Twelve students at The Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky at Western Kentucky University have received nationally-competitive National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) Scholarships for immersive, critical language study this summer. They will travel to China, Estonia, Moldova, Morocco, Russia and Taiwan. This is the highest number of awards in a single year for Gatton Academy students yet.

NSLI-Y scholarships are sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, offering full funding for the six-to-eight-week programs. Scholarships include a four-day orientation in Washington, DC, or New York City, travel to and from the host countries, housing with host families, meals, and all activities and fees. NSLI-Y immerses participants in the cultural life of the host country, giving them formal and informal language practice and sparking a lifetime interest in foreign languages and cultures. The NSLI-Y program was launched in 2006 to promote critical language learning among American youths.

The Gatton Academy has three critical language tracks in Arabic, Mandarin Chinese and Russian called STEM + Critical Languages. Through these optional curricular tracks, students choose to pair progressively-rigorous critical language study each semester alongside the classic STEM curriculum offered to all Gatton Academy students.

This marks the ninth consecutive year that Gatton Academy students have received NSLI-Y scholarships.

This year’s recipients included:
Abrar Rahman (Glasgow High School)

Rahman will travel to Morocco to study Arabic with his NSLI-Y Scholarship this summer. He is a first-year student in The Gatton Academy’s STEM + Arabic track taking Arabic classes in WKU’s Department of Modern Languages.

Rahman is the son of Tahmina and Mokhlesur M. Rahman, of Cave City. “I’m looking forward to living with a host family and learning their language alongside other students from around the United States,” Rahman said.

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