



CIEE Access Scholarship

For the 2016 J1 Summer Work Travel (SWT) season, CIEE (Council on International Educational Exchange) is delighted to once again offer the Access Scholarship program for students who would not otherwise be able to participate on the program.

CIEE sponsors the U.S. Department of State Summer Work Travel program as CIEE's Work & Travel USA. This program offers an opportunity for students to immerse themselves in American culture by living and working in a U.S. community during the summer university breaks of their degree programs in their home country.

Students can expect to undertake casual work in a seasonal environment that varies in sites from U.S. National Parks, mountain and beach resorts areas to popular amusement and theme parks in a variety of U.S. states. Job types also vary from front desk clerk, sales associate, server, host, ride attendant and resort worker. CIEE works to match student university break dates with employer work dates and job types with student interest and English proficiency. The stronger a student's English skills, the wider the variety of positions that the student will be eligible for.

In order to be eligible for the SWT program students at a minimum must:

- Be between 18 and 30 years old
- Be registered as a full-time student at a university or other institution of post-secondary education
 - The degree/diploma course in which students are registered must be at least two years in duration. Students in post-graduate course that are less than two years (i.e. masters courses), are also eligible
- Be able to successfully interact in an English-speaking environment, have sufficient English proficiency to navigate daily life, read and comprehend materials, and know how to obtain assistance when necessary
- Demonstrate an interest in engaging with U.S. culture and communities

Above and beyond these minimum requirements, CIEE is seeking candidates that are eager to develop their roles as global citizens for the Access Scholarship Program. Applicants from underrepresented populations or socioeconomic status where a scholarship enables participation are highly encouraged. We look to your local student expertise to identify strong candidates who will benefit from the experience.

CIEE Work & Travel USA program includes visa sponsorship, pre-departure orientation information, student in-country support, required phone SEVIS registration for students upon arrival and at a minimum, monthly contact to ensure student safety and program satisfaction. Students have 24/7 emergency phone line support to reach out to CIEE during their programs and travel insurance coverage.

Access Scholarship students will also have specific support contacts at CIEE during their program and housing support through their U.S. host employer.



CIEE Access Scholarships include:

- CIEE Work and Travel USA program fee
- Job placement fee
- Travel insurance
- Required SEVIS U.S. immigration fee
- U.S. visa application fee
- Round trip transportation costs to your employment site
- \$500 Settling in allowance to cover travel incidentals and expenses before the first paycheck

Access Scholarship Program Nomination Process

CIEE relies on your expertise to reach out to local, eligible student populations for interested and competitive candidates. In the past, nominating embassies have reached out to English Microscholarship Access Program (Access) Alumni who have had previous experience with U.S. embassy programs and developed English skills. CIEE will share promotional information with you to share with prospective applicants.

The primary objective of Work & Travel USA is to provide a cultural exchange opportunity, rather than a purely academic one. While it does provide an excellent opportunity for students to improve their English skills, students seeking solely academic experiences may not be the strongest fit for the program. Students nominated for Access Scholarships can be high achievers academically, and this program gives them a chance to focus on social and cultural skills to enhance their global perspective.

Interested students will complete the CIEE Scholarship Nomination Form for review by your office. Should you choose, you may require additional documentation to be submitted for your review. We ask that you select 4 candidates as your nominees for the 2016 season.

Once students are nominated, a CIEE panel will review and confirm the final list of scholarship recipients and alternate candidates. CIEE staff will then reach out to scholarship recipients directly to assess their English skills, screen them for program intent, confirm students' university break dates as well as job location and position interests to match them with a U.S. employer. It is critical that students will not miss classes to participate in the program.

CIEE staff will discuss program expectations to ensure that students are prepared to succeed while on the program in the U.S. While students' location and job type preferences will be taken into consideration, candidates should remain flexible in accepting their placement as positions are limited to employer availability.

CIEE employer positions will be detailed in a thorough job profile, containing job duties, pay rate, transportation options, housing information and community location information. Students should familiarize themselves with job profile information and feel confident that they are prepared to succeed and participate in all duties required of their position and commit to an entire summer at that location. Students will then interview for their position with the U.S. employers.



Once students pass their interview and are hired by a U.S. host employer, CIEE will finalize their job placement and process students DS 2019 forms. These forms will be shipped to the local embassy and students will then apply for visa interview appointments. Once students are hired, they will also be in touch with U.S. employers directly to discuss housing and arrival details. Upon receipt of visa approval, CIEE will confirm travel dates with students and arrange travel to the U.S.

CIEE Access Scholarship Timeline

- February: CIEE Scholarship Nomination Forms will be available and shared with your office
- April 1: The deadline to submit student nominations
- Mid-April: CIEE selections will be confirmed
- Mid-April to May: Students will be contacted by CIEE staff for screening and matching with eligible positions. U.S. employer interviews will take place
- April 15: The deadline for students to submit complete CIEE applications and supporting documentation
- May to June: Students apply for visas
- June: Student travel is booked and confirmed and students prepare for arrivals in the U.S.
- September to October: Students are reached out to for program feedback

Cultural Exchange Opportunities

Cultural exchanges are at the forefront of our programs and we offer programming that compliments and expands the cultural focus Work & Travel USA has to offer. We truly believe that we can create meaningful experiences for participants and help them to become engaged global citizens.

Scholarship participants will be encouraged to apply for the [Civic Leadership Summit](#), an opportunity for Work & Travel USA participants the opportunity to attend an all expenses-paid conference in Washington, DC during their program. Selected Fellows participate in events and activities focusing on intercultural awareness, civics, and social entrepreneurship. Our goal is to help participants learn more about the U.S. and empower them to become leaders and Changemakers in their home countries and communities upon their return from the program.

CIEE also offers [Connect USA](#), a series of nearly 40 regional events hosted across the country. Scholarship students will receive invitations and will be encouraged to participate in these local events, focused on increasing intercultural awareness near their employer sites. Each month all CIEE Work & Travel USA participants receive [Culture Guide USA](#) newsletters that provide information on local attractions in addition to customized *Top 10 Things to Do* e-mails. We want to provide Scholarship and all of our Work & Travel USA participants the encouragement necessary to experience the summer of a lifetime and learn as much as possible about life in the U.S.