



FULBRIGHT, U.S. STUDENT PROGRAM

OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTION

[The Fulbright U.S. Student Program](#) is the largest U.S. exchange program, providing students and young professionals grants for individually designed study/research projects or English Teaching Assistant programs all over the world for one academic year. Currently, the program awards approximately 2,000 grants annually in all fields of study and operates in over 140 countries.

ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants must have sufficient proficiency in the written and spoken language of the host country sufficient to communicate with the people and to carry out the proposed study/research. (Note that many of the countries are English-speaking or don't have a language requirement).
- Applicants must have a conferred bachelor's degree or equivalent before the start of the grant. In the creative and performing arts, four years of professional training and/or experience meets the basic eligibility requirement. **At WCU, most applicants apply in their senior year or during the first year in graduate school.**
- Applicants who currently hold or will hold a doctoral degree by the application deadline are not eligible.
- Applicants seeking enrollment in a medical degree program abroad are not eligible.
- Anyone who has resided abroad for five or more consecutive years in the six-year period preceding the date of application is not eligible.

- Applicants must be U.S. citizens at the time of application. Permanent residents are not eligible. Dual citizens are eligible but may not be permitted to apply for programs in certain countries.

HOW TO APPLY

Application requirements will vary depending on the country and type of grant for which one is applying so it is important to follow both the general guidelines for applications as well as the country and award-specific guidelines. Application Checklists vary depending upon the type of application.

Please see the website for checklists:

[Study/Research: Academic Checklists](#)

[Study/Research: Creative & Performing Arts Checklists](#)

[English Teaching Assistant Checklists](#)

Other Important Notes

- Applicants must be very familiar with the country/program for which they are applying. The Statement of Grant Purpose must fit the program guidelines for the host country, and it **should indicate a clear commitment to the host country community and a description of how the applicant will engage with it.**
- All academic grantees must have an affiliation in the host country; sufficient lead time must be given to receive signed affiliation letters (invitations from the host country) before the application deadline, so start early.
- English Teaching Awards (ETAs) DO NOT require affiliation with the host country.
- Even if a country indicates that English will be sufficient for carrying out the proposed project, for purposes of Community Engagement, at least a basic level of language skill should be obtained prior to leaving the United States for the host country.

- Preference will be given to applicants whose higher education was undertaken primarily at educational institutions in the United States. Foreign study during the junior year or other periods of undergraduate study that are integral parts of the curricula of American institutions (study abroad) will not be considered a disadvantage.
- Candidates who have not resided or studied in the country to which they are applying for more than six months, not counting undergraduate study abroad, are preferred. Duty abroad in the Armed Forces of the United States is not considered disqualifying.
- Candidates who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States will be given preference, provided their qualifications are approximately equivalent to those of other candidates.
- For most programs, applicants who have had extensive, recent previous foreign experience in the host country are at a competitive disadvantage but are still eligible to apply.
- Strong preference in the Fulbright U.S. Student Program is for those who have not previously held a Fulbright grant.

FOR RECOMMENDERS

Important Tips

- Selection is made based on
 - The quality and **feasibility** of the proposal
 - **A very clear presentation of why the applicant needs to study / teach in the country selected**
 - Academic or professional record
 - Personal qualifications
 - Language preparation (as needed)

- Preference factors as established by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (FFSB) and the Fulbright Commissions/Foundations
- Extent to which the candidate and the project will help to advance the Fulbright aim of promoting mutual understanding among nations through engagement in the host community, among other activities
- Desirability of achieving wide institutional and geographic distribution
- Requirements of the program in individual countries
- Ability of the supervising agencies abroad to arrange/confirm supervision and facilitate research clearance, if necessary