

# **Civil Society Leadership Awards 2020–2021**

## **OPEN SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS**

Application Deadline: May 15, 2019

# Guidelines

## Program Description

The Civil Society Leadership Awards (CSLA) provide fully-funded scholarships for 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.

## CSLA Award Structure

CSLA grantees will receive financial and administrative support for the following:

- Pre-academic preparation via summer schools;
- Program-related travel to/from Host University;
- Tuition and mandatory university fees;
- Monthly stipend for room, board, and other living expenses;
- Accident and sickness insurance during the program;
- Funds for educational materials and professional development;
- Attendance at a regional Scholarship Programs conference;
- Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities.

## Eligibility

Scholarship Programs are committed to equal opportunity, and exercise that policy in relation to all selection processes. The CSLA program does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, or disability.

Interested applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrate maturity, intellectual curiosity, flexibility, and civil society leadership potential;
- Demonstrate a clear commitment to their home country or region in supporting open society development;
- Have an earned bachelor's degree as of May 15, 2019 with an excellent academic record;
- Demonstrate proficiency in the language of instruction (English, French or German) at a level required for admission by host universities;
- Be able to receive and maintain a visa or study permit as required by the host country;
- Be able to participate in an intensive pre-academic summer school in July or August 2020 and start their Master's degree program in August or September 2020.



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### Eligibility—Citizenship

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

- Afghanistan
- Azerbaijan
- Belarus
- Cambodia
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Egypt
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- Laos
- Libya
- Myanmar/Burma
- Republic of Congo
- South Sudan
- Sudan
- Syria
- Tajikistan
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan

### Eligibility—Field of Study

On the application you will be asked to indicate your general field of study as well as specific programs within that general field based on our [Host University Guide](#). Applicants must select one general field of study only from those listed below. Awards are available for study in the following areas:

- Communications, Journalism & Media
  - Culture, History & Society
  - Development Studies
  - Economics
  - Education Management & Leadership
  - Environment & Natural Resource Management
  - Gender Studies
  - Human Rights
  - Law (including Human Rights law)
  - Politics & International Studies
  - Public Health Policy & Health Management
  - Public Administration
  - Public Policy
  - Social Work
  - Social Policy
- Those interested in studying **Climate Change or Risk and Environmental Hazard** would select **Environment and Natural Resource Management**.
  - Those interested in studying **Arts/Museum Management, Indigenous Literature, Sociology, Anthropology**, or other **Humanities**, select **Culture, History & Society**.
  - Those interested in studying **Disability Rights in a legal context**, select **Law**. Those interested in studying **Disability Rights in a sociological context**, select **Human Rights** or **Social Policy**.

### Ineligibility

The following fields of study are **NOT** eligible:

- Business administration or management
- Engineering
- Foreign language teaching
- Finance
- Medical sciences
- Physical sciences

The Civil Society Leadership Award **does not** support:

- Dependent family members;
- Those currently enrolled in an international Master’s degree program with support from a scholarship or fellowship;
- Employees involved in the administration of the Civil Society Leadership Award or their family members.

### CSLA Host Universities

CSLA partners with universities worldwide to host grantees for 1- and 2-year Master’s level programs. Finalists are matched with universities according to their chosen area of specialization, academic profile, and professional aspirations. **Final decisions concerning host university placement are made by the program selection committee**, which includes university admissions staff and faculty. CSLA and university staff will be in touch with successful candidates to communicate any additional university admission procedures that need to be completed.

Current CSLA host university partnerships include institutions in Europe, the UK, the US and some parts of Asia. For a full list of our current host universities, please review our [Host University Guide](#).

### 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 as the graduate admissions criteria of the participating universities. Academic excellence, maturity, passion, intellectual curiosity, creative problem-solving, open-mindedness, gender sensitivity, tolerance, professional aptitude, leadership potential, 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, and the application itself should be organized and complete. Compelling candidates will be interviewed by a selection committee comprised of university representatives, CSLA staff, and partner organization representatives, such as the German Academic Exchange Service ([DAAD](#)).

### Selection & Notification Cycle

- **Stage 1:** After May 15, 2019 your application will be reviewed by CSLA staff and international experts to assess your eligibility, competitive potential, and fit with the goals of the program.

Ineligible and uncompetitive applicants will be notified of their status starting in late June.

Those continuing in the competition will be sent out for external review and notified of their status in **September 2019**: those who are reviewed favorably at this stage will become Semi Finalists and be invited to an interview.

Semi Finalists must ensure that CSLA receives two (2) recommendation letters by October 1, 2019. For further details, see [How to Apply](#).

- **Stage 2:** Interviews of Semi Finalists will be held in person (if possible) or via Skype/telephone in late September/October. Travel for in-person interviews will be arranged through local partners; costs associated with international travel and accommodations for the interview will be covered by CSLA. CSLA staff will help coordinate any necessary test registration and payments.

You will be informed via e-mail by December 2020 if you have been selected as a CSLA finalist and are under consideration for placement at a CSLA host university.

- **Stage 3:** Placement of CSLA finalists at host universities takes place from **January through April**, and is managed by CSLA staff. Finalists who fail to obtain an adequate language test score, or fail to gain admission at a CSLA host university, or obtain admission but fail to do so within the CSLA staff-led placement process, will not receive an award, but are welcome to re-apply in the next CSLA competition.
- **Stage 4:** Once CSLA staff have a confirmed placement for you at a CSLA host university, you will receive a grant letter to sign and return to CSLA staff. At that point you will be a CSLA grantee.

### Equal Opportunity

Scholarship Programs are committed to equal opportunity, and exercise that policy in relation to all selection and admissions processes. The CSLA program does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, or disability.

### Unsuccessful Applications

Please note that decisions made by CSLA staff are final. If your application is unsuccessful at any stage in the selection process, we shall notify you by the email address you have included in your Grantee Communities Portal account. In the event that we do not have an email address for you, we will send try to contact you via phone and finally, if we are unable to reach you, via letter.

### **More Information & Application Forms**

More information can be obtained from the grant announcement for Civil Society Leadership Program 2020-2021, available here:

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

Other useful documents related to this award are listed below, and are both available at the link above, or by clicking on each of the titles:

[2020 Civil Society Leadership Awards Guidelines](#)

[2020 Civil Society Leadership Awards: How to Apply](#)

[2020 Civil Society Leadership Awards Host University Guide](#)

[2020 Civil Society Leadership Awards Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[2020 Civil Society Leadership Awards Application \(English\)](#)

[2020 Civil Society Leadership Awards Application \(French\)](#)