

# Creating Competitive Language Applications

January 8, 2021

# UWMADISON LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

The University of Wisconsin - Madison occupies ancestral Ho-Chunk land, a place their nation has called Teejop (day-JOPE) since time immemorial.

In an 1832 treaty, the Ho-Chunk were forced to cede this territory.

Decades of ethnic cleansing followed when both the federal and state government repeatedly, but unsuccessfully, sought to forcibly remove the Ho-Chunk from Wisconsin.

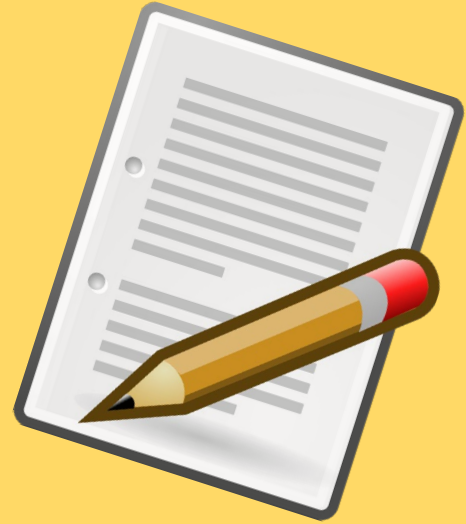
This history of colonization informs our shared future of collaboration and innovation.

Today, the University of Wisconsin - Madison respects the inherent sovereignty of the Ho-Chunk Nation, along with the eleven other First Nations of Wisconsin.

# Event Goals and Agenda

## Agenda:

- Intro & Land Acknowledgement  
*Sarah Linkert (CREECA)*
- Application Tips & Tricks  
*Kaitlin Koehler (Language Institute)*
- CVs and Resumes  
*Kaitlin Koehler (Language Institute)*
- Essays and Statements of Purpose  
*Marissa Beaty (SASLI)*
- Recommendation Letters  
*Jinda Moore (SEASSI)*
- Scholarships & Resources  
*Sarah Linkert (CREECA)*
- Q & A (30 minutes)



## Goals:

- Explore expectations & best practices in applying for language-related study or financial aid
- Share insider tips & tricks for creating competitive language applications
- Highlight resources & application support

# General Application Tips & Tricks

- **DO apply for funding**
  - Believe in yourself
- **Tell your story**
  - Demonstrate why YOU deserve scholarship support
  - Highlight individuality
- **Demonstrate commitment**
  - Outline relevant future plans
  - Indicate commitment
- **Consider the funder**
  - Align application with funder's needs and goals
- **Follow instructions**
- **Weed out careless mistakes**



# CVs and Résumés



- **Heed instructions:**
  - Don't provide résumé if CV requested, and vice versa
- **If given a choice, find the option that best suits you**
- **Application - specific:**
  - Always edit and tailor to opportunity at hand
  - Consider program description, criteria
- **Make it memorable**

# CVs and Résumés

## CV Tips:

- 3-8 pages
- Comprehensive
- Presents notable accomplishments & experience
- Well organized

## Résumé Tips:

- 1 Page
- Concise, direct
- Connects your skills, strengths to the opportunity
- Well organized



# Essays and Statements

## What Reviewers Look For:

- Answers prompt
- Meets all specified criteria
- Organized and structured
- Grammar, spelling, and punctuation
- Reflective, shows engagement with prompt
- Demonstrates your unique perspective



## Other Tips:

- Written materials should complement but not overlap with CV/résumé
- Research the opportunity; show familiarity and why you chose to apply for **this** opportunity

# Recommendation Letters



## Who to Ask:

1. Advisor or professor you have worked with closely
2. Instructor of course relevant to application scope or language
3. Recent language instructor (esp. if language is the same or related to application language)
4. Recent employer
5. Someone (not friends/family) who can attest that you have the qualities and experience opportunity requires



# Recommendation Letter

## What Reviewers Look For:

- Recommender demonstrates familiarity with applicant
  - Letter is knowledgeable and specific to individual.
- Confirmation of applicant's commitment to field and subject
- Testimony to applicant's academic performance and potential
- Character description

## Request Tips & Etiquette:

- Give 2-4 weeks' advance notice
- Provide résumé/CV (& draft Statement of Purpose)
- Don't be afraid to ask your recommender for multiple letters
  - Especially if applying to 1+ program.
- Clearly explain what you are applying for
  - Provide a list of places you are applying to, deadlines, links.

## Language Related Scholarships

- FLAS Fellowships
- Boren Scholarships and Fellowships
- Critical Language Scholarships
- WISLI Program Scholarships: Tuition Scholarships, Tuition Remission Scholarships, Title VIII Fellowships
- More: [languages.wisc.edu](http://languages.wisc.edu)

## Upcoming Language Related Events

- FLAS Info Sessions:
  - Tuesday, January 19, 2021 @ 2pm CST
  - Monday, February 1, 2021 @ 4pm CST
- CESSI Application Workshop
  - Saturday, January 16, 2021 @ 4 pm CST
- WISLI Open House
  - TBD

# Resources



## UW Madison:

- Writing Center
- Career Services
- SuccessWorks
- UW- Madison Languages
- IRIS Awards Office

## Beyond UW:

- Home university options
- Internet search

Slide Presenter: Sarah Linkert  
(CREECA)

# Program Representatives



**Center for Russia, East Europe,  
& Central Asia (CREECA):**

Sarah Linkert

Jennifer Tishler

**Southeast Asian Studies**

**Summer Institute (SEASSI)**

Jinda Moore

**Center for European Studies**

Eleanor Conrad

**African Studies Program**

Diana Famakinwa

**Russian Flagship Program**

Karen Evans-Romaine

Laura Marshall

**South Asia Summer Language  
Institute (SASLI)**

Marissa Beaty

Anne Naparstek

**Wisconsin Intensive Summer  
Language Institutes (WISLI)**

Felecia Lucht

# Q & A

Center for South  
Asia

Russian Flagship  
Program

African Studies  
Program

South Asia Summer  
Language Institute  
(SASLI)

Central Eurasian Studies  
Summer Institute  
(CESSI)

Center for European  
Studies

The Language  
Institute

Summer Intensive  
Portuguese Institute  
(SIPI)

# Thank You

Center for Southeast  
Asian Studies  
(CSEAS)

Arabic, Persian, and Turkish  
Language Institute  
(APTLI)

Please contact us with further questions!

Center for Russia, East  
Europe, and Central Asia  
(CREECA)

Wisconsin Intensive Summer  
Language Institutes  
(WISLI)

Southeast Asian Studies  
Summer Institute  
(SEASSI)

Institute for Regional and  
International Studies  
(IRIS)