

# TIMELINE FOR A PURPOSEFUL EDUCATION



## **FIRST YEAR UNDERGRADUATES, ALL MAJORS**

- Go to office hours of at least 1 faculty member each semester and talk about more than coursework.
- Get involved in a student organization, community organization, volunteer experience.
- Line up a research project for the summer or following fall semester.
- Investigate study abroad options and where they may fit into your plan of study. Discuss with your academic advisor and consider what you want to achieve while you're abroad.
- Research NISO scholarships and to which you may apply, including first year. Map out the timeline for sophomore scholarships and goals for junior year scholarships.
- Apply to NISO First Year Student Workshop.

## **SECOND/SOPHOMORE YEAR**

- Schedule an appointment with NISO early in the fall semester to discuss your interests.
- Take any advanced courses you can, especially those in your major/minor areas.
- Spend time with your research/project advisor, internship supervisor, student org advisor, community organization contact throughout the year discussing your future aspirations, current relevant events, disciplinary literature.
- Talk with at least 2 additional faculty each semester about something other than coursework.
- Research and read scholarly works within your discipline often.
- Get involved in additional student organizations, community organizations. Lead at least one initiative and document your impact.
- Seek out additional leadership roles, research, projects, internships, for summer and junior year.
- Study abroad or solidify plans to do so.
- Revisit scholarship websites to review selection criteria and read through scholar profiles.
- Attend NISO information sessions for all scholarships you have interest in, even if you can't apply until a future year. (NISO Scholarships Week/September, Fulbright Week/February, Global Graduate Scholarships/March).
- Apply to the Get Ahead of Third Year Boot Camp.

## **THIRD/JUNIOR YEAR**

- Study abroad if you haven't already done so. If you have, feel free to do so again!
- Repeat any items you can under from above.
- Many application processes take place this year. Attend info sessions/callouts to learn details about application process(es).
  - Attend workshops provided for the specific scholarships to which you are applying.
  - Solicit recommenders for all third year applications. You may need to meet with them multiple times prior to the recommendation deadlines. This includes applications that are technically submitted fourth year.
  - Applications to the Fulbright Program, Churchill, Gates Cambridge, Marshall, Mitchell, and Rhodes Scholarships are begun Spring of junior year and submitted just after the semester begins senior year.

## **FOURTH/SENIOR YEAR, GRADUATE STUDENTS, ALUMNI**

Seniors and recent grads are eligible to apply for the Fulbright Program, Gates Cambridge, Marshall, Mitchell, Rhodes Scholarships, and Schwarzman Scholars. You will have a gap year to fill with study, work, or service if you begin the application senior year. Please contact NISO to work out a timeline. Graduate students may apply to the Fulbright, Marshall, Mitchell, Rhodes Scholarships, and Schwarzman Scholars. Students in 5 year programs should consult with NISO as soon as possible to determine application timelines. Many opportunities listed under Junior Year may have flexible eligibility during the fourth year.



# SCHOLAR DEVELOPMENT TIPS

## AS AN UNDERGRADUATE

- TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR EDUCATION. Don't wait for opportunities to land in your lap. It's up to you to make sure you aren't just another face in the crowd.
- Take advanced courses early and often. Be strategic beyond the class that fits in your schedule.
- Avoid large lecture classes when possible. If it can't be avoided, be purposeful in your interactions with the instructor and take particular advantage of the professor's office hours.
- Work on your writing skills.
- Develop mentoring relationships with faculty, staff, and others.
- Take multiple courses with the same faculty if you like them.
- Attend brown bag seminars and public lectures to meet faculty and students who share your interests.
- Find ways to present your own research, public service, community impact, and independent projects.
- Make an impact. Get involved in extra-curricular activities that connect to your future aspirations – don't just join organizations for a line on your résumé.
- Use your summers wisely. Participate in research (on campus and off – NSF REU, SURF or other), internships, and community service projects in the U.S. or abroad.
- Study abroad. Be purposeful in gaining active experience beyond tourism.
- Subscribe to newsletters around campus to stay informed of many types of opportunities. We are fond of the NNN (NISO News Network). Sign up by sending an email to [niso@purdue.edu](mailto:niso@purdue.edu) with the subject "subscribe to NNN."
- Apply for many scholarships. The more applications you complete, the easier they get.
- When possible, take courses for a grade. Opting for pass/fail grades is viewed unfavorably for many scholarships.

## WHEN TO BEGIN YOUR APPLICATION

FIRST YEAR	SECOND YEAR	THIRD YEAR	FOURTH YEAR
Boren Scholarship	Astronaut Scholarship	Astronaut Scholarships	Boren Fellowship
Boren STEM Initiative	Boren Scholarship	Beinecke Scholarship	Fulbright U.S. Student Program**
Fulbright UK Summer Institutes	Boren STEM Initiative	Boren Scholarship	Gates Cambridge Scholarship**
Gilman Scholarship	Fulbright UK Summer Institutes	Boren STEM Initiative	Marshall Scholarship**
	Gilman Scholarship	Churchill Scholarship*	Mitchell Scholarship**
	Goldwater Scholarship	Fulbright U.S. Student Program*	Rhodes Scholarship**
	Udall Scholarship	Gates Cambridge Scholarship*	Schwarzman Scholars**
		Gilman Scholarships	
		Goldwater Scholarship	
		Marshall Scholarship*	
		Mitchell Scholarship*	
		Rhodes Scholarship*	
		Schwarzman Scholars*	
		Truman Scholarship	
		Udall Scholarship	

\* Submission deadlines for these scholarships are early in your senior year, but the application process begins the prior spring.

\*\* You will have a gap year to fill with study, work or service if you didn't start the application junior year. Come see NISO to talk about timelines.