

## OLMSTED FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Q. What Navy Instructions governs the Olmsted Scholar Program?**

- A. 1) OPNAVINST 1520.24D - SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM  
Guidance for all Navy Scholarship programs
- 2) OPNAVINST 1520.41A- Navy students enrolled in overseas education programs  
- Relates to all overseas students. Useful because it assigns navy Component Commanders responsibilities for students in their area of responsibility
- 3) Current Olmsted NAVADMIN

### **Q. Who is eligible for the Olmsted Program?**

A. All active duty list regular officers with the designators 1110, 1120, 1130, 1140, 1310, 1320, 1810, 1820, 1830, and 3100 with at least 3 years of commissions and no more than 13.5 years of total active federal service as of 1 April 2021 are eligible to apply. The service eligibility requirement was extended for all eligible designators from no more than 11 years to no more than 13.5 years as part of a 3-year trial program. This trial program is intended to evaluate whether this change would enable greater participation during a timeframe that does not jeopardize career viability and will last through the FY-24 Olmsted cycle.

This is a 3-year program for which career timing is an important consideration. All applicants must contact their detailer for counseling on the career impact of participation in the Olmsted Scholar Program. In order to be considered by the Navy selection board, a detailer written/signed statement must be included in the nomination package.

### **Q. Is the Olmsted program open to Reservists?**

A. Olmsted Scholar eligibility is limited to active duty regular or Full Time Support (FTS) commissioned line officers with at least three years but not more than 13.5 years of total active federal service as prescribed by the Olmsted Foundation.

### **Q. Is a service obligation required upon completion of the Olmsted program? If so, what is its duration?**

A. Yes...service obligation for Olmsted Scholars will be calculated based on the number of months the officer is assigned overseas. The program is a 24-month program for every month the Scholar is overseas...he/she is obligated 3 months for every month starting with the Scholar's rotation to his/her overseas location -- usually three years for each year (typically a 6-year obligation). The obligation is to be served currently with any other obligation. Defense Language Institution (language) is not included in this calculation.

### **Q: I already have a master's degree. Does this make me ineligible?**

A: No, you are still eligible even if you already have a graduate degree.

### **Q: How does an officer arrange a Defense Language Aptitude Battery (DLAB)?**

A: DLAB testing can be arranged through your command, usually by your command's Education Services Officer (ESO). DLAB testing information can be obtained by your command from:

-Commanding Officer Center for Information Dominance (CLREC-NFLTO Code N01L)

Pensacola FL 32511-5138; (850) 452-6177 or DSN 459-6177 or send an email to [languageTesting@navy.mil](mailto:languageTesting@navy.mil).

### **Q: If I already took the DLAB, but I do not have a copy of my score report, what can I do?**

A: Contact - (850) 452.6177 or DSN 459-6177 or send an email to [languageTesting@navy.mil](mailto:languageTesting@navy.mil).

### **Q: Is it necessary to attend the Defense Language Institute for language training?**

A: Selected Scholars attend the Defense Language Institute (DLI) for up to a year and study a foreign language, unless they choose to go directly overseas and study the language in- country at a local university.

NOTE: Though language training overseas has been an option in the past...with budget constraints and issues, such as approval of NSDD-38 - (National Security Decision Directive) which creates a position at the local embassy in the selected country; the assignment to a Navy Component Commander and POC given to answer military questions; medical screenings, etc. The NSDD-38 can be a lengthy process that can take months for approval status. In addition, there is the issue of the ICASS Agreements/Contract, housing (OHA and mandated embassy leased housing), contact information updates, etc. With the short timeframe given to detailers for placement and orders, the Navy has had to revisit this option - and thus opted to state that "in country" language training is an exception rather than the norm for our Navy Scholars.

What we have placed emphasis on is the focus of the Olmsted Scholar Program - which is to have the Scholars experience full immersion in foreign countries and cultures. We would prefer our Scholars to have the language skills met by attending the 12 months of DLI training to better assist in immersion into the culture, as well as entry into the University and enrollment into a graduate degree program.

Completing DLI training prior to being assigned overseas may not always be the case....but it is the Navy's preferred option.

**Q: How can I find information on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)?**

A: Information on the Graduate Record Examination may be obtained on the GRE website at [www.gre.org](http://www.gre.org).

**Q: What should I do if I receive a FITREP between the time I apply and when either of the selection boards meet?**

A: Submit it to the Navy Olmsted Scholar Program Manager (CODE N7132) for inclusion in your application package.

**Q: How do I submit addendum items after the deadlines have passed?**

A: Follow the directions on the Navy Personnel Command (NPC) website at <http://www.npc.navy.mil> for submitting correspondence to a selection board. Select the Boards tab, next General Board Info, and then under “topics” select Promotion Board Correspondence. The directions are the same for administrative boards as it is for promotion or statutory boards.

**Q: Why does the Olmsted Foundation website mention required items that are not listed in the NAVADMIN, instruction, or in the sample application letter?**

A: If you are selected as an Olmsted nominee by the Navy Olmsted Selection Board, you will be required to submit additional items and information within a week of your selection, but this information should not be sent until you have been notified of your selection as a Navy Olmsted nominee.

**Q: How many officers may be selected to the program each year?**

A: The Olmsted Foundation selects officers from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force. The Navy Selection Board may select up to 12 Navy nominees whose packages will be forwarded to the Olmsted Board of Directors for consideration. The Olmsted Foundation may select up to 10 Navy Olmsted Scholars, but historically has only selected around five Navy officers to participate.

**Q: Where can I find guidance on compiling my University Preference List?**

A: There is no specific preference list –information can be found on the Foundation’s website <http://scholars.olmstedfoundation.org/olmsted/web/index.cfm?view=scholarsProgram/vwScholarsListing>.

Use this link....it will provide Scholars Listing - Scholars Class from 1960 - 2019 (you also have the opportunity to contact them via email). This will provide you an overview of the individuals, their university, and the language. You will need to research the area in which you are interested in studying for the universities and the degree you are seeking.

**Q. How will I know if I have been selected as a candidate from the Navy Selection Board?**

A. Applicants will be notified via email of Navy nominee selection by the Navy Olmsted Scholar Program Manager.

**Q. How will I know if I have been selected as a Navy Olmsted nominee?**

A. Navy nominees selected to be an Olmsted Scholar by the Olmsted Scholar Foundation Board of Directors will be contacted via email and a list of selectees will be posted on the Navy Personnel Command website at <https://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/officer/Detailing/educationplacement/Pages/default.aspx>.

**Q. Where can I find information on what countries and universities of past scholars?**

A. Please use this link - <http://scholars.olmstedfoundation.org/olmsted/web/index.cfm?view=scholarsProgram/vwScholarsListing&claid=102> – this link will provide you with past and present Scholars in the program. The information will provide you with information on Olmsted Scholars Class Listing dating from 1960-2016, of Participants, Universities, Languages, and Services. The information allows you an opportunity to send any of the scholars an email and ask them about their experiences.

**Q. I have heard that the Olmsted Foundation have “closed” study locations. What is a closed location and where do I find additional information about closed locations?**

A. To view current locations not open to the next Olmsted class use this link that will provide you with “closed” Study Locations <http://www.olmstedfoundation.org/what-we-do/2019%20Study%20Locations.pdf>  
The Olmsted generally does not assign two Scholars to the same city at the same time. There are however, some exceptions for location with very large population or those location of strategic importance to US international relations and policy.