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**APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

**UNITED STATES-TIMOR-LESTE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: 11:59 pm EST, Sunday, November 20, 2022**

***Program Overview:***

The United States-Timor-Leste Scholarship Program (USTL) is funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) at the U.S. Department of State and is administered by the American Councils for International Education in collaboration with the U.S. Embassy in Dili. The USTL Program provides full scholarships to outstanding students from Timor-Leste for two to four years of study at undergraduate institutions in the United States. Two of the three fellows will be placed at community colleges to pursue associate degrees. One fellow will attend a university to earn a bachelor’s degree. Scholarship awards include tuition and academic fees; housing; travel; living stipend; book allowance; medical insurance; and visa costs.

In addition to academic study, the USTL Program provides participants the opportunity to engage in community service and internships related to their professional interests. Participants may apply to pursue a wide range of academic disciplines, including but not limited to agricultural science, business communication, economics, education, environmental science, international relations, political science, psychology, and sociology.

USTL is a merit-based, open competition. Candidates will be considered without respect to race, color, religion, national origin, or gender; persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

***USTL Eligibility Requirements:***

An eligible candidate for the USTL Program:

* + - * Is a citizen, national, or permanent resident qualified to hold a valid passport issued by the government of Timor-Leste;
      * Has completed or is in the process of completing his/her final year of secondary school;
      * May be enrolled in an undergraduate study;
      * Is able to begin the USTL Program in the United States in August 2023;
      * Will be at least 18 years old when the program starts;
      * Is eligible for admission to a U.S. undergraduate degree program or will become eligible upon completion of an ESL program;
      * Is able to receive and maintain a J-1 visa;
      * Is proficient in spoken and written English at the time of application;
      * Is able to demonstrate leadership skills and an interest in cross-cultural understanding;
      * Is committed to returning to his/her home country after completion of the program;
      * Meets any additional requirements of the host institution in the U.S; and
      * Agrees to submit a complete application with all required documents by the application deadline.

Individuals in the following circumstances are NOT eligible for the USTL Program:

* U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the United States;
* Employees of the U.S. Embassy and their immediate family members, for a period of one year following termination of such employment;
* Persons arrested for, charged with, or convicted of a crime (excluding minor traffic violations);
* Candidates in their final year of undergraduate study and those with bachelor’s degrees, obtained either in Timor-Leste or abroad.

***General Instructions:***

* Application to the USTL Program is a demanding and time-consuming process. To become a successful USTL applicant, you will need to plan ahead, be organized, and utilize all the resources available to you. Submitting a strong application is the first step in the selection process.
* Please answer ALL questions on the application in English. If a question does not apply to you, please write “N/A” (not applicable). Please do NOT leave any spaces blank.
* Include complete and current contact information (including index codes for all addresses and city/country codes for all phone and fax numbers).
* All forms and supporting materials should be typed (if possible) and submitted with the completed application. The application can be completed online at [www.ustlscholarship.org](http://www.ustlscholarship.org) or by hand via the printable PDF version of the application. Handwritten applications must be neatly printed in black ink.
* Please keep a copy of your entire application and supporting materials for your records.
* The USTL Program reserves the right to verify all of the information indicated in your application. In the event that there is a discrepancy or information is found to be false, the application will be declared invalid and ineligible.

**REQUIRED COMPONENTS OF THE APPLICATION:**

**Completed and signed USTL application form**

**Personal statement in English:** Must be 450-550 words, typed.

**Transcripts:** In order to determine which transcripts you are required to provide as part of your application, please closely review the information below:

Applicants who are in their last year of secondary school by the time of the application submission are required to provide:

* A copy of at least 2 years of secondary school transcripts (course list and grades) with an accurate and complete English translation.
* If applicable, copies of transcripts from all institutions (i.e. LELI English courses, certificate programs, etc.) attended by applicants with an accurate and complete English translation.

Applicants who have completed secondary school by the time of application submission are required to provide:

* A copy of their original secondary school diploma and leaving exam results with an accurate and complete English translation.
* If applicable, copies of transcripts from all institutions (i.e. LELI English courses, certificate programs, etc.) attended by applicants with an accurate and complete English translation.

Applicants who have completed secondary school and are in their first year of studies at a university by the time of application submission are required to provide:

* A copy of their original secondary school diploma and leaving exam results with an accurate and complete English translation.
* If applicable, copies of transcripts from all institutions (i.e. LELI English courses, certificate programs, etc.) attended by applicants with an accurate and complete English translation.

Applicants who are in their second year of studies at a university by the time of application submission are required to provide:

* A copy of their original secondary school diploma and leaving exam results with an accurate and complete English translation.
* A copy of their original first year university transcript with an accurate and complete English translation.
* If applicable, copies of transcripts from all institutions (i.e. LELI English courses, certificate programs, etc.) attended by applicants with an accurate and complete English translation.

Applicants who are in their third year of studies at a university by the time of application submission are required to provide:

* A copy of their original first- and second-year university transcripts with an accurate and complete English translation.
* If applicable, copies of transcripts from all institutions (i.e. LELI English courses, certificate programs, etc.) attended by applicants with an accurate and complete English translation.

**Certified English translations of transcripts if originals are in a language other than English:** An example of an acceptable certified translation includes a notarized copy of the translation or a translation copy signed and dated by the translator on the institutional letterhead. Translations by applicants themselves will not be accepted and will result in disqualifying an application from the competition.

**Two letters of recommendation**: As part of your application, you are required to submit two letters of recommendation in English. Please review guidance on letters of recommendation on page 10 of the application. Please attach letters them to the application at the time of submission. Both letters must be signed and printed on an institutional letterhead. If an institutional letterhead is not available, a stamp will suffice. Please note that each letter must be no more than one page long.

**Certified English translation of the letters of recommendation:** If a non-English letter of recommendation is provided, you must also submit a certified English translation. An example of an acceptable certified translation includes a notarized copy of the translation or a translation copy signed and dated by the translator on the institutional letterhead. Translations by applicants themselves will not be accepted and will result in disqualifying an application from the competition.

**A copy of a biographical page of the passport:** If a passport copy is not available at the time of the application, please include a copy of another government-issued identification.

**A copy of a valid TOEFL/IELTS score report, if applicable.**

**Please note that application forms and supporting materials will not be returned to applicants*.***

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**APPLICATION**

**UNITED STATES-TIMOR-LESTE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

**Personal Information**

**Biographical Information**

**Name**: Please include your full, legal first name and family name (surname) as spelled on your passport. If your middle name is included as part of your first name in your passport, please write it under the first name in the application as well.

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*(Family Name) (First Name)*

**Date of Birth** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_               \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_          \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_          \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*(Month) (Day) (Year)*

**Gender**  Male  Female

**Marital Status**  Single  Married

**Place of Birth** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_                    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_                    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*(City or Town) (Country)*

**Country of Citizenship** ­­\_\_               \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**In order to respond to required U.S. Government inquiries, please check the box below, on a voluntary basis, if you have the following disabilities (if none, leave blank):**

Hearing Impairment  Speech Impairment  Visual Impairment (*Legally Blind*)  Orthopedic Impairment

Learning Disorder  Other (*Specify*) \_\_\_     \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Information**

**a**. Have you ever been arrested?  Yes  No

If yes, list the date, place and the reason for arrest:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_          \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**b**. Have you ever been expelled from any academic institution?  Yes  No

If yes, list the date, institution, and reason for expulsion:

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**Current Contact Information**

Email \_\_\_          \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Street/Building Number, Apartment Number \_\_\_          \_­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_          \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_          \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Region/District \_\_\_          \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code\_\_\_          \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone \_\_\_     \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Permanent Home Address** (*If Different from Current*)

Street/Building Number, Apartment Number \_\_\_          \_­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_          \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_          \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Region/District \_\_\_          \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code\_\_\_          \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone \_\_\_     \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact Information**

First name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_     \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Street/Building Number, Apartment Number \_\_\_          \_­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City, Region/District \_\_\_          \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_          \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_          \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_ Email \_\_\_          \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Educational Information**

**Past/Current Educational Information:** In the table below, please list all schools, universities, institutes, and special academic programs you have attended or are currently attending, with the most recent listed first. Do not use American equivalents for degrees unless you hold a degree from a U.S. academic institution. Please transliterate names of degrees into English rather than translating them into American equivalents. Please carefully review the section on page 2 and 3 about transcripts, which must be submitted with this application.

**EXAMPLE:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *National University*  *of Timor-Leste* | *English Department* | *August 2006- May 2010* | *Diploma* | *May 2010* |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Institution and City** | **Department/ Major**  *(Main focus of your studies, if applicable***)** | **Dates Attended**  *(Month/Year to Month/Year)* | **Type of Degree** | **Date Degree Received or Expected** |
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**Proposed Field of Study in the U.S:** One objective of the USTL Program is to contribute to the development and prosperity of Timor-Leste, especially in fields such as agricultural science, business, communications, economics, education, environmental science, international relations, political science, psychology, and sociology. Please note that the USTL Program is not able to support enrollment in law schools, medical schools, engineering programs, and nursing programs. If you select a field of study not supported by the USTL Program, your application will be deemed ineligible. In the section below, please indicate one academic field of study you wish to pursue in the United States (what will you study in the U.S.?).

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**Non- Academic Experience**

**Non-Academic Activities**: Please list any non-academic activities, including professional and volunteer activities in which you have participated. The examples include but are not limited to jobs or internships; community service; conferences or workshops; clubs or organizations; sports; or cultural activities. Please outline your role in the activity. Be sure to also include an estimated number of hours per week that you spent on the activity; a start date and an end date; and a clear explanation of the activity you performed for the organization. Please also fully explain the name of the organization and its goals. Please do not submit copies of the certificates reflecting your participation in these activities. If needed, the USTL team members will follow up with you individually to collect the copies.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Institution:  Location: | Supervisor/Contact Person Name:  Supervisor/Contact Person Email: |
| Approximate Hours Per Week: | Start Date (Month/Year): End Date (Month/Year): |
| Activity: Please *describe in detail* the activity your organization/group performed and your contribution. Be sure to note any leadership role that you  played within the organization. | |
| Institution:  Location: | Supervisor/Contact Person Name:  Supervisor/Contact Person Email: |
| Approximate Hours Per Week: | Start Date (Month/Year): End Date (Month/Year): |
| Activity: Please *describe in detail* the activity your organization/group performed and your contribution. Be sure to note any leadership role that you  played within the organization. | |
| Institution:  Location: | Supervisor/Contact Person Name:  Supervisor/Contact Person Email: |
| Approximate Hours Per Week: | Start Date (Month/Year): End Date (Month/Year): |
| Activity: Please *describe in detail* the activity your organization/group performed and your contribution. Be sure to note any leadership role that you  played within the organization. | |
| Institution:  Location: | Supervisor/Contact Person Name:  Supervisor/Contact Person Email: |
| Approximate Hours Per Week: | Start Date (Month/Year): End Date (Month/Year): |
| Activity: Please *describe in detail* the activity your organization/group performed and your contribution. Be sure to note any leadership role that you  played within the organization. | |
| Institution:  Location: | Supervisor/Contact Person Name:  Supervisor/Contact Person Email: |
| Approximate Hours Per Week: | Start Date (Month/Year): End Date (Month/Year): |
| Activity: Please *describe in detail* the activity your organization/group performed and your contribution. Be sure to note any leadership role that you  played within the organization. | |
| Institution:  Location: | Supervisor/Contact Person Name:  Supervisor/Contact Person Email: |
| Approximate Hours Per Week: | Start Date (Month/Year): End Date (Month/Year): |
| Activity: Please *describe in detail* the activity your organization/group performed and your contribution. Be sure to note any leadership role that you  played within the organization. | |
| Institution:  Location: | Supervisor/Contact Person Name:  Supervisor/Contact Person Email: |
| Approximate Hours Per Week: | Start Date (Month/Year): End Date (Month/Year): |
| Activity: Please *describe in detail* the activity your organization/group performed and your contribution. Be sure to note any leadership role that you  played within the organization. | |
| Institution:  Location: | Supervisor/Contact Person Name:  Supervisor/Contact Person Email: |
| Approximate Hours Per Week: | Start Date (Month/Year): End Date (Month/Year): |
| Activity: Please *describe in detail* the activity your organization/group performed and your contribution. Be sure to note any leadership role that you  played within the organization. | |

**Scholarships, Awards and Honors:** Please list any scholarships, awards, and honors you have received. Please list all scholarships, awards, and honors you have received. Please include the date of your award and its purpose. For example, if you received a micro-scholarship award to study English, you should list it here. Be sure to explain the scholarship or award so that readers unfamiliar with Timor-Leste understand its importance. Please do not submit the copies of the award certificates. If needed, the USTL Team members will follow up with you individually to collect the copies.

     \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Date (Month/Year) Award/Honor Organization/Purpose*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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*Date (Month/Year) Award/Honor Organization/ Purpose*

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*Date (Month/Year) Award/Honor Organization/ Purpose*

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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*Date (Month/Year) Award/Honor Organization/ Purpose*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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*Date (Month/Year) Award/Honor Organization/ Purpose*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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*Date (Month/Year) Award/Honor Organization/ Purpose*

**International Experience:** If you have received a J-1 Visa in the past, please list it here, including the dates that you were in the United States. If you were in the United States on a government-sponsored exchange program, please explain that in this section as well.

Previous visa Information

**b**. Have you ever received a U.S. J-1 Visa?  Yes  No

If yes, list dates showing the exact duration of your stay in the United States on a J-1 Visa (month-day-year – month-day-year).

\_\_\_\_          \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**a.** Have you previously traveled on a U.S. Government-sponsored or other U.S. Exchange Program?  Yes  No

If yes, please complete the following:

Name of Program \_\_\_          \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date(s) \_\_\_          \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Location in the U.S. \_\_\_\_\_\_          \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_          \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*(City) (State)*

**Language Ability**

What is your native language? \_\_     \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a self-assessment of your knowledge of the foreign languages you choose to include in this section using “Excellent,” “Good,” or “Fair” to describe your ability.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Language** | **Reading Ability** | **Writing Ability** | **Speaking Ability** |
|  |  |  |  |
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**Passport Information**

Do you have an internationally recognized passport?  Yes  No

If yes, please complete the following:

Spell your name exactly as it appears in your passport:

\_                      \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*(Family Name) (First Name)*

Country of issuance \_\_\_          \_\_\_Passport Number \_\_\_          \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_          \_\_\_\_\_

If selected for the program, do you intend to travel to the U.S. on this passport?  Yes  No

*Per non-immigrant visa regulations, visitors traveling to the United States are required to be in possession of passports that are valid for six months beyond the period of their intended stay in the United States. If you are selected as a finalist and if your passport expires during your intended stay in the U.S., you will be asked to apply for a new one immediately at your own cost. If you do not currently have an international passport and are selected as a finalist to the USTL Program, you will be responsible for acquiring one prior to your visa interview. If a passport copy is not available at the time of the application, please include a copy of another government-issued identification.*

**Tests/Recruitment**

**IELTS and TOEFL Testing:**

If you have previously completed an English proficiency test (IELTS or TOEFL), please include a copy of the test results with your application as well as date and test location.

IELTS Score\_     \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date (mm-dd-yyyy) \_     \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Location \_     \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

TOEFL Score\_     \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date (mm-dd-yyyy) \_     \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Location \_     \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Recruitment Information**

How did you learn about the USTL Program?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Essay Question/Personal Statement –** The personal statement is an essential part of the application and the selection process. The length of the essay is limited to a total of 450 - 550 words. The essay must be typed on separate a separate sheet of paper and attached to the application. Essays exceeding the allowable word limit will be deemed ineligible. In your essay, please highlight the following topics. These should all be discussed in ONE ESSAY.

* **Your interests and personality:** What makes you unique, and why do your personal qualities make you particularly qualified to succeed as a USTL finalist?
* **Your academic background and objectives:** How has your academic background prepared you to succeed as a student of higher education in the United States and what academic goals do you have for the USTL Program?
* **Your goals related to your field of study and personal development:** What interests you specifically about your proposed field of study and what do you hope to accomplish in the future?
* **Your reasons for applying to the USTL Program and how it relates to your interests and future objectives**: What specifically do you wish to gain through studying and living in the U.S.? What do you believe will be the greatest benefits to you personally? How do your goals for the program specifically relate to your long-term professional plans?

**Recommendation Letters** Identify two (2) individuals who will be writing letters of recommendation on your behalf. Letters of recommendation may be written by your academic advisor, teacher, professor, department head, or other officials familiar with your academic background. You may also submit letters from individuals who know you through extracurricular activities such as conferences, community service, and/or workshops. We encourage you to ensure that at least one letter of recommendation comes from your academic institution. Both letters may also come from an academic institution. You may not submit letters of recommendation written by family members and friends.

The recommendation letter should address your personal qualities, academic abilities and background, personal interests, and overall character. It should highlight your overall preparedness to benefit from a study abroad opportunity in the United States. Letters should also indicate in what capacity and for how long the writer has known you.

As noted in the instructions, if your letters of recommendation are written in a language other than English, they must be accompanied by a certified English translation. Please refer to instructions for more details.

**1**. Recommender’s Name (1) \_\_\_          \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_          \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_          \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_     \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_     \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**2**. Recommender’s Name (2) \_\_\_          \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_          \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_          \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_     \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_     \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE**

By providing my signature, I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the information provided in my application is accurate and complete, and that I intend to return to my home country upon completion of my studies in the United States.

Signature: \_\_\_          \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date (mm-dd-yyyy): \_\_          \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**COMPLETE APPLICATION CHECKLIST**

Before submitting your application, please be sure you have included all of the following **required** components. If any of the required documents are missing, your application will be deemed ineligible.

Completed, signed USTL application form

Personal statement in English

Copies of official transcript(s)

Certified English translations of transcripts if originals are in a language other than English

Two letters of recommendation

Certified English translations of the letters of recommendation if originals are in a language other than English

A copy of applicant’s biographical page of the passport or government-issued identification

A copy of TOEFL/IELTS exam results (if applicable)

**Application Deadline: 11:59 pm EST, November 20, 2022**

For more information on the USTL Program, please write to us at:

[USTLscholarship@americancouncils.org](mailto:USTLscholarship@americancouncils.org)

Or contact:

Leopoldo Gusmao

Public Affairs Office

Email: [USTLScholarship@state.gov](mailto:USTLScholarship@state.gov)

Telephone: 3302435

**A copy of your completed application may either be scanned and emailed to** [**ustlscholarship@americancouncils.org**](mailto:ustlscholarship@americancouncils.org) **OR mailed or physically delivered to:**

Leopoldo Gusmao

Public Affairs Section

U.S Embassy Dili

Avenida De Portugal, Rua Praia Dos Coqueiros

Dili, Timor-Leste

**If you choose to email your application, please use the following format in your subject line: “Last Name, First Name\_USTL Application”**