

# SMALL WORLD NEWSLETTER

International Studies • The Ohio State University • 33 Townshend Hall • 1885 Neil Avenue • Columbus, OH • 43210-1222 • USA  
Phone: 614-292-9657 • <http://internationalstudies.osu.edu/>

JULY 2019

## Critical Language Scholarship



**Kaitlin Acton**, a Spring 2019 graduate of International Studies, has been selected to receive a Critical Language Scholarship to study intensive Korean in South Korea for summer 2019.

**Kaitlin Acton**, a Spring 2019 graduate of International Studies, has been selected to receive a Critical Language Scholarship to study intensive Korean in South Korea for summer 2019. Kaitlin, who also finished a major in Korean, will be spending two months in Gwangju, Korea studying at Chonnam University. Below is her essay, which details the significance of this experience and award.

"Ever since I was a small girl, my passion for education and academia was surprisingly strong. Given that none of my immediate family members had this zeal for education, it was an unlikely situation. My mother dropped out of high school at the age of 17 when she became pregnant with me and my



father never felt inspired enough to make it past the first semester of community college. This was not a rare sight in our family and the struggle brought on by our lower socio-economic status is what inspired me most. If nothing else, I could control my education. Growing up, I loved studying and learning new things. While all of my friends would play games all day, I would be perfectly content amidst a pile of books and papers in the middle of my bedroom floor.

This love for learning only increased as I entered university. The deeper I got into my Korean and East Asian Studies majors, the more I fell in love with my field. I especially loved relaying knowledge about East Asia to others. I learned that the greatest joy is not in learning and taking knowledge, but in helping someone else learn and giving knowledge. From that moment on I decided I wanted to make an impact on my field by becoming a researcher and educator of East

Asian Studies. After years of debating on foreign language interpretation or Foreign Service and never feeling like either of those were my calling, I finally felt complete.

My goal is to become an expert in the Korean language and East Asian issues so that I can share this knowledge with others. Being able to communicate about these things with Korean people in their language will provide me with a clearer, deeper understanding which I will be able to provide to my future students and fellow colleagues.

In terms of timing, I have studied Korean for nearly four years now and I am at a critical point in my journey with the language. It is time to take my skills to the next level and obtain fluency before going to receive my doctoral degree. Given that I am on the cusp of graduating with a Bachelor's Degree, I need to keep the momentum toward fluency going. In order to broaden my understanding of Korean society, I will explore areas of Korea outside of the metropolis of Seoul.

The CLS program offers an intensive language environment in a place other than Seoul. In order to achieve my goals quickly and efficiently, there is no better option than this program. There are far less women from the southern or Appalachian regions of America focused on Korea and even fewer people and scholars focused on gender and sexuality issues in Korea. I am a critical asset to infant research prospects and interests in Korean studies. I am a future female professor inspired to revolutionize Korean studies."

# Critical Language & Boren Scholarship



Natalie Antonik, a third-year International Studies major, has been selected to receive not only a Critical Language Scholarship but also a Boren Scholarship to study intensive Indonesian for summer 2019.

**Natalie Antonik**, a third-year International Studies major, has been selected to receive not only a Critical Language Scholarship but also a Boren Scholarship to study intensive Indonesian for summer 2019. Natalie, also majoring in Japanese and minoring in East Asian Studies, will be spending two months in Malang, Indonesia studying a year's worth of intensive Indonesian language. Below is her essay, which details her commitment to language study as well as the significance of this experience and award:

"My interest in Indonesian began in high school when I discovered Indonesian pop music. Now that I'm in college, I'm pursuing my interest in Indonesian through my major in International Studies and minor in East Asian Studies. I'm interested in East Asian geopolitics and security issues, US-Indonesia relations, and Indonesia's role in the economic development of Southeast Asia. I want to learn Indonesian because there aren't many Americans who speak Indonesian. As Indonesia becomes more influential in the global context, there need to be more Americans who can speak the language and understand the culture. In order to create effective foreign policy, you need to have a comprehensive understanding of the country's culture and be able to speak the language.

I want to continue studying international

relations and Indonesian in graduate school. I want to become a Foreign Service Officer and use my knowledge of Indonesian and Japanese to create foreign policy regarding Asian-Pacific economic development and security issues. I want to promote cultural diplomacy between the US and Indonesia. I believe if Indonesian pop culture was more accessible and prevalent in the US, Americans would become more fascinated with the country and would want to learn the language. Upon returning from the CLS program, I want to share what I've learned about Indonesian culture with my peers and encourage them to study the language.

I believe my experience with intensive language study will make me a successful participant in the CLS program. This semester I'm taking intensive Japanese which covers one academic year's worth of language study in one semester. I've experienced the stressfulness of intensive language study, but I've also seen how much I've improved in my Japanese. I've become more appreciative of the benefits of intensive language study, which is why learning Indonesian in an intensive setting through the CLS program is something that is necessary for my academic and career goals.

Additionally, my experience with cross-cultural communication will help me develop relationships with the people I meet in Indonesia as well as with my CLS cohort. Last fall, I founded the Language Improvement Track

at my university, which is an English tutoring program that pairs international students who want to improve their English speaking skills and comprehension of American cultural etiquette with native English-speaking students. I created this program because I saw there was a division between international and American students on campus. I listened to international students who said it was difficult for them to make American friends because their English wasn't good enough or they didn't know how to approach them. I wanted to create a fun environment where students from all countries could interact and feel welcomed. Through this program, I learned not only how to teach international students about American culture, but also how to facilitate successful dialogue regarding learning about other peoples' cultures. I'll use what I've learned from the Language Improvement Track to facilitate meaningful conversations with people I meet in Indonesia and discuss cultural differences in a respectful way."