# Community College Initiative (CCI) Program

*Scholarship awards for the 2014-2015 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 aims to foster mutual understanding between the citizens of the United States and the citizens of participating CCI countries. The CCI Program provides participants with a non-degree, academic-year 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. The program also provides opportunities for professional internships, service learning, and community engagement. The CCI Program is sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State.

Eligible fields of study for the 2014-2015 CCI Program include agriculture, applied engineering, business management and administration, early childhood education, information technology, media, public safety, and tourism and hospitality management. Participants may earn an academic certificate in their field of study and gain first-hand practical experience through internships. After completing the program, participants return home with enhanced skills and expertise to help them contribute to the economic growth and development of their countries.

Since the program's inception in 2007, more than 2,100 students from 20 countries have received scholarships for study at community colleges throughout the United States.

The CCI Program demonstrates U.S. commitment to increasing access to higher education for underserved international students from selected countries and utilizes 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 training, and Associate degrees. There are 1,132 public, independent and tribal community colleges across the United States. Community colleges are sometimes referred to as technical colleges or junior colleges.

## Fields of Study Summary

Participants will work with their Program Coordinators at each host college to develop an individual development plan in their field of study. Courses and programs of study vary by individual colleges. Participants need to develop their goals broadly within these fields of study. Through the application, participants are asked to describe their specific areas of interest, related experience, and long-term goals.

The CCI Program offers the following fields of study.

*Agriculture*

Agriculture students learn how to use general principles of agricultural research and production to approach practical agricultural problems. These problems could range from soil conservation and animal husbandry to plant cultivation and business management. Potential subjects that students may explore include agriculture business, animal science, farm management, feed and fertilizer marketing, or sustainable agriculture.

*Applied Engineering*
Applied engineering students learn theoretical and applied skills in a technical field. Some programs are designed to train technicians in fundamental skills for a trade and other programs delve into technical background, system design, equipment troubleshooting, and technology and management issues within a technical field. Potential subjects that students may explore include automotive manufacturing technology, construction management, electronics, energy management, engineering tech, heating ventilation and air conditioning, manufacturing maintenance, and welding.

*Business Management and Administration*
Business managers typically plan, organize, direct, and oversee operations and employers. They may supervise a company or a department or territory within a company's operations; they may seek to start up a business of their own; or they may seek to improve an existing small-scale family enterprise. Exact duties vary depending on the type of business, the company, field, and industry. Potential subjects that students may explore include accounting, banking and finance, bookkeeping, business technology, customer service, energy and sustainability, entrepreneurship, financial management, human resources, international business, leadership development, marketing, project management, office administration, sales, small business management, and supply chain management.

*Early Childhood Education*
Early childhood education programs combine classroom instruction with supervised, hands-on experience to prepare students for early childhood education and care positions. The programs focus on early childhood development and curriculum development. Potential subjects that students may explore include early childhood development, infant and toddler care specialization, school-age specialization, family childcare specialization, and paraprofessional teacher assistant.

*Information Technology (IT)*
IT studies focus on how information and computing systems support business, research, and communications needs. Instruction ranges from the basics of computer hardware to the complex relationship between humans and computers. Potential subjects that students may explore include Cisco, commercial art tech, computer animation, computer forensics, Computer Information System (CIS), computer support specialist, data recovery, database, digital media, E-commerce, help desk, GIS, multimedia, mobile application development, networking, programming, web analysis and design.

*Media*
Students in media studies examine content, production, and effects of various media. Potential subjects that students may explore include advertising, computer animation, desktop publishing, digital media, film making, graphic design, public relations, social media, television, visual communication.

*Public Safety*
Programs in public safety focus on the technical and logistical issues facing emergency management professionals and the importance of planning and response as they relate to emergency management. Fire science programs in particular are concerned with the science of firefighting and fire prevention as well as the safety and hazards associated with fires. Potential subjects that students may explore include fire science, emergency management, continuity of operations, critical incident management, and disaster management and response.

*Tourism and Hospitality Management*
Tourism focuses on the range of businesses that serve the needs of travelers, such as tourism planners, marketers, and service suppliers. Hospitality management covers the study of hotel management and operations, restaurants and institutional food service facilities, culinary arts, customer service, and conference, meeting and event management.

**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 the program start date.
- 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 in the fields of study offered.
- Has basic working knowledge of English language as demonstrated by a minimum TOEFL score of 400. (Note: To pursue 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.)
- Has limited or no overseas study experience. Nominees with no prior overseas study or travel to the U.S. 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 physically able and willing 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 their home country after completion of the program and satisfying the J-visa two-year residency requirement.
- Is able to begin the academic exchange program in the U.S. in July or August 2014.

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 U.S.
- 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 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 vetted by a panel of exchange program specialists. Competitive applicants will be interviewed in their home country by a nomination committee. All applicants will be notified of their status on a rolling basis from spring to summer 2014.

The nomination committee will use the following criteria to evaluate applications (not necessarily 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 their home countries after completion of the program to fulfill a two-year home residency requirement.
- Preference will be given to those applicants who have no prior experience outside their home countries.
- Preference will be given to those 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.

**General Application Instructions**

- Submit a completed original application with signature on the last page.
- 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) 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.
- Hand written 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 and incidental expenses.
- Limited Accident and Sickness coverage.
- A variety of personal and professional development activities.

# COMMUNITY COLLEGE INITIATIVE PROGRAM
# STUDENT APPLICATION 2014-2015

## Personal Information

**Name of applicant**

| SURNAME | FIRST | MIDDLE |
|---|---|---|
| | | |

**Home Address**:
Street and number:

City:
State/province:
Postal code:
Country:

**Home Phone:**

**Mobile Phone:**

**E-mail:**

**Gender:**
Male
Female

**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, what is the course of study you are pursuing?

Are you enrolled in a degree program? Yes No
Please list the name of the degree:

How many years toward the degree have you completed?

Name of college/institution where you are enrolled:

Date you anticipate completing your degree:

**What is the highest educational degree you have completed?** Please list the degree and the number of years of postsecondary of study.

**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:

**Your proposed Field of Study to pursue during the Community College Initiative program (check one):**

- Agriculture
- Applied Engineering
- Business Management and Administration
- Early Childhood Education
- Information Technology
- Media
- Public Safety
- Tourism and Hospitality Management

**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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
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**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

**List Educational Institutions. Please list educational institutions 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) | Date Received |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

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

| Position | Date From: | Date To: | Responsibilities |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

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

| Country | Dates | Purpose |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
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**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 (List contacts in your country and in the United States.) | Indicate relationship to you (father, mother, friend, etc.) | Languages this person speaks |
|---|---|---|---|
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## Essays

**Essay #1:** Within your proposed field of study, please describe your specific area of interest and your related experience. How would this program relate to, and build on, your past education, training, and/or experience?

**Essay #2:** Please describe your future professional and personal goals. How would this program help you to achieve these goals?

**Essay #3:** Please describe a problem or challenging situation in your educational, professional, or personal life and describe how you resolved it.

**Essay #4:**
If you participate in this program, how do you think your contributions to your community will be different in five years?

**Essay #5:**
a.) What part of U.S. culture are you eager to experience? Why?
b.) What would you like to share about your country and its culture with the people you meet who may have limited knowledge about it?

**Essay #6:**
What do you think will be most difficult about being away from your home for a year? What steps will you take to overcome these difficulties?

## 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 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 year program, I will return to my home country and fulfill a two-year, home country residency requirement for a J visa. I understand that I may not extend my stay in the United States.

_____ _____

Signature of applicant Date (month/day/year)