CCI Program Alumni
LinkedIn Group

CCI alumni are invited to join the *CCI Program Alumni* LinkedIn Group, which is managed by ECA and CCI administrating partners at Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA).

Instructions to Join

To join the group, login to your LinkedIn profile then click the following:
https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8157236/

(Note: The link to the group will not work if you are not logged in to a LinkedIn profile.)

Benefits of LinkedIn for CCI Alumni

"Like most social networking groups, the primary goal of a LinkedIn group is to build a hub for quality discussions and feedback. LinkedIn is a professional network. [...] That means the quality of the contacts you'll get for any business-related content is much higher than those from Facebook or Twitter." - Content Marketing Institute

Purpose of the *CCI Program Alumni* LinkedIn Group

We hope that CCI alumni will use this platform as a tool to continue to grow their professional brands and to network with the ongoing support of their CCI Program contacts. Through this group, we also hope that alumni will highlight their CCI Program experiences, share their professional growth highlights, and continue to connect with CCI colleagues both in the United States and around the globe.

Ways **CCI alumni** can benefit from the CCI LinkedIn Group:
- Connect and network with CCI alumni, program staff, and U.S. Department of State program officers to maintain long-standing relationships
- Share your accomplishments across the CCI Program network
- Find CCI colleagues with similar professional and project interests
- Stay connected to the CCI Program through on-going sharing of educational and professional development information and resources
- Assist CCI colleagues by connecting them with members of your network

Sharing Your CCI Experience on Your Personal LinkedIn Profile

Where to mention the CCI Program and how to effectively market yourself

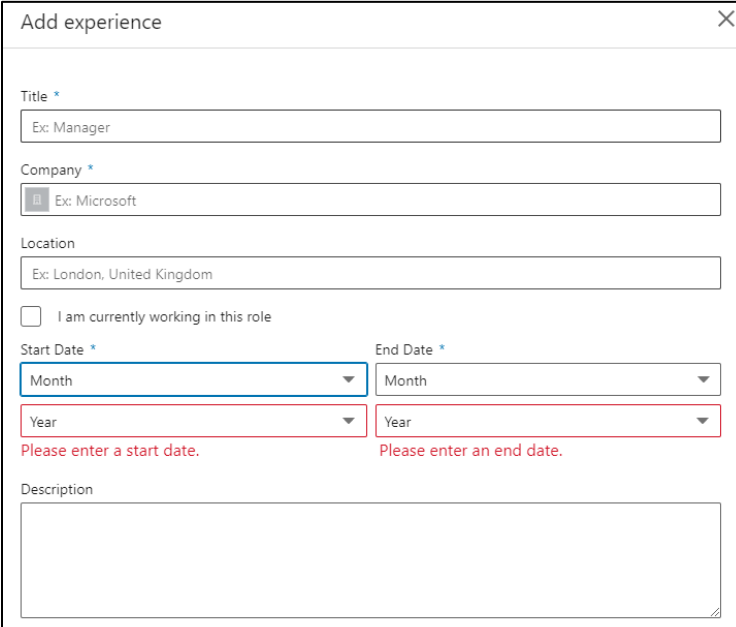You can share your CCI Program experience in these four sections of your LinkedIn profile:

1. Experience
2. Education
3. Volunteer Experience
4. Accomplishments – Honors & Awards

Section 1: Experience

Primarily, the Experience section is used to list professional work experience, so you should **include any internship experience during your CCI exchange year in this section**. However, you can also share your CCI accomplishments in the Experience section to emphasize personal growth and skills learned throughout the CCI Program. Describe the CCI Program as if it were a job or an internship for ten months. Remember to use action words (managed, volunteered, coordinated…) like you would in your resume.

Add Experience

1. **Title**: Community College Initiative Program Participant
2. **Company**: U.S. Department of State
3. **Location**: The city of your U.S. host community college.
4. **Start Date**: The month and year you began your exchange.
5. **End Date**: The month and year you completed your exchange.
6. **Description**: Include a brief description of the CCI Program as well as a list of personal accomplishments. You may use the description in the example below as a template.

Add experience

Title *

Ex: Manager

Company *

Ex: Microsoft

Location

Ex: London, United Kingdom

☐ I am currently working in this role

Start Date *   End Date *

Month   Month

Year   Year

Please enter a start date.   Please enter an end date.

Description

Example

Community College Initiative Program Participant
U.S. Department of State
Jul 2018 – May 2019 · 11 mos
Boston, Massachusetts

Selected to participate in the U.S. Department of State's 2018-2019 Community College Initiative (CCI) Program at Bunker Hill Community College. The CCI Program provides participants with a one-year non-degree academic program at a U.S. community college. The CCI Program builds participants' technical skills in applied fields, enhances their leadership capabilities, and strengthens their English language proficiency. CCI candidates are nominated for participation by the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy or the Fulbright Commission in eligible countries.

Personal accomplishments:
- Served local community through 40+ hours of volunteer work in such organizations as Boston Cares, Habitat for Humanity, and the Red Cross
- Presented two lectures describing food, culture, and lifestyle of my home country to over 20 people and as part of the State Department's annual International Education Week
- Developed new marketing strategy and content during internship of 60+ hours at Ethos
- Enhanced intercultural competence and knowledge of American culture
- Increased oral and written proficiency in the English language
- Maintained a 3.5 GPA while completing CCI program requirements See less

Section 2: Education

In addition to listing the college that you attended, you can showcase the academic coursework you pursued during your studies in the United States.

Add Education

1. **School**: Write in the name of your host college.
2. **Degree**: If you achieved an academic certificate, write in "Certificate." Otherwise, leave blank.
3. **Field of study**: If you achieved an academic certificate, write the name of the certificate you achieved. If you did not achieve a certificate but pursued credit-bearing courses, write in the field of study you pursued. Otherwise, leave blank.
4. **Start Year:** The year you began your academic studies in the United States.
5. **End Year:** The year you concluded your academic studies in the United States.
6. **Grade**: Your cumulative GPA.
7. **Activities and societies:** List any clubs, honors societies, or other extracurricular activities you participated in while studying at your host college.
8. **Description:** Include additional information about your academic experience.

Example

College of DuPage
Certificate, Mechatronics Technology, 4.0
2016 – 2017
Activities and Societies: Robotics & Engineering Club, Living Leadership Program, Phi Theta Kappa

Completed the Mechatronics Technology Certificate program while studying at College of DuPage as an international exchange participant of the U.S. Department of State's Community College Initiative Program.

Section 3: Volunteer Experience

Showcase the contributions that you made to local organizations for any long-term volunteer and service learning positions you held while studying in the United States through the CCI Program.

Add Volunteer Experience

1. **Organization**: Write in the official name of the organization with which you volunteered.
2. **Role**: List your primary task as a volunteer in the Role field.
3. **Cause**: Select from the drop-down menu.
4. **Start date**: Select the month and year you began volunteering.
5. **End date**: Select the month and year you completed volunteering.
6. **Description**: Include a description of tasks and responsibilities as a volunteer.

Add volunteer experience	×

Organization *

Ex: Red Cross

Role

Ex: Meal Server, Mentor

Cause

-

☐ I am currently volunteering in this role

Start date | End date

Month | Month

Year | Year

Description

Ex: I raised funds for our annual charity 5K.

Example

Volunteer Experience

Meal Server
Feed My Starving Children
Aug 2018 • 1 mo
Children

Preparing food to be sealed in boxes and bags

Fuel Pantry Volunteer
College of DuPage
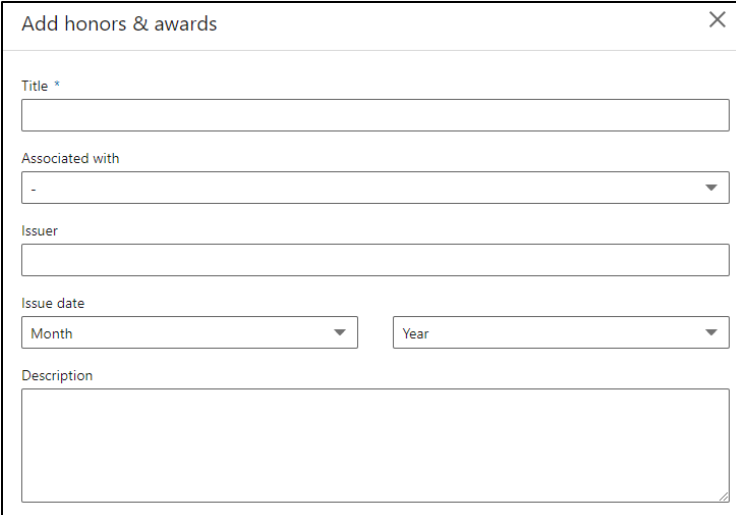Oct 2018 – May 2019 • 8 mos
Social Services

Helping to distribute food to people and keep the record of the inventory.

Section 4: Accomplishments - Honors & Awards

Showcase your selection and participation in the CCI Program as an award.

Add Honors & Awards

1. **Title**: Community College Initiative (CCI) Program Scholarship

2. **Associated with**: Leave blank, or, from the drop down menu, select that this scholarship is associated with your host community college. You will only be able to select this association if you have filled in the education section of your LinkedIn profile.

Add honors & awards ✕

Title *

Associated with
-

Issuer

Issue date
Month | Year

Description

3. **Issuer**: U.S. Department of State

4. **Issue date**: Select the month and year that your scholarship was issued (i.e. the month and year you received your acceptance letter to participate in the program).

5. **Description**: You may include a description of the CCI scholarship in this field. You may use the description in the example below as a template.

Example

2 **Honors & Awards**

Community College Initiative (CCI) Program Scholarship
May 2014 • U.S. Department of State

Awarded full scholarship to participate in the U.S. Department of State's 2014-2015 Community College Initiative (CCI) Program at Scottsdale Community College. Nominated for participation in the CCI Program by the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in Ghana after successfully advancing through the application, screening, and interview stages of a multi-phase recruitment and nomination process.

The CCI Program provides participants with non-degree academic programs at a U.S. community college. During the program, participants build technical skills in applied fields, enhance their leadership capabilities, and strengthen their English language proficiency. The program also provides opportunities for professional internships, service learning, and cultural exchange through community engagement.

CCI participants contribute to U.S. host campus internationalization efforts. CCI international students bring opportunities for global engagement and learning to U.S. community college classrooms and campuses and encourage community college students to learn about other countries.

Ethics of your profile

To build your professional credibility and brand, it is vital that you are honest and accurate in the details you publish about your CCI experience. We provide the following examples to guide you in how to showcase your CCI experience in four sections of your LinkedIn profile.

Please note that the CCI Program is not a degree program. If you continue your education and earn a degree at your community college, you should list these accomplishments separately. Also, although the Fulbright Commissions assist with recruitment in some CCI countries, the CCI Program is not a Fulbright program. These are common mistakes that CCI participants make that misrepresent their professional experiences and the CCI Program. In the United States, misrepresentation of your professional experience may result in disqualification for employment.

This Example Misrepresents Your CCI Award

The following inaccurately represents the program for these reasons:

- Wrong program name: The program award is for the Community College Initiative (CCI) Program and it is not a Fulbright program.
- The monetary value of the academic scholarship is incorrect.
- The program is not a degree-program. If this person earned a degree, it should be listed separately from the CCI Program.
- The number of applicants is not verified.

Honors & Awards

Edmonds Community College (EDCC) Dean's Honor Roll
Edmonds Community College (EDCC)
January 2011

Added to the Dean's Honor Roll for 4 quarters based on my excellent academic success.

Northwest Community College Initatitve (NWCCI) Program
Fulbright & U.S. Department of State
August 2011

Won a fully funded academic scholarship ($50,000) to earn a technical associate degree.
Selected from 5,000 applicants based on meeting the eligibility requirements and passing a series of screening exams and interviews.