



The Community College Initiative (CCI) Program is a program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the United States Department of State. The CCI Program provides participants from selected countries with opportunities to build mutual understanding through a non-degree program of academic, vocational and cultural studies.

The scholarship is administered by the Community College Consortium (CCC), a nationwide alliance of community colleges located in California, Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

PROGRAM PURPOSE

The CCI Program provides participants with opportunities to expand on academic skills in specific fields of study, experience U.S. culture and share their culture with U.S. communities. Earning an academic or professional certificate from the host college is dependent on attaining English proficiency as determined by the host college and completing the academic requirements of the host college. CCI participants are expected to maintain a fulltime course of study and participate fully in program-sponsored activities. Participants who successfully complete all components of the program will receive Certificates of Completion from CCC and the U. S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The CCI Program is a rigorous program with opportunities for personal and professional development. Participants in the CCI Program are expected to follow a full-time academic program in their fields of study and to participate fully in all aspects of the CCI Program. The program consists of the following major categories of activities with approximate level of engagement expected for full-time participation:

- **Orientation and arrival program** (40 hours per week for four weeks)
- **Full-time academic coursework at a U.S. accredited community college** (anticipate two hours of homework for every hour spent in class)
- **Individual program plan** (personal time plus meetings with program coordinator)
- **Internship/Practical professional experience** (at least 75 hours in the spring semester)
- **Cultural exchange program to learn about U.S. culture and to share your culture** (Culture Society and Institutions course and individual activities throughout the year)
- **Leadership development, community engagement, and service learning** (at least 125 hours in the fall semester)



AWARD BENEFITS

1. Community College Consortium will provide the following support:

- A round trip international air ticket. *Changes to the ticket or itinerary are not permitted.*
- A monthly maintenance allowance intended to cover food and related living expenses.
- Off-campus housing. You will share a bedroom, a bathroom, and common space that must be kept clean.
- A one-time settling in allowance to cover purchase of linens, towels, small appliances, winter clothing (at applicable host campus locations) and related items.
- A book and educational materials allowance.
- A transportation allowance based on travel distance between place of residence and college.
- The consortium will pay participant tuition and fees directly to the host college.
- Health benefits coverage during the scholarship period will be provided by the Accident and Sickness Program for Exchanges (ASPE) or other insurance in compliance with requirements of the J-visa program of the U.S. Department of State. ASPE coverage does not extend to pre-existing conditions or routine dental care; expenses related to medical care for pre-existing conditions will not be covered.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

2. The CCI Program combines individual activities as well as campus- and program-wide scheduled activities. The college-based project coordinator and each participant will design an individual program which will include the following:

- An individual program plan,
- Professional development training and a practical unpaid internship/professional experience,
- Community engagement and service, and
- A cultural learning and cultural sharing program.