



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**University of Wisconsin-Madison Students
Selected for U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship Program**

3 students from University of Wisconsin-Madison will participate in the U.S. Department of State's [Critical Language Scholarship](#) (CLS) Program during the summer of 2024. They are among approximately 500 American students at U.S. colleges and universities who were selected from over 5,000 applicants to study over a dozen languages overseas or virtually in the summer of 2024.

Chloe Edgington - Azerbaijani
Amanda Grant - Swahili
Mina Yildiz - Korean

The CLS Program is part of a U.S. government effort to increase the number of Americans studying critical foreign languages. CLS scholars gain language and cultural skills that enable them to contribute to U.S. economic competitiveness and national security. The CLS Program provides opportunities to U.S. undergraduate and graduate students to spend eight to ten weeks studying one of over a dozen critical languages: Arabic, Azerbaijani, Chinese, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Swahili, Turkish, or Urdu. The program includes intensive language instruction and cultural enrichment experiences to promote rapid language gains.

The CLS Program partners with universities and nonprofits around the globe to provide cohorts of U.S. students an opportunity to study the language and culture in a country/location where the target language is commonly spoken. The CLS Program, through its CLS Spark initiative, also provides beginner-level virtual instruction for Arabic, Chinese, and Russian for competitively selected U.S. undergraduate students. CLS scholars are encouraged to continue their language study beyond the program and apply their critical language skills in their future careers.

Recipients of the 2024 CLS awards come from all 50 U.S. states, as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico and include students from over 200 institutions of higher education, including public and private universities, community colleges, liberal arts colleges, military academies, and minority-serving institutions.

For further information about the CLS Program or other exchange programs offered by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, please contact [ECA-](#)

Press@state.gov and visit our websites at <http://www.clscholarship.org/> and <https://studyabroad.state.gov/>.