Summer 2014, Fall 2014, and/or Spring 2015

www.borenawards.org

Important Dates in 2013-14:

Monday, January 13
Campus deadline: application completed on line;
supporting materials due at the OCS Office, Leighton
119, ext. 4332

Weeks of January 20
January 27
Campus interviews for all applicants

Wednesday, February 5
All application materials due in Washington, D.C.

May 2014
NSEP award announcements made

Essential NSEP Scholarship Information:
1. This is a merit-based scholarship program, which is highly competitive. The nominating
panel is looking for thorough academic preparation, a focused and integrated study abroad
proposal, a strong language component, and a high level of maturity.

2. There is a service obligation attached to the scholarship. In exchange for the scholarship, you
must make a commitment to working in the federal government for a minimum of one year
within three years of graduation. The Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, and State, or
any element of the Intelligence Community are priority agencies. If an award recipient
demonstrates to NSEP that no appropriate position is available in one of these agencies, the award
recipient must seek to fulfill the requirement in a position with national security responsibilities in
any Federal department or agency. For more details, go to:
www.borenawards.org/boren_scholars_service.html

3. Applicants have to be U.S. citizens at the time of application. They are encouraged to pursue
study in languages and cultures critical to U.S. national security, as specified on the Web site:
www.borenawards.org/boren_scholarship/basics.html

4. Once the applicants have been chosen, the amount of the award is based on financial need.
The minimum award is round-trip international airfare and insurance. The maximum award is
$8,000 for a summer program (special initiative for STEM students only; 8 weeks minimum),
$10,000 for a semester, $20,000 for an academic year. Finalists will be notified in May 2014 of
their award; they must notify the Carleton Student Financial Services Office of the award
amount.

5. This is a federally funded program which contracts with the Institute for International
Education (IIE) for the application review service. All applications must be submitted on line at
www.borenawards.org. All supporting documents (transcripts, 2-3 references, one page study
abroad program description, and the required language self-assessment form) must be submitted
as hard copies to the OCS office, Leighton 119, by the January 13 deadline.
6. **Hot tips** directly from Boren representative:

- **Language** is a required component of any NSEP program. You must demonstrate a commitment to language study and quantify the number of hours of language study in and outside the classroom.

- You should carefully read all information on the NSEP Web site before you begin completing the application and the statement of purpose essay in particular.

- The **statement of purpose** is "the most critical part of the application," according to NSEP. See Carleton students' comments below. The selection panels are looking for focus, realistic plans, and integration of the study abroad experience with your academic goals and your long-term career goals. Broad, grandiose statements will not cut it. Know your program, know your personal strengths and experiences, which fit that program, be specific about how you will apply your study abroad experience to your ongoing Carleton education and to possible career directions or opportunities.

- The **Write Place and OCS Advisors** will help you edit your essays. Don't be bashful! - use these resources to improve your essays before the Jan. 13, 2014 campus deadline.

- NSEP encourages students to **study abroad for as long a time as possible**. Juniors and seniors must apply for a semester or yearlong program. NSEP understands that a year is not always possible, particularly among the under-represented fields such as sciences. Explain in your essay why a semester is the maximum amount of time available, if a year is not.

- Quite a few Carleton students have been awarded NSEP scholarships. In response to our question about what they thought the **crucial factor(s) in the final decision** were, they said:

  "Need to answer all questions very carefully. Read the NSEP info many times. Put a lot of effort into my replies. No spelling errors (hopefully). I tried to describe who I am."

  "China is clearly an interest to our government - combining that with a solid background from a solid school and an optimistic essay probably locked it up."

  "I think it was crucial that I stressed how I was planning on incorporating language skills into my research. My enthusiasm to learn about a foreign culture I think also strengthened my application."

  "I tried to emphasize my international focus in my essay. I also carefully addressed each of the areas they suggested to write about. "Making it clear what my goals were and how the program would help me achieve my objectives."

  "Good application essay, program in a developing country, good grades, good college."