Our language fellowships are awarded for one academic year (two semesters or three quarters) of advanced level language study in East or Southeast Asia. Eligible languages are Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Indonesian, Khmer, Thai, and Vietnamese. Fellowships cover tuition, and a stipend for related educational expenses, basic living costs and transportation. The Blakemore Foundation makes grants for study only at specific language programs.

Grants are highly competitive. In recent years we have only been able to fund less than 10% of applicants.

What Type of Candidate Should Apply?
The Blakemore Foundation is looking for individuals who will make significant contributions to their field. The ideal candidate is someone with stellar grades, outstanding recommendations, and a demonstrated commitment to the Asian country and language. Beyond commitment, we are looking for purpose: a career path that will benefit from professional fluency in that modern Asian language throughout that individual's life.

Selection Criteria
• A focused, well-defined career objective involving East or SE Asia in which regular use of the language is an important aspect.
• The potential to make a significant contribution to a field of study or area of professional or business activity relating to an Asian country.
• Prior experience in the Asian country or involvement or participation in activities related to the country.
• Outstanding academic record.

Eligibility Requirements
To be eligible for a fellowship, an applicant must:
• Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident of the United States.
• Be pursuing a professional, business, or academic career that involves the regular use of Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Thai, Vietnamese, Indonesian, or Khmer.
• By the start of the grant, have (at minimum) a bachelor's degree.
• Be at or near an advanced level in the language. By the start of the grant, applicants must have completed (at minimum) the third year of language classes at the college level, through formal classroom study at a college or university and/or in rigorous college-level language programs.
• Be able to devote oneself exclusively to full-time intensive language study during the term of the grant. Grants are not made for part-time study or research.
Eligible Language Programs

For Japanese, we fund study at the Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies in Yokohama, Japan (the “IUC”). We do not award fellowships for any other Japanese language program.

For Chinese, we fund study at the Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Studies at Tsinghua University in Beijing, China (the “IUP”) under the Blakemore Fellowship program and at the International Chinese Language Program at National Taiwan University in Taipei, Taiwan (the “ICLP”) under the Blakemore Freeman Fellowship program. We do not award fellowships for any other Chinese language program.

For Korean, we fund study at Seoul National University, Sogang University and the Inter-University Center for Korean Language Studies at Sungkyunkwan University in Seoul, South Korea. We will consider study at other language programs in South Korea on a case-by-case basis during the application review process.

Approval of language programs for study of Indonesian, Khmer, Thai and Vietnamese will be considered on an individual basis during the application review process.

Length of Study, Start Dates and Deferral Policy

Study will normally start in fall 2025, but must start no later than the spring term of the language school. Tutoring programs must start no later than the end of May 2026.

Examples of Study Dates:

Study at the Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies in Yokohama, Japan
   Program runs from September 2025 – June 2026

Study at the Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Studies at Tsinghua University in Beijing
   Fall/Spring: August 2025 – May 2026
   Spring/Summer: December 2025 – August 2026

Study at the International Chinese Language Studies at National Taiwan University in Taipei
   Fall/Winter/Spring: September 2025 – June 2026
   Winter/Spring/Summer: December 2025 – August 2026
   Spring/Summer/Fall: March 2026 – December 2026

Other Languages
   May start during the language school's fall 2025 term but no later than its spring 2026 term for ten consecutive months. Grants for tutoring alone must start no later than the end of May 2026.

Acceptance by Language Program Requirements

• Applicants need to apply independently to the approved language program. Follow the language school’s posted deadlines for applications for study during the 2025/2026 academic year.

• All fellowships are awarded contingent upon the applicant's acceptance by the language program for which the fellowship is awarded. This means that an applicant may receive a grant offer for a fellowship

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before the notification of admission by the language school involved; should the grantee subsequently not be admitted, the Blakemore Foundation’s grant offer will be rescinded.

No grants are available for study in the United States.

**Residency Requirement**

Grantees are expected to remain in the study country during the entire period of their grant, except in the event of an emergency, required visa renewal travel or for absences approved in advance by the Foundation. Therefore, a grant recipient should not plan to return to the United States for winter break or other holiday periods.

We encourage our grantees to use holidays and school breaks for modest travel within their study country and to participate in other activities to expand their language usage outside the classroom.

**Conflicting Activities**

Grantees must devote full-time to language study and not engage in any conflicting activities during the period covered by their grant.

Part-time employment, teaching English, extensive research on a dissertation or involvement in other projects which could hamper full-time study are not permitted.

Recreational, educational or cultural activities which do not interfere with full-time study are encouraged, particularly during school and holiday breaks.

**U.S. Income Tax Liability**

All grant funds from the Blakemore Foundation are taxable for U.S. federal income tax purposes unless the recipient qualifies for some type of exclusion or deduction.

Determining if any portion of the grant may be non-taxable for U.S. federal income tax purposes is the recipient's individual responsibility. Because of the variety of personal situations, we recommend applicants discuss their own individual case with a qualified tax advisor.

The Foundation does not issue a Form 1099-T, Form W-2 or Form 1099-Misc to recipients. No income tax is withheld from the grant and recipients are responsible for making any required estimated tax payments to the I.R.S.

Please refer to IRS Publication 970 Tax Benefits for Education and Form 1040-ES for further information.

**Amount of Grant & Grant Disbursement**

Our fellowships are intended to cover basic expenses at a graduate student level necessary to pursue an academic year of full-time intensive language study in East or SE Asia, including tuition and/or tutoring fees, plus a stipend for travel, living and study expenses.

Tuition for the language program, and tutoring fees (if applicable) are covered in full.
The stipend may be used for the following types of expenses:

- Airfare (any carrier)
- Books, equipment and study materials related to language study
- Housing/furnishings/utilities/cell phone/internet access
- Food and ordinary daily living expenses
- Local commuting
- Travel within country during holidays and school breaks
- Recreational, educational or cultural activities
- Health insurance/travel insurance/medical evacuation insurance
- Immunizations appropriate for country
- Visa application and renewal expenses
- Income taxes due on taxable portion of grant
- Other expenses incurred during study abroad or approved by the Trustee

It is up to each grantee to budget the stipend funds to cover necessary costs. Stipend funds may not be used to cover expenses of an accompanying dependent.

The stipend for travel, living and study expenses is disbursed to the grantee at intervals over the course of the grant. Adjustments to stipend may be considered if exchange rates or living expenses alter significantly during the period covered by the grant.

Funds from Other Sources

A grantee may not accept other scholarships, fellowships or grants concurrently with a Blakemore Freeman Fellowship or Blakemore Fellowship unless such funds are for health insurance, assistance in meeting family expenses of the grantee or other expenses not covered by the stipend.

Required Reports

All grantees must submit a monthly letter reporting on their activities during the preceding month. They must also submit two longer progress reports to the Foundation during their fellowship, the first report due mid-grant, and a second report at the end of their fellowship. Financial reports regarding the use of stipend funds on forms provided by the Foundation must also be submitted at intervals during the grant and at the end of a fellowship. At the end of the grant, the Foundation must be provided with an official transcript from the language program at which the student was enrolled for each academic period covered by the fellowship. The transcript should list courses taken and grades received or progress made.

No Relationship to Blakemore Foundation Board of Managers

An applicant must not be related to a member of the Blakemore Foundation Board of Managers as listed on the Foundation’s website.