:

- **Azerbaijan**
- **Belarus**
- **Cambodia**
- **Democratic Republic of Congo**
- **Egypt**
- **Equatorial Guinea**
- **Eritrea**
- **Ethiopia**
- **Laos**
- **Libya**
- **Republic of Congo**
- **South Sudan**
- **Sudan**
- **Syria**
- **Turkmenistan**
- **Uzbekistan**

*Awards for study at German universities are only open to citizens of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Ethiopia, Sudan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.*

Applicants must meet the **following criteria**:

- be a citizen of an eligible country;
- demonstrate maturity, flexibility and civil society leadership potential;
- have excellent academic records and a bachelor's degree awarded **before the** deadline;
- have proficiency in the language of instruction (**English, German or French**) at the desired university program, as evidenced by standardized language test scores;
- be able to participate in an intensive academic writing program in July or August 2016 and start their degree program in August or September 2016;
- be able to receive and maintain a visa or study permit as required by the host country; and
- demonstrate a clear commitment to return to their home country or region to continue supporting open society development.

*The CSLA program does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, or disability.*

## Ineligibility

CSLA **does not** support:

- applicants from any country not listed above;
- foreign language teaching degrees, business administration or management degrees, physical sciences, engineering, or medical degrees;
- fields of study or universities not listed on page 5-6;
- dependent family members;
- individuals receiving other Open Society individual grants during the fellowship period;
- applicants who are employees of the Open Society Foundations (OSF) and are directly involved in the administration of scholarship programs.

## CSLA Award Structure

Successful applicants will receive the following support:

- Tuition and mandatory university fees;
- Monthly stipend for room, board, and other living expenses;
- Program-related travel;
- Accident and sickness insurance during the program;
- Funds for educational materials and professional development;
- Attendance at a regional grantee conference;
- Pre-academic preparation via summer schools in Turkey or Thailand.

## Selection Process

Competition for the Civil Society Leadership Awards is open and merit-based. Selection is based on an applicant's fit with the program's objectives as well the graduate admissions criteria of the participating universities. Academic excellence, professional aptitude, leadership potential in the field of specialization, proven commitment to open society values, and appropriate language proficiency are all important factors in evaluation.

All eligible applicants will be reviewed by an international selection committee. The proposed field of study should be logical for the goals expressed in the essays, and the application itself should be organized and complete. Compelling candidates will be interviewed by a selection committee comprised of university representatives, OSF staff, and partner organization representatives, such as the German Academic Exchange Service ([DAAD](#)).

## Selection & Notification Cycle

- Applications must be submitted by **September 15, 2015**;
- Applications are reviewed in **October 2015** by an international selection committee;
- Those chosen to continue in the competition as semi-finalists are required to take an official TOEFL or IELTS test in **November 2015**. Testing costs will be covered by CSLA;
- Some semi-finalists may also be invited to submit full applications to potential host universities;
- In **November 2015**, semi-finalists will be invited for an in-person, Skype, or telephone interview;
- Finalists will be notified by **January 2016**. **Please note that all awards are conditional subject to university placement confirmation by CSLA staff or partner organizations**;
- Successful finalists will be notified via email of their placement by **April 2016**.

## How to Apply

Interested applicants must complete and submit an online or paper CSLA application in English to be considered for CSLA support. *Please note that some universities require a separate application for graduate study at that institution. In these cases, OSF will notify candidates and assist with the university application process.*

### ▪ Online Application

All applicants are **strongly** encouraged to apply online. To apply online please go to <http://civilsocietyleadershipawards.submittable.com/submit/44212> to register, and then follow instructions.

### ▪ Paper Application

Paper applications may be accessed via:

<http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/grants/civil-society-leadership-award-20150713>

or by contacting one of the local administrative offices (see list below)

**Late applications will automatically be disqualified.** If you are unable to apply online, please download and complete a Word version of the application. Electronic applications and all supporting materials should be submitted to [csla@infoscholar.org](mailto:csla@infoscholar.org) by **September 15, 2015**.

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THIS FORM IS FREE AND MAY BE DUPLICATED

All paper applications submitted by mail must be **postmarked by September 15, 2015** and sent to either the **New York or London address listed** below. Alternately, paper applications may also be sent to one of the country administrative offices:

**CSLA**

OSF Scholarship Programs  
224 West 57<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY  
10019, USA  
Email: [csla@infoscholar.org](mailto:csla@infoscholar.org)

**CSLA**

OSF Scholarship Programs  
Millbank Tower, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
21-24 Millbank, London  
SW1P 4QP, UK  
Email: [csla@infoscholar.org](mailto:csla@infoscholar.org)

Local administrative offices:

**Azerbaijan**

[Baku Education  
Information Center](#)

40 J. Jabbarli Street,  
Caspian Business Center  
Baku AZ1065  
Tel/Fax: (994 12)  
4482845/46  
Contact: Bahar Haji-zada:  
[bhaji-zada@beic.az](mailto:bhaji-zada@beic.az)

**Belarus**

[Educational Advising  
Center](#)

European Humanities  
University  
Tauro g. 12  
LT-10101 Vilnius,  
Lithuania  
Tel: 00370 5 274 0622  
Contact: Kevin Reiling:  
[advising@ehu.lt](mailto:advising@ehu.lt)

**Turkmenistan +  
Uzbekistan**

[Educational Center  
"Bilim - Central Asia"](#)

158/160 Kunaev St., apt.7,  
Almaty 050010,  
Kazakhstan  
Tel.: +7 (727) 261 15 55,  
Fax: +7 (727) 261 15 55  
Contact: Leila  
Yedygenova:  
[lyedygenova@bilim.kz](mailto:lyedygenova@bilim.kz)

## CSLA Host Universities and Field of Study Categories

Communications & Media	Culture, History & Society	Development Studies	Economics	Partner Host Universities
American Graduate School of Social Research Hong Kong University Sciences Po*** Strasbourg*	American Cambridge Central European U. Graduate School of Social Research KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt Maastricht Nottingham Sabanci	American Brandeis Cambridge Durham Maastricht Nottingham Sabanci Sciences Po*** St Andrews Strasbourg*	American Cambridge Durham Graduate School of Social Research Kassel Konstanz Syracuse Trier***	<p><b>China</b> University of Hong Kong – Hong Kong S.A.R.</p> <p><b>France</b> Catholic University of Lyon – Lyon Institut d’Etudes Politiques de Paris – Paris University of Strasbourg – Strasbourg</p> <p><b>Germany</b> KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt - Eichstätt University of Freiburg – Freiburg im Breisgau University of Kassel – Kassel University of Konstanz – Konstanz University of Osnabrück - Osnabrück, Saarland University - Saarbrücken University of Trier – Trier</p> <p><b>Hungary</b> Central European University – Budapest</p> <p><b>India</b> TERI University – New Delhi</p> <p><b>Latvia</b> Riga Graduate School of Law – Riga</p>
Education Management & Leadership	Environment & Natural Resource Management	Gender Studies	Law (LLM) & Human Rights	
American Cambridge Hong Kong University Nottingham Syracuse	American Brandeis Cambridge Central European U. Durham Freiburg Nottingham St Andrews TERI Sciences Po*** Trier	Cambridge Central European U.	American Central European U. Essex Hong Kong University Lyon* Nottingham Riga Saarland*** Syracuse	

Politics & International Studies	Public Health & Health Management	Public Policy & Administration	Social Work & Social Policy	Partner Host Universities (cont.)
American Brandeis Cambridge Central European U. Durham Graduate School of Social Research Kassel Osnabrück** KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt ** Nottingham St Andrews Sabanci Strasbourg* Syracuse	Brandeis Cambridge Maastricht Nottingham Washington University- St.Louis	Brandeis Cambridge Central European U. Maastricht Nottingham Sabanci Sciences Po*** Syracuse TERI	Columbia Nottingham Washington University-St. Louis	<p><b>Netherlands</b> Maastricht University – Maastricht</p> <p><b>Poland</b> Graduate School of Social Research – Warsaw</p> <p><b>Turkey</b> Sabanci University – Istanbul</p> <p><b>UK</b> University of Cambridge – Cambridge University of Durham – Durham University of Essex – Colchester University of Nottingham – Nottingham University of St Andrews – St Andrews **** London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine</p> <p><b>United States</b> American University – Washington, DC Brandeis University – Waltham, MA Columbia University – New York, NY Syracuse University – Syracuse, NY Washington University in St. Louis – St. Louis, MO</p>

\* denotes courses will be taught in French

\*\* denotes courses will be taught in German

\*\*\* denotes students may pick an English language program or French/German program.

\*\*\*\* Eligible courses in public health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine should be announced in summer 2015