Advice on applying for an Intensive Summer Language Study Grant:

These grants are very competitive – read this advice carefully and take it to heart.

The Summer Intensive Language Study grant is meant to cover a large percentage of the cost of the program. Given that the largest grant is $5,000, you are more likely to be awarded funding if the grant represents a large proportion of your expenses.

Applications for study beyond the first year:

Be sure to outline how you expect summer study will enable your academic/future goals. You clearly do not have to demonstrate your interest in the language since you have already invested a year in learning it. But be sure to articulate how continuing in the summer will help you achieve what you aimed for in beginning the language. Will it help in plans for studying abroad? Writing a Fulbright application? Applying for graduate study or employment abroad?

The goals you articulate should make use of your language; you will not be awarded intensive language study money to help free up time for plans that have nothing to do with the language you are learning.

Applying for first-year intensive language study:

Be sure to demonstrate in your application how summer language study will figure into your plans both at Smith and beyond Smith. Even if you have not yet started a language you may be considered for a grant if you can make a persuasive case that such study is essentially important for your future studies/study abroad/career aspirations.

Language study need not be your primary focus, but you do need to be very clear about how language study will enable you to pursue whatever subject you are primarily interested in.

Be sure to articulate how you intend to continue to study the language in your remaining time at Smith. The more precise you can be in describing your future plans for continuing language study, the more seriously you will be considered for funding. A student who asks for funding to study the first year of a language and appears not to have any plans to continue study of that language while at Smith is unlikely to receive an award.

Intensive summer language study grants are not awarded for purely personal/familial reasons, for example, reconnecting with family heritage.

Intensive Language Study means exactly what it says. You will not be funded for programs that do not involve intensive study – which means that most of your time will be spent learning the language. This means it is highly unlikely that you will receive funding for a program that consists of an internship or study of other subjects in English.

Priority is given to those studying non-European languages.

Do not focus on your financial situation. You have a very short number of words (500) to make the case for receiving the grant. Use the space to explain how this grant would enable you to pursue intellectual interests at Smith and beyond. Do not focus on your financial situation – many of your fellow applicants will be struggling with the same challenges.