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**Community College Initiative (CCI) Program**

*Scholarship awards for the 2025-2026 Community College Initiative (CCI) Program
are contingent on the appropriation of Federal funding by the United States Congress.*

**Program Overview**

The **Community College Initiative (CCI) Program** provides participants from underserved and underrepresented groups with a one-year non-degree academic program at a U.S. community college. Since the program’s inception in 2007, more than 3,900 participants from 26 countries have received scholarships for study at community colleges throughout the United States. The CCI Program is a program of the U.S. Department of State.

**The CCI Program encourages a holistic learning and exchange experience and focuses on five program pillars: academics, cultural exchange, service learning, internships, and leadership and community impact.** ***All five pillars of the CCI Program are of equal importance****.*

The Program provides participants with a non-degree, academic program at a U.S. community college designed to build participants’ technical skills in applied fields, enhance their leadership capabilities, and strengthen their English language proficiency. It also provides opportunities for professional internships, service learning, and community engagement. After completing the program, participants return home with enhanced skills to help them contribute to the economic development of their countries.

The CCI Program demonstrates U.S. commitment to increasing access to higher education for international students from underrepresented and underserved communities in selected countries and highlights the learning environment offered at U.S. community colleges. The program also builds U.S. community colleges’ efforts to deepen international education partnerships and programming.

Community colleges are predominantly publicly funded, inclusive institutions in local communities that welcome all who desire to learn, regardless of wealth, heritage, or previous academic experience. Community colleges offer individual courses (credit and non-credit), certificate programs, workforce development training, and associate degrees. Associate degree coursework at community colleges is roughly equivalent to that offered in the first two years of a four-year bachelor’s degree program. There are more than 1,100 public, independent, and tribal community colleges across the United States. Community colleges focus on teaching rather than research and work closely with the community and local industry to assess need when developing programming.

**Fields of Study Summary**

The CCI Program offers study in the following fields:

* Agriculture
* Applied Engineering
* Business and Entrepreneurship
* Early Childhood Education
* Information Technology (IT)
* Creative Economy and Media

The CCI Program offerings within these fields of study are limited to specific concentration areas listed on the 2025-2026 CCI fields of study summaries and included as part of this application. *Applicants must select just one field and subfield choice.*

Courses and programs of study vary by individual colleges. All colleges offer introductory classes that would be taken during the first two years of a four-year bachelor’s degree. The CCI Program does not offer advanced field-specific courses. Participants will work with their Program Coordinators at each host college to develop an individual program plan with broad goals within their field of study and concentration area. *In this application, participants should describe their specific areas of interest in their proposed field of study and concentration areas, their related experience, and the how the CCI Program will contribute to their long-term goals.* Participants are applying for the CCI Program and are not applying to a specific academic degree program at a particular institution. Based on their proficiency in English, participants will have access to courses at the CCI community college where they are placed. Participants *may* choose to pursue an academic certificate in their field of study (if eligible) or complete courses that are relevant to their professional goals, which may include courses outside of the chosen field of study or subfield. ***Certificate programs are not available for all programs at all campuses and are contingent upon multiple factors, including the participant’s level of English****.* Participants will combine academic or professional coursework with first-hand practical experiences through internships or service learning that will help them build their professional skills and capacities.

The educational system in the United States may be different from the educational systems in the participants’ home countries. To be successful in U.S. academic courses, participants will need to attend all classes, participate fully, complete assignments on time, and complete additional coursework (such as readings, essays, individual and group projects) during their own time outside of the classroom. It is common practice to have 6-10 hours of homework each week after each 3-hour class.

**CCI Eligibility Requirements**

Competition for the CCI Program is merit-based and open to anyone who:

* Is a citizen, national or permanent resident qualified to hold a valid passport issued by a country participating in the CCI Program.
* Is currently residing in the eligible country.
* Is 18 years or older by July 1, 2025.
* Has successfully earned a secondary school diploma.
* Has *not* completed the equivalent of three years toward a U.S. bachelor’s degree or higher in the field of study the applicant is nominated to pursue. Nominees without substantive post-secondary education will be given placement priority.
* Has demonstrated commitment to the selected field of study through some academic or professional experience. The program aims to identify participants with proven skills or interest and limited professional experience in the fields of study offered.
* Has basic working knowledge of English language as demonstrated by a minimum English Language Proficiency exam score on one of the accepted exams, such as TOEFL and Duolingo. For example, a candidate must submit with their application a minimum TOEFL iBT score of 420 to be eligible.

Note: To enroll in credit-bearing courses in an academic field of study, the applicant must meet the minimum language requirements of the host college—usually 500 on the TOEFL test or equivalent scores on other accepted exams. Participant language skills will be evaluated upon arrival at the host institution. A host campus testing result will be the score used to determine course placements. English language training will be necessary and is available for those who score below the host college’s unique requirements and must have an interest in taking English language classes as an initial primary academic focus; they will have limited access to courses in their field of study until the requisite level is met.

A list of accepted exams and minimum scores is provided to the relevant staff at the Embassy of the United States or Fulbright Commission conducting the recruitment in the applicant’s home country.

* Has limited or no overseas study experience. Nominees with no prior overseas study or travel to the United States will be given placement priority.
* Meets any customized requirements of the home country Embassy/Consulate or Commission.
* Submits a complete original application.
* Is able to receive a U.S. J-1 visa and meet the program conditions to maintain that status.
* Is willing and mentally and physically able (with accommodations as required) to complete the program in its entirety, including activities or travel that may be programmed on any day of the week, possibly including early morning or evening hours.
* Is committed to returning to their home country after completion of the program and satisfying the J-visa two-year residency requirement.
* Is able to begin the academic exchange program in the United States in July 2025.

Note: Everyone who meets the CCI eligibility criteria listed is welcome to apply regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, geographic location, socio-economic status, disability (physical or mental), sexual orientation, or gender identity. Persons with a disability and/ or require special accommodations are strongly encouraged to apply. The application materials and medical forms should provide as accurate, and as detailed, information as possible about any disability or special accommodations. This will facilitate the candidate’s needs being fully understood during the final selection process and to be adequately met by potential U.S. host campuses.

**Ineligibility**

A candidate may be removed from consideration if they do not meet all technical eligibility requirements.

Individuals in the following circumstances are **NOT** eligible for the Community College Initiative Program:

* U.S. citizens.
* Non-U.S. citizens living in the United States.
* Individuals currently participating in academic, training, or research programs in the United States.
* Individuals currently studying, residing, or working outside of the eligible countries.
* Individuals who have participated in an exchange visitor program sponsored or funded by the U.S. government for a period of more than six weeks and who have not fulfilled their two-year home residency requirement by the time of their CCI application.
* Individuals who have applied for U.S. permanent residency.
* Local employees of the U.S. missions abroad who work for the U.S. Department of State and/or the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Employees are also ineligible for one year following the termination of employment.
* Immediate family members (i.e., spouses and children) of U.S. Embassy and Fulbright Commission employees. Family members are also ineligible for one year following the termination of employment.
* Persons arrested for, charged with, or convicted of a crime (excluding minor traffic violations).

Note: Candidates should contact the appropriate Embassy/ Consulate or Commission staff conducting the recruitment process to clarify any uncertainty of eligibility. Embassy/ Consulate or Commission staff may contact the ECA Program Officer.

**Application Review Process and Criteria**

The CCI Program is conducted as a merit-based open competition. After the application deadline, all applications will be reviewed in country for eligibility and assessed by a panel of exchange program specialists. Competitive applicants will be interviewed in their home countries by a nomination committee.

The nomination committee will use the following criteria to evaluate applications (not in order of importance):

* Demonstrated interest and professional goals in the field of study applicant wishes to pursue.
* Full commitment and emotional readiness to participate in all components of an intensive program.
* Cross-cultural interest.
* Leadership potential.
* Flexibility and suitability as an exchange student.
* Proficiency in written and spoken English.
* Commitment to returning to home country after the program to fulfill a two-year home residency requirement.
* Preference will be given to applicants who have no prior experience outside their home countries.
* Preference will be given to applicants who represent underserved and underrepresented communities, including women.
* Preference will be given to those applicants who have not yet completed more than three years of towards a bachelor’s degree.
* Preference will be given to those applicants who can express how the CCI Program connects directly to their personal and professional short-term and long-term goals.

**General Application Instructions**

* Submit a completed original application with signature on the last page.
* Each applicant must complete their own application form. Applicants may consult with others for advice on how to complete the form, but each applicant must write their own responses.
* Please answer ALL questions on the application in English. Do NOT leave a space blank. If a question does not apply to you, enter N/A (not applicable).
* Include your full legal name with family name (surname) in CAPITAL LETTERS first as spelled on your international passport (if available).
* Include complete contact information, including postal codes for addresses and city/country codes for phone numbers.
* Handwritten applications must be neatly printed.
* Submit the application by the deadline established by the U.S. Embassy or Fulbright Commission located in your country.

**Financial Provisions of the Grant**

* J-1 visa support
* Round-trip travel from participant’s home city to host institution in the United States
* Tuition and mandatory college fees
* Housing
* Stipend to cover basic needs, such as food and transportation. Some colleges may provide on-campus meals.
* Small allowance for books, materials, and incidental expenses
* Limited Accident and Sickness coverage that is J-visa compliant
* A variety of personal and professional development activities

**Learn More: CCI Program Information and Social Media Sites**

**CCI Website**: [www.nvcc.edu/ccip](http://www.nvcc.edu/ccip)

**CCI Blog**: <https://blogs.nvcc.edu/cci/>

** CCI YouTube**: [www.youtube.com/cciprogram](http://www.youtube.com/cciprogram)

**CCI Facebook**: [www.facebook.com/cciprogram](http://www.facebook.com/cciprogram)

**CCI Twitter**: [www.twitter.com/cciprogram](http://www.twitter.com/cciprogram)

** CCI Instagram**: [www.instagram.com/cciprogram](http://www.instagram.com/cciprogram)

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| US%20Flag%20Color%20High.jpg Community College Initiative Program Student Application 2025 – 2026  |
| Personal Information |
| **Name** **of applicant** *as indicated on passport if passport is already issued. Please type or print.* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_****SURNAME/FAMILY NAME First/Given Name Middle Name(s)**(write in all capital letters)  |
| **Home Address**: Street and number: City: State/province: Postal code: Country:  | Home Phone:  |
| Mobile Phone:  |
| **E-mail:**  |
| **Location where you currently live:** |
| [ ]  Federal Capital [ ]  Other City/Town  | [ ]  Major City[ ]  Rural Area |
| **Gender:**[ ]  Male[ ]  Female[ ]  Non-binary[ ]  Intersex[ ]  Gender Non-conforming | Marital status:[ ]  Single[ ]  Married | Do you have a passport? [ ]  Yes[ ]  No | **Date of birth (month/day/year):**Month of birth: Day of birth: Year of birth:  |
| Country/Countries of citizenship: Country/Countries of permanent residence:  | **Place of birth (city or town and country, as listed in passport, if available):**City of birth: Country:  |
| Are you currently a student? [ ]  Yes [ ]  NoIf yes, I am currently a… [ ]  Secondary School/High School Student [ ]  Undergraduate Student [ ]  Other:Name of college/institution enrolled: I am currently studying [ ]  Full-time [ ]  Part-time I am enrolled in a degree program. [ ]  Yes [ ]  No | **What is the highest educational degree you have completed?**[ ] Secondary School/High School[ ]  Postsecondary StudyNumber of years of study completed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_[ ]  Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Number of years of study completed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| **Have you participated in any U.S. government exchange program?** Yes [ ]  No [ ]  If yes, give name of the program: Duration of the program: Year you participated:  |

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| Your proposed Field of Study during the Community College Initiative Program: ***Applicants must apply in only one (1) field of study and*** *preferred concentration area from the options below*. *Subfield concentration areas and availability of academic certificates are contingent upon host college availability.*  |
| **Field of Study:** (check only one) | **Subfield/ Concentration Area:**(check only one) |
| [ ]  Agriculture | [ ]  Agribusiness and Production Management |
| [ ]  Sustainable Agriculture  |
| [ ]  Applied Engineering*Applicants will need to have a solid foundation in math and will need to take a math placement exam at their host campuses to gain access to credit-bearing courses.* | [ ]  Architecture and Construction Management |
| [ ]  Automotive Technology  |
| [ ]  Electronics Technology  |
| [ ]  Manufacturing Technology |
| [ ]  Business and Entrepreneurship | [ ]  Business Management  |
| [ ]  Entrepreneurship |
| [ ]  Hospitality  |
| [ ]  Marketing and Public Relations  |
| [ ]  Supply Chain Management  |
| [ ]  Early Childhood Education  | [ ]  Early Childhood Education and Development  |
| [ ]  Special Education |
| [ ]  Information Technology | [ ]  Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics |
| [ ]  Computer Science and Programming |
| [ ]  Cybersecurity |
| [ ]  Networking and IT Support |
| [ ]  Creative Economy and Media | [ ]  Digital Media and Film Production |
| [ ]  Graphic Design |
| [ ]  Web Design and Development  |

To pursue certificates in a field of study, you may be required to repeat entry-level courses previously completed to meet prerequisite requirements for the certificate. A certificate in the selected subfield is not guaranteed. Official copies of any post-secondary transcripts, course syllabi or other documentation of course content may be considered for evaluation if you have documented evidence of satisfying the prerequisite requirements. This process requires precise documentation, may be lengthy, and is not guaranteed. **If you would like for your previous academic coursework to be evaluated and considered, you will need to bring official copies of your educational records with you to the United States for host campus evaluation.**

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| **Knowledge of Languages: Rate yourself *Excellent, Good, Fair, or Poor*.** Include all languages that you speak or have studied, including English. List your native language first.

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| **Language** | **Reading** | **Writing** | **Speaking** | **Listening** |
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**English Language Proficiency:** If you have taken any standardized test of English language proficiency (for example TOEFL, TOEIC, IELTS) please list the test taken, give the results, and provide a copy of the test results.Test Taken: Date Taken: Results (*also* *attach copy*):  |
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| **Background Information** |
| **Educational History: Please list educational institutions that you are currently attending or have attended with the most recent listed first.** Please attach a translated and certified copy of your transcripts for any institution from which you received a certificate, diploma, or degree.

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| **Name of Institution/Location** | **Major Field of Study** | **Dates Attended** *(Month, Year)***From To** | **Actual Name of Degree or Diploma** (Do not translate) | **Type of Education**(Select one) | **Date Degree Received / Anticipated Completion Date** |
| **Current or Most Recent Education:** |  |  |  |  | [ ] High School[ ] Postsecondary[ ] Other: |  |
| **Previous Education:** |  |  |  |  | [ ] High School[ ] Postsecondary[ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |  |

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| **Work Experience: Are you currently employed?** [ ]  **Yes, full-time** [ ]  **Yes, part-time** [ ]  **No** **List jobs held, begin with current or most recent employment.** (Continue on additional sheets of paper, if necessary)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name and address of employer** | **Position held** | **Date****From:****(Month/Year)** | **Date** **To:****(Month/Year)** | **Responsibilities** |
| **Current Position:**  |  |  |  |  |
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**Professional and Volunteer Experience: In addition to jobs held, please list relevant professional non-paid, volunteer and/or leadership positions or experiences.**

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| **Position** | **Date****From:****(Month/Year)** | **Date** **To:****(Month/Year)** | **Responsibilities** |
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**Are you currently employed or have you been employed in the previous 12 months for the U.S. Department of State and/or the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)?** [ ]  **Yes** [ ]  **No**

**Are you an immediate family member of someone who is currently employed or has been employed in the previous 12 months by the U.S. Department of State and/or the USAID?** [ ]  **Yes** [ ]  **No**

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| **If you have traveled or lived in any country other than your own, indicate the places where you traveled, the dates of that travel (month and year), and the purpose of the travel.** (Continue on additional sheets of paper, if necessary)

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| **Country** | **Dates of Travel** | **Purpose of Travel** |
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| **Emergency Contact Information: Below, provide the names, addresses and telephone numbers of individuals to be notified in case of an emergency.**

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| **Name of individual** | **Location & address of individual** | **Indicate relationship to you (father, mother, friend, etc.)** | **Languages this person speaks** |
| **List contacts in your home country** |
|  | **Address:** **Telephone:** **Email:**  |  |  |
|  | **Address:** **Telephone:** **Email:**  |  |  |
| **List contacts in the United States, if any** |
|  | **Address:** **Telephone:** **Email:**  |  |  |

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**Please list family members who have participated in a U.S. government-sponsored exchange program in the United States.** (Continue on additional sheets of paper, if necessary)

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| **Name of individual** | **Relationship** | **Name of program** | **Program dates** |
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**Please list any family members who are currently applying to participate in a 2025-2026 U.S. government-sponsored exchange program in the United States.** (Continue on additional sheets of paper, if necessary)

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| **Name of individual** | **Relationship** | **Name of program** | **Program dates** |
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**Please list any disabilities or special accommodations needed (mental and physical) and provide a detailed description of each.** (Continue on additional sheets of paper, if necessary)

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| **Disability or special accommodations** | **Description** |
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Persons with a disability and/ or require special accommodations are strongly encouraged to apply. The application materials should provide as accurate, and as detailed, information as possible about any disability or special accommodations. That information will facilitate the candidate’s needs being fully understood during the final selection process and to be adequately met by potential U.S. host campuses, and is not a deciding factor of eligibility.

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| Free Response. Please type or write neatly on separate sheets of paper. |
| **Please be open and candid in your responses. These essays should be written in your own words, and will help us understand a little more about who you are as a unique individual.** **Response #1:** Describe your related experience within your proposed field of study. How would this program of study build on your past education, training, and/or experience? If you are new to this field, why did you choose this field**?** Your response helps us match your interests with college programs.**(Your response should be a minimum of 300 words and a maximum of 800 words.)** Response #2: Why are you applying for the CCI Program? Describe the goals that you intend to accomplish *during* the CCI Program. *Consider the five pillars of the CCI Program (academics, cultural exchange, service learning, internships, and leadership and community impact), and how they will integrate together to help you reach your goals in the short- and long-term*. (Your response should be a minimum of 200 words and a maximum of 700 words.)**Response #3:** If you could make one change in your community, what would it be? What activities would you complete 6-12 months *after returning home* from the CCI Program to improve this community issue? Please be specific. **(Your response should be a minimum of 200 words and a maximum of 700 words.)** **Response #4:** The CCI Program is an intensive program with high expectations. Describe a challenging situation or a disappointment in your educational, professional, or personal life where you demonstrated resilience and perseverance. Describe how you approached the situation or disappointment and what you learned from it. Please be specific. **(Your response should be a minimum of 200 words and a maximum of 700 words.)****Response #5:** Describe a time when you had to work with someone whose opinions/beliefs/views were different from your own. How did you demonstrate leadership and openness to manage the situation and overcome the conflict? **(Your response should be a minimum of 200 words and a maximum of 700 words.)****How did you learn about the CCI Program?**\_\_\_U.S. Embassy or Fulbright Commission \_\_\_College/University \_\_\_Non-Government Organization (NGO) \_\_\_CCI alumni \_\_\_Family or friend \_\_\_Social media post \_\_\_Other  |

**CCI Program Timeline**

Oct 2024 2025-2026 CCI Program application launched in participating countries.

Oct 2024 – Feb 2025 Applications accepted and reviewed in each county. Interview committees invite semifinalist candidates for interviews.

Feb 2025 Embassies and Fulbright Commissions nominate slate of candidates to ECA for final selection and placement.

Mar 2025 Medical Forms due.

Apr 2025 ECA selects and places candidates. Only candidates with complete application files will be considered for placement.

Late Apr 2025 Placed and alternate candidates are announced and invited to pre-departure orientations.

Apr – Jul 2025 *Additional candidates are placed if openings become available.*

May – Jun 2025 Candidates participate in pre-departure orientations, review Terms and Conditions of the CCI Program and other program materials, and submit signed Terms and Conditions document.

May – Jun 2025 Candidates apply for visas and submit proof of visas to Embassy or Commission.

 Candidates engage with host campus Program Coordinators and submit additional required documents for each host campus.

Late Jun – early Jul 2025 Candidates receive travel itinerary and travel information.

Mid-Jul 2025 Candidates travel to their host campuses and begin their CCI Programs!

Community College Initiative Program

**Application Certification Statement**

**Certification:** I certify that I completed this application myself, that the information given in this application is complete and accurate, and that I have carefully read and understand it. I also certify that I meet eligibility requirements.

I understand that program administrators reserve the right to verify all the information listed in the application. I understand that giving false or misleading information in the application will eliminate me from the competition or cause my dismissal from the Community College Initiative Program.

Also, I acknowledge that I am aware of the following program requirements:

* I must follow all program rules and regulations and observe all the laws of the United States during my stay there.
* At the end of the academic year program, I will return to my home country and fulfill a two-year, home country residency requirement in compliance with the terms of my J-visa. I understand that I may not extend my program dates.
* My spouse, children, other relatives or individuals are not permitted to accompany me to the United States on the program.

**All applicants must submit the following documents for an application to be considered complete:**

[ ] Application Form: Applicants must provide complete information for all questions. Do not leave a question blank. If it does not apply to you, write “NA” for Not Applicable. Sign and date the application form.

[ ] Essay Questions: Applicants must answer each question. Answers must be the applicant’s own work.

[ ] Secondary School Diploma: A copy of the applicant’s secondary school diploma, with an English translation.

[ ] Transcripts: A copy of applicant’s transcript for most recent year of study completed (high school or undergraduate). The transcript may be in the language of instruction, with an English translation.

[ ] English Test Results, *if available*: Provide official English test score report.

[ ] International Passport, *if available*: Provide a copy of your passport data page. If you do not have an international passport yet, it is highly recommended that you begin the process of applying for a passport (including obtaining any required local documents) as it may take a significant amount of time to receive this document.

[ ] Any country-specific requirements

[ ] Medical History and Examination form

***\*Only candidates with complete applications will considered for selection and placement.\****

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Signature of applicant Date (month/day/year)