

Dated: January 9, 2001.  
**Herbert L. Mitchell,**  
*Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.*  
 [FR Doc. 01-1324 Filed 1-16-01; 8:45 am]  
**BILLING CODE 8025-01-P**

**SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

**[Declaration of Disaster #3317]**

**State of Texas**

As a result of the President's major disaster declaration on January 8, 2001, I find that the following Counties in the State of Texas constitute a disaster area due to damages caused by a severe winter ice storm beginning on December 12, 2000 and continuing: Bowie, Cass and Red River Counties. Applications for loans for physical damage as a result of this disaster may be filed until the close of business on March 9, 2001, and for loans for economic injury until the close of business on October 9, 2001 at the address listed below or other locally announced locations: U.S. Small Business Administration, Disaster Area 3 Office, 4400 Amon Carter Blvd., Suite 102, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

In addition, applications for economic injury loans from small businesses located in the following contiguous counties may be filed until the specified date at the above location: Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Marion, Morris and Titus Counties in Texas; Caddo County in Louisiana; Choctaw and McCurtain Counties in Oklahoma. The interest rates are:

	Percent
<b>For Physical Damage:</b>	
Homeowners with credit available elsewhere .....	7.000
Homeowners without credit available elsewhere .....	3.500
Businesses with credit available elsewhere .....	8.000
Businesses and non-profit organizations without credit available elsewhere .....	4.000
Others (including non-profit organizations) with credit available elsewhere .....	7.000
<b>For Economic Injury:</b>	
Businesses and small agricultural cooperatives without credit available elsewhere .....	4.000

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is 331711. For economic injury the numbers are 9K3700 for Texas, 9K3800 for Louisiana, 9K3900 for Oklahoma.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008.)

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**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

**[Public Notice 3540]**

**Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Request for Grant Proposals: Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program—International Academic Opportunity Act of 2000**

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Global Educational Programs of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c) may submit proposals for the purpose of carrying out a scholarship program for academic study outside of the United States.

**Program Information**

This program establishes grants for U.S. citizen or national undergraduate students of limited financial means from the United States to enable such students to pursue academic studies abroad. Such foreign study is intended to better prepare U.S. students to assume significant roles in an increasingly global economy.

**Overview**

This program provides an assistance award not to exceed \$1,500,000 for the purpose of issuing grants of up to \$5,000 to individuals who meet the eligibility requirements listed below, toward the cost of up to one academic year of undergraduate study abroad. Subject to the availability of funding and to satisfactory performance of the awardee, this assistance award may be renewable for two subsequent fiscal years.

The Presidential Memorandum on International Education of April 19, 2000 directs the Department of State to support the efforts of schools and colleges to improve access to high-quality international educational experiences by increasing the number of diversity of students who study and intern abroad. In support of this Memorandum and pursuant to the authorizing legislation for the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program, this program is intended to broaden the student population that participates in study outside the U.S. by

focusing on those students who might not otherwise study abroad due to financial constraints.

The Presidential Memorandum also directs the Department to encourage students and institutions to choose nontraditional study-abroad locations and to help underrepresented U.S. institutions offer and promote study-abroad opportunities for their students. These secondary objectives should also be addressed in grant proposals.

**Guidelines**

The administering organization should be prepared to solicit applications immediately upon receipt of grant notification and to award scholarships to allow study programs to begin in the 2001/2002 academic year.

*Student Eligibility:* To apply for a scholarship, an applicant must:

- (1) Be a student in good standing at an institution of higher education in the United States (as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965);
- (2) Have been accepted for up to one academic year of study on a program of study abroad approved for credit by the student's home institution;
- (3) Be receiving any need-based student assistance under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965; and
- (4) Be a citizen or national of the United States.

*Application and Selection:* (1) Scholarship application and selection shall be carried out through accredited institutions of higher education in the United States or a combination of such institutions.

(2) In considering applications for scholarships:

- (A) consideration of financial need shall include the increased costs of study abroad; and
- (B) priority consideration shall be given to applicants who are receiving Federal Pell Grants under title of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

(C) in ranking eligible applicants, consideration should also be given to academic excellence, and diversity of the applicant pool, fields of study, destinations, and type and location of home institutions of higher education.

*Reporting:* The grantee organization will submit quarterly reports on the number of applicants, the number of selectees, the names of the institutions of higher education in the United States that applicants and selectees attended at the time of application, name of institutions sponsoring the study program abroad, the names and locations of the institutions of higher education outside the United States which participants attended during