

## Advice on applying for an Intensive Summer Language Study Grant:

These grants are very competitive – read this advice carefully and take it to heart.

**The Summer Intensive Language Study grant is meant to cover a large percentage of the cost of the program.** Given that the largest grant is \$5,000, you are more likely to be awarded funding if the grant represents a large proportion of your expenses.

### Applying for continuing language study:

**Be sure to outline how you expect summer study will enable your academic/future goals.** You clearly do not have to demonstrate your interest in the language since you have already invested a year in learning it. Be sure to articulate how continuing in the summer will help you achieve your goal. Will the grant enable your plans for studying abroad? Writing a Fulbright application? Applying for graduate study or employment abroad? How will you use your increased language facility to enrich your Smith experience?

The goals you articulate should make use of your language; you will *not* be awarded intensive language study money to help free up time for plans that have nothing to do with the language you are learning.

### Applying for *first-year* intensive language study:

**Be sure to demonstrate in your application how summer language study will figure into your plans both at Smith and beyond Smith.** You may be considered for a grant if you can make a persuasive case that such study is essentially important for your future studies/study abroad/career aspirations. Language study need not be the primary focus of your undergraduate career, but you do need to be very clear about how language study will enable you to pursue whatever subject you are primarily interested in.

**Be sure to articulate how you intend to continue to use the language in your remaining time at Smith inside and outside the classroom.** The more precise you are in describing future plans for continuing language study, the more seriously you will be considered for funding. A student who asks for funding to study the first year of a language and appears not to have any plans to continue study of that language while at Smith is unlikely to receive an award.

**Intensive summer language study grants are *not* awarded for purely personal/familial reasons, for example, reconnecting with family heritage.**

**Intensive Language Study means exactly what it says.** You will *not* be funded for programs that do not involve *intensive* study – which means that most of your time will be spent learning the language. This means it is highly unlikely that you will receive funding for a program that consists of an internship or study of other subjects *in English*.

**Priority is given to those studying non-European languages.**

**Do *not* focus on your financial situation.** You have a very short number of words (500) to make the case for receiving the grant. Use the space to explain how this grant would enable you to pursue intellectual interests at Smith and beyond. Do not focus on your financial situation – many of your fellow applicants will be struggling with the same challenges.