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| **Applying for the Light Fellowship** There are two competitions each academic year. The Early Fall (EF) Competition is for funding Spring 2020 term-time study only. The Late Fall (LF) Competition is for funding study abroad for Summer '20, Fall '20, and the 2020-21 Academic Year. |
| **1.** | **Attend a mandatory Light Fellowship information session:**  | **Timing** |
| □ | ***Early Fall Competition****:* You must attend one of the first two sessions (Sept 6/11)***Late Fall Competition****:* You must attend one of nine sessions (last one Nov 22) | EF: **Early Sept**LF: **Sept-Nov** |
| **2.** | **Review our eligibility requirements:** <https://light.yale.edu/apply/eligibility> | Before applying |
| □ | ***Student Status:*** You are a registered and enrolled Yale undergraduate, master’s degree student, or professional school student -OR- you are a Ph.D. student who would complete your language study prior to submitting my prospectus.  |  |
| □ | ***Language Study:*** You have completed or are in the process of completing at least one semester of language class at Yale in your target language(s). |  |
| □ | ***Language Study:*** By the time you would be abroad, you will have completed one year of language study at Yale or an equivalent program in your target language(s).  |  |
| □ | ***Multiple Languages:*** If you are applying for Light funding for multiple languages, you have satisfied the language study requirements above for each language. |  |
| □ | ***Term of Study:*** If you are a first-year Yale College student, you are only eligible to apply for summer study. You can apply again later for a longer term. |  |
| □ | ***Former Light Fellows****:* You completed all prior reporting requirements and attended an info session this academic year. You understand that Light funding is typically not granted to any student for more than four terms. |  |
| **3.** | **Start an application through the Yale Student Grants Database (SGD):** | ASAP |
| □ | Start an application as soon as possible so you can see what application materials you need to prepare. **Starting an application does not obligate you to complete the application process:** <https://light.yale.edu/apply/application-process> | EF: By 1:00 PM **Sept 17**LF: By 1:00 PM **Dec 13** |
| **4.** | **(Optional) Meet with Light Fellowship Staff:** |  |
| □ | If you still have questions, read our FAQs (<http://light.yale.edu/faqs>), email us (light.fellowship@yale.edu), come to drop-in hours on Fridays from 2-4 PM or make an appointment: <https://light.yale.edu/about/request-appointment>  | After attending an info session |
| **5.** | **Complete your application:** |  |
| □ | **Language Evaluation**: Review evaluation form to understand scoring criteria***Early Fall Competition****:* Download the language evaluation from SGD, complete the top portion electronically, and provide a copy to your current or most recent language instructor as soon as possible.***Late Fall Competition****:* Download the language evaluation from SGD, complete the top portion electronically, and upload the file to the Box folder according to the instructions on SGD by 1:00 PM 12/13. ***Chinese & Japanese Fellows*** must also choose the programs you want us to submit your language evaluation to by 12/13. | EF: Eval completed by 1:00 PM **Sept 17**LF: Upload form & choose C/J programs by 1:00 PM **Dec 13** |
| □ | **Recommendation**: You must request and submit one recommendation from a Yale faculty member with whom you have taken a non-language class. Review the recommender form questions and detailed requirements in SGD.  | Letter received byEF: 1:00 PM **Sept 24**LF: 1:00 PM **Jan 8** |
| □ | **Personal Statement**: Review and submit the personal statement form in SGD. Read blogs and program reports and talk to former Fellows, Light Fellowship staff, and language instructors to help you answer each question clearly and thoroughly.  | Complete and submit:EF: By 1:00 PM **Oct 1**LF: By 1:00 PM **Jan 14** |
| □ | **Transcripts**: Upload to SGD an unofficial copy of your most recent Yale transcript and (for transfer and grad/prof students) an unofficial transcript from your previous undergrad institution. **Late Fall**: Yale transcripts must include all fall term grades. | EF: By 1:00 PM **Oct 1**LF: By 1:00 PM **Jan 14** |
| □ | **Application**: All sections of the application in the Student Grants Database must be completed to 100%. **Press the “Submit” button!** | EF: By 1:00 PM **Oct 2**LF: By 1:00 PM **Jan 15** |
| **6.** | **Apply to language programs:** You must separately apply to and be admitted into one or more programs at the Approved Sites Abroad of your choice. | EF: Now-NovLF: Jan-March |
| □ | Think about your academic and personal goals, decide what term you want to study abroad, explore programs on the Light Fellowship website, read blogs and final program reports, and download “Guide to Choosing and Applying to Approved Sites Abroad”: [https://light.yale.edu/apply/application-process#toc6](https://light.yale.edu/apply/application-process%23toc6) | ASAP – this process is integral to writing a strong personal statement |
| □ | Carefully review the page for each Approved Site Abroad for any specific notes or requirements: <http://light.yale.edu/approved-sites-abroad> | Before applying to the language program |
| □ | Learn more about the programs, application timeline, and required materials on each program’s website. Reach out to the programs directly with any questions. | ASAP – some summer deadlines in January |
| □ | Connect with former Fellows and attend events hosted by the Student Advisory Committee: <https://light.yale.edu/about/student-advisory-committee> | Throughout fall semester |
| □ | Let your language evaluator and recommenders know which programs you plan on applying to that will require additional recommendations or evaluations. | ASAP |
| □ | Apply to your top choice program and consider one backup. If you receive the Light, you will be reimbursed for application fees to the program(s) you choose to attend. | EF: Now-NovLF: Jan-March |
| □ | If you are admitted to a program before Light awards are announced, it is up to you to secure your spot in advance (risk losing deposit) or to request an extension from your program directly. If you receive Light, you will pay any deposit or tuition directly and be reimbursed by your award check in late Nov (EF)/April (LF). | EF: Before NovemberLF: Before early February |
| **7.**□ | **(Optional) Apply for Study Abroad credit:** Studying abroad for credit is not required. However, if you want to receive credit for your time abroad, you must separately apply for credit: <https://studyabroad.yale.edu/apply>. If you have questions, make an appointment: [http://studyabroad.yale.edu/advising-liu](http://studyabroad.yale.edu/advising-lin) | Spring: By Oct 15Summer: By Mar 1Fall/Year: By Apr 1  |
| **8.** | **(Recommended) Apply to backup options:** The Light Fellowship is a competitive award. We encourage you to make backup summer and post-graduate plans. | Concurrent with Light application |
| □ | Apply for Int’l Summer Award to fund Light programs if you receive financial aid: <https://funding.yale.edu/other-funding/international-summer-award-isa> | Apply for credit by Mar 1; apply for ISA by May 1 |
| □ | Apply to other opportunities to study abroad, do research, or work in East Asia: [https://light.yale.edu/resources/other-opportunities](https://light.yale.edu/resources/other-opportunities%20)  | Concurrent with Light application |
| □ | Apply to Yale College Postgraduate Fellowships, CIPE Summer Fellowships, or CIPE Summer Research Fellowships: <http://funding.yale.edu>  | Postgrad: 1:00 PM Feb 5Summer: 1:00 PM Feb 12Sum Res: 1:00 PM Feb 19 |

For more information and guidance on these steps, please visit our website (<http://light.yale.edu>), start an application, and carefully review each section of the application in SGD.