



Community College Initiative (CCI) Program

Scholarship awards for the 2021-2022 Community College Initiative (CCI) Program are contingent on the appropriation of Federal funding by the United States Congress.

Program Overview

The Community College Initiative (CCI) Program seeks to foster mutual understanding between the citizens of the United States and the citizens of participating CCI countries. Since the program's inception in 2007, more than 3,400 participants from 21 countries have received scholarships for study at community colleges throughout the United States. The CCI Program is a program of the U.S. Department of State.

The CCI Program encourages a holistic learning and exchange experience and focuses on five program pillars: academics, cultural exchange, service learning, professional and career development, and leadership and action planning. *All pillars of the CCI Program are of equal importance.* The program provides participants with a non-degree, academic program at a U.S. community college designed to build participants' technical skills in applied fields, enhance their leadership capabilities, and strengthen their English language proficiency. It also provides opportunities for professional internships, service learning, and community engagement. After completing the program, participants return home with enhanced skills to help them contribute to the economic development of their countries.

The CCI Program demonstrates U.S. commitment to increasing access to higher education for international students from underrepresented and underserved communities in selected countries and highlights the learning environment offered at U.S. community colleges. The program also builds U.S. community colleges' efforts to deepen international education partnerships and programming.

Community colleges are predominantly publicly funded, inclusive institutions in local communities that welcome all who desire to learn, regardless of wealth, heritage, or previous academic experience. Community colleges offer individual courses (credit and non-credit), certificate programs, workforce development training, and associate degrees. Associate degree coursework at community colleges is roughly equivalent to that offered in the first two years of a four-year Bachelor's degree program. There are more than 1,100 public, independent, and tribal community colleges across the United States. Community colleges are sometimes referred to as technical colleges or junior colleges.

Field of Study

The CCI Program offers eight fields of study. Candidates from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, and Ukraine will apply for a pilot program to study in the field of media with a new concentration in the subfield of digital media and communications. This academic program will include a collection of courses that builds knowledge about the media landscape and skills in media literacy, digital media, and communications.

Courses and programs of study vary by individual colleges. All colleges offer introductory classes that would be taken during the first two years of a four-year Bachelor's degree. The CCI Program does not offer advanced field-specific courses. Participants will work with their Program Coordinators at each host college to develop an individual program plan within his/her field of study and concentration area. Participants should develop their goals broadly within these fields of study and concentration areas. *In this application, participants should describe their specific areas of interest in their proposed fields of study and concentration areas, their related experience, and their long-term goals.*

Participants are applying for the CCI Program and are not applying to a specific academic degree program at a particular institution. Based on their proficiency in English, participants will have access to courses at the CCI community college where they are placed. Participants *may* earn an academic certificate in their field of study or complete courses that are relevant to their professional goals. *Certificate programs are not available for all programs at all campuses and are contingent upon multiple factors, including the participant's level of English.* Participants will combine academic or professional coursework with first-hand practical experiences through internships or service learning that will help them build their professional skills and capacities.

The educational system in the United States will be different from the educational systems in the participants' home countries. To be successful in U.S. academic courses, participants will need to attend all classes, participate fully, complete assignments on time, and complete additional coursework (such as readings, essays, individual and group projects) during their own time outside of the classroom. It is common practice to have 6-10 hours of homework each week after each 3-hour class.

CCI Eligibility Requirements

Everyone who meets the CCI eligibility criteria listed below is welcome to apply regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, geographic location, socio-economic status, disability (physical or mental), sexual orientation, or gender identity. Persons with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply. Competition for the CCI Program is merit-based and open to anyone who:

- Is a citizen, national or permanent resident qualified to hold a valid passport issued by a country participating in the CCI Program.
- Is currently residing in the eligible country.
- Is 18 years or older by July 1, 2021.
- Has successfully earned a secondary school diploma.
- Has *not* completed the equivalent of three years toward a U.S. bachelor's degree or higher in the field of study the applicant is nominated to pursue. Nominees without substantive post-secondary education will be given placement priority.
- Has demonstrated commitment to the selected field of study through some academic or professional experience. The program aims to identify participants with proven skills or interest and limited professional experience in the fields of study offered.
- Has intermediate to advanced knowledge of English language as demonstrated by a minimum TOEFL score of 500. (Note: To enroll in credit-bearing courses in an academic field of study, the applicant must meet the minimum language requirements of the host college—usually 500 on the TOEFL test or equivalent scores on other standardized tests. English language training will be necessary and is available for those who do not demonstrate this level of proficiency. Participants with a score below 500 must have an interest in taking English language classes; they will have very limited access to courses in their field of study. All participants will be retested upon arrival at their host institutions. The host campus testing result will be the score used to determine course placements.)
- Has limited or no overseas study experience. Nominees with no prior overseas study or travel to the United States will be given placement priority.
- Meets any customized requirements of the home country Embassy/Consulate or Commission.
- Submits a complete original application.
- Is able to receive a U.S. J-1 visa and meet the program conditions to maintain that status.
- Is willing and physically able (with accommodations as required) to complete the program in its entirety, including activities or travel that may be programmed on any day of the week, possibly including early morning or evening hours.
- Is committed to returning to his/her home country after completion of the program and satisfying the J-1 visa two-year residency requirement.
- Is able to begin the academic exchange program in the United States in July 2021.

Ineligibility

Individuals in the following circumstances are **NOT** eligible for the Community College Initiative Program:

- U.S. citizens.
- Non-U.S. citizens living in the United States.
- Individuals currently participating in academic, training, or research programs in the United States.
- Individuals currently studying, residing, or working outside of the eligible countries.
- Individuals who have participated in an exchange visitor program sponsored or funded by the U.S. government for a period of more than six weeks and who have not fulfilled their two-year home residency requirement by the time of their CCI application.
- Individuals who have applied for U.S. permanent residency.
- Local employees of the U.S. missions abroad who work for the U.S. Department of State and/or the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Employees are also ineligible for one year following the termination of employment.
- Immediate family members (i.e., spouses and children) of U.S. Embassy and Fulbright Commission employees. Family members are also ineligible for one year following the termination of employment.
- Persons arrested for, charged with, or convicted of a crime (excluding minor traffic violations).

Application Review Process and Criteria

The CCI Program is conducted as a merit-based open competition. After the application deadline, all applications will be reviewed in country for eligibility and assessed by a panel of exchange program specialists. Competitive applicants will be interviewed in their home countries by a nomination committee. All applicants will be notified of their nomination and placement statuses on a rolling basis from spring to summer 2021.

The nomination committee will use the following criteria to evaluate applications (not in order of importance):

- Demonstrated interest and professional goals in the field of study applicant wishes to pursue.
- Cross-cultural interest.
- Leadership potential.
- Flexibility and suitability as an exchange student.
- Proficiency in written and spoken English.
- Physical ability and willingness to complete the program in its entirety, including activities or travel that may be programmed on any day of the week and during early morning or evening hours.
- Commitment to returning to home country after the program to fulfill a two-year home residency requirement.
- Preference will be given to applicants who have no prior experience outside their home countries.
- Preference will be given to applicants who represent underserved and underrepresented communities, including women.
- Preference will be given to those applicants who have completed secondary school and have not yet earned a degree equivalent to a U.S. bachelor's degree or higher.
- Preference will be given to those applicants who can express how the CCI Program connects directly to their personal and professional short-term and long-term goals.

General Application Instructions

- Submit a completed original application with signature on the last page.
- Each applicant must complete his/her own application form. Applicants may consult with others for advice on how to complete the form, but each applicant must write his/her own responses.
- Please answer ALL questions on the application in English. Do NOT leave a space blank. If a question does not apply to you, enter N/A (not applicable).
- Include your full legal name with family name (surname) in CAPITAL LETTERS first as spelled on your international passport (if available).
- Include complete contact information, including postal codes for all addresses and city/country codes for all phone numbers.
- Handwritten applications must be neatly printed.
- Submit the application by the deadline established by the U.S. Embassy or Fulbright Commission located in your country.

Financial Provisions of the Grant

- J-1 visa support.
- Round-trip travel from participant's home city to host institution in the United States.
- Tuition and mandatory college fees.
- Housing and meals.
- Small allowance for books, materials, and incidental expenses.
- Limited Accident and Sickness coverage that is J-visa compliant.
- A variety of personal and professional development activities.

Learn More: CCI Program Information and Social Media Sites

 CCI Website: www.nvcc.edu/ccip

 CCI Blog: <https://blogs.nvcc.edu/cci/>

 CCI YouTube: www.youtube.com/cciprogram

 CCI Facebook: www.facebook.com/cciprogram

 CCI Twitter: www.twitter.com/cciprogram

 CCI Instagram: www.instagram.com/cciprogram



COMMUNITY COLLEGE INITIATIVE PROGRAM STUDENT APPLICATION 2021-2022

Personal Information

Name of applicant *as indicated on passport if passport is already issued. Please type or print.*

SURNAME/FAMILY NAME
(write in all capital letters)

First/Given Name

Middle Name(s)

Home Address:

Street and number:

City:

State/province:

Postal code:

Country:

Home Phone:

Mobile Phone:

E-mail:

Location where you currently live:

- Federal Capital Major City
 Other City/Town Rural Area

Gender:

Marital status:

- Single
 Married

Do you have a passport?

- Yes
 No

Date of birth (month/day/year):

Month of birth:

Day of birth:

Year of birth:

Country/Countries of citizenship:

Country/Countries of permanent residence:

Place of birth (city or town and country, as listed in passport, if available):

City of birth:

Country:

Are you currently a student? Yes No

If yes, I am currently a...

- High School Student
 Undergraduate Student
 Other:

Name of college/institution enrolled:

I am currently studying Full-time Part-time

I am enrolled in a degree program. Yes No

What is the highest educational degree you have completed?

High School

Postsecondary Study

Number of years of study completed: _____

Other: _____

Number of years of study completed: _____

Have you participated in any U.S. government exchange program? Yes No

If yes, give name of the program:

Duration of the program:

Year you participated:

You are applying to the following Field of Study during the Community College Initiative Program:		
Field of Study	Concentration Area	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Media	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Digital Media and Communications	
<i>Next, select 2 additional concentration areas that interest you and note the order of your preference. Subfield concentration areas are not guaranteed and are contingent upon host college availability.</i>		
Concentration Area (check 2):	Rank Order Preference (1 is highest, 2 is lowest)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Digital Media/Animation	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Film Studies/ Motion Picture/ Television	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Graphic Design	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Journalism	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Public & Media Relations	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Social Media Marketing	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Web Design	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Web Development	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>

To pursue certificates in a field of study, you will likely be required to repeat entry-level courses you have taken in your home country to meet prerequisite requirements for the certificate. A certificate in the selected subfield is not guaranteed. Official copies of any post-secondary transcripts and course syllabi or other documentation of course content and your performance from your home institution may be considered for evaluating if you have already satisfied the prerequisite requirements, but this process requires precise documentation and is not guaranteed. You will need to bring official copies of your education records with you to the United States for host campus evaluation.

Knowledge of Languages: Rate yourself *Excellent, Good, Fair, or Poor*. Include all languages that you speak or have studied, including English. List your native language first.

Language	Reading	Writing	Speaking	Listening

English Language Proficiency: If you have taken any standardized test of English language proficiency (for example TOEFL, TOEIC, IELTS) please list the test taken, give the results, and provide a copy of the test results.

Test Taken: Date Taken: Results (*also attach copy*):

Background Information

Educational History: Please list educational institutions that you are currently attending or have attended with the most recent listed first. Please attach a translated and certified copy of your transcripts for any institution from which you received a certificate, diploma, or degree.

Name of Institution/Location	Major Field of Study	Dates Attended (Month, Year) From To		Actual Name of Degree or Diploma (Do not translate)	Type of Education (Select one)	Date Degree Received / Anticipated Completion Date
Current or Most Recent Education:					<input type="checkbox"/> High School <input type="checkbox"/> Postsecondary <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
Previous Education:					<input type="checkbox"/> High School <input type="checkbox"/> Postsecondary <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	

Work Experience: Are you currently employed? Yes, full-time Yes, part-time No

List jobs held, begin with current or most recent employment. (Continue on additional sheets of paper, if necessary)

Name and address of employer	Position held	Date From: (Month/Year)	Date To: (Month/Year)	Responsibilities
Current Position:				

Professional Experience: In addition to jobs held, please list relevant professional non-paid, volunteer and/or leadership positions or experiences.

Position	Date From: (Month/Year)	Date To: (Month/Year)	Responsibilities

Are you currently employed or have you been employed in the previous 12 months for the U.S. Department of State and/or the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)? Yes No

Are you an immediate family member of someone who is currently employed or has been employed in the previous 12 months by the U.S. Department of State and/or the USAID? Yes No

If you have traveled or lived in any country other than your own, indicate the places where you traveled, the dates of that travel (month and year), and the purpose of the travel. (Continue on additional sheets of paper, if necessary)

Country	Dates of Travel	Purpose of Travel

Emergency Contact Information: Below, provide the names, addresses and telephone numbers of individuals to be notified in case of an emergency.

Name of individual	Location & address of individual	Indicate relationship to you (father, mother, friend, etc.)	Languages this person speaks
List contacts in your country			
	Address: Telephone: Email:		
	Address: Telephone: Email:		
List contacts in the United States, if any			
	Address: Telephone: Email:		

Please list family members who have participated in a U.S. government-sponsored exchange program in the United States. (Continue on additional sheets of paper, if necessary)

Name of individual	Relationship	Name of program	Program dates

Please list any family members who are currently applying to participate in a 2021 or 2022 U.S. government-sponsored exchange program in the United States. (Continue on additional sheets of paper, if necessary)

Name of individual	Relationship	Name of program	Program dates

Essays. Please type or write neatly on separate sheets of paper.

Essay #1: Within your proposed field of study of media, what do you want to study? Please describe in detail your specific concentration areas of interest within your field of study. (Your response should be a minimum of 250 words. Your response helps us to match your interests with college programs.)

Essay #2: Please describe your related experience within this field of study. How would this program of study build on your past education, training, and/or experience? If you are new to this field, why did you choose this field? (Your response should be a minimum of 250 words. Your response helps us to match your interests with college programs.)

Essay #3: The CCI Program focuses on five pillars: academics, cultural exchange, service learning, internships, and leadership and action planning. How will you benefit from participating in a holistic program where every pillar has equal importance?

Essay #4: Please describe your short-term goals that you want to accomplish in each of the following areas. These goals will help you to maximize your experiences *during* the program. (Your response should be a minimum of 150 words for each area.)

- Preparation goals (prior to participating in the program):
- Professional and/or educational goals:
- Personal development goals:
- Learning about U.S. culture and sharing your culture with others:

Essay #5: Please describe your long-term goals that you want to accomplish in the first few months *upon returning home* after the CCI Program. (Your response should be a minimum of 150 words for each area.)

- Professional and/or educational goals:
- Personal development goals:
- Sharing what you have learned and giving back to your local community after the CCI Program:
- How will the five pillars of the CCI Program and your short-term goals help you to achieve your long-term goals?

Essay #6:

- a.) What are three leadership traits or characteristics that are important to you?
- b.) Give an example of a time that you demonstrated at least one of these traits and improved a situation.

Essay #7: Please describe a problem or challenging situation in your educational, professional, or personal life and describe how you resolved it and what you learned from this situation. How did you demonstrate flexibility during this challenging time?

Essay #8: The CCI Program is an intensive program with high expectations. Describe a time when you have demonstrated the ability to go above and beyond general requirements. What will you contribute to your CCI community that will create an environment where everyone will strive for excellence and try to maximize their opportunities?

CCI Program Timeline

March 2020	2021-2022 CCI Program application launched in new countries.
Mar-May 2021	Applications accepted and reviewed in each county. Interview committees invite semifinalist candidates for interviews.
May 2021	Embassies and Fulbright Commissions nominate slate of candidates to ECA for final selection and placement.
May 2021	ECA selects and places candidates.
May 2021	Placed and alternate candidates are announced and invited to pre-departure orientations.
May – Jul 2021	<i>Additional candidates are placed as openings become available.</i>
May – Jun 2021	Candidates participate in pre-departure orientations, review Terms and Conditions of the CCI Program and other program materials, and submit signed Terms and Conditions document.
May – Jun 2021	Candidates apply for visas and submit proof of visas to Embassy or Commission. Candidates engage with host campus Program Coordinators and submit additional required documents for each host campus.
Late Jun – early Jul 2021	Candidates receive travel itinerary and travel information.
Mid-Jul 2021	Candidates fly to their host campuses and begin their CCI Programs!

COMMUNITY COLLEGE INITIATIVE PROGRAM APPLICATION CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

CERTIFICATION: I certify that I completed this application myself, that the information given in this application is complete and accurate, and that I have carefully read and understand it. I also certify that I meet eligibility requirements.

I understand that program administrators reserve the right to verify all the information listed in the application. I understand that giving false or misleading information in the application will eliminate me from the competition or cause my dismissal from the Community College Initiative Program.

Also, I acknowledge that I am aware of the following program requirements:

- I must follow all program rules and regulations and observe all the laws of the United States during my stay there.
- At the end of the academic year program, I will return to my home country and fulfill a two-year, home country residency requirement in compliance with the terms of my J-visa. I understand that I may not extend my program dates.
- My spouse, children, other relatives or individuals are not permitted to accompany me to the United States on the program.

All applicants must submit the following documents for an application to be considered complete:

- Application Form: Applicants must provide complete information for all questions. Do not leave a question blank. If it does not apply to you, write “NA” for Not Applicable. Sign and date the application form.
- Essay Questions: Applicants must answer each question. Answers must be the applicant’s own work.
- Secondary School Diploma: A copy of the applicant’s secondary school diploma, with an English translation.
- Transcripts: A copy of applicant’s transcript for most recent year of study completed (high school or undergraduate). The transcript may be in the language of instruction, with an English translation.
- English Test Results, *if available*: Provide official English test score report.
- International Passport, *if available*: Provide a copy of your passport data page. If you do not have an international passport yet, it is highly recommended that you begin the process of applying for a passport (including obtaining any required local documents) as it may take a significant amount of time to receive this document.
- Any country-specific requirements

Signature of applicant

Date (month/day/year)