

UK Fulbright Telephone Interview Questions 2-7-2011

The information below comes from Fulbright applicants and the Fulbright Program Advisor at Pomona College, in an email sent on February 7, 2011.

[Notes from an applicant 2010-2011:]

The interview was about 13 minutes long with two women on the other line alternating questions. They asked:

1. An "elevator summary" of the research project that I've chosen to work on
2. Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
3. What will you do outside the classroom?
4. What will you do for fun?
5. What can we expect of you as a Fulbright Scholar?
6. Have you applied for any other scholarships?
7. Has anything in your application changed since you applied?
8. Any questions for us?

[Fulbright UK interviews January 2009]

1. Interviews are typically 10-15 minutes long. We've scheduled 45 minutes to allow time for feedback.
2. All interviewees get essentially the same questions, so it is not likely to go into detail regarding her project. More likely, questions will focus on why it has to be done in the U.K., perhaps broader implications—for (student), the field, the U.K., etc.
3. Even more important than the specific project, as conveyed by the UK Fulbright Commission: "All questions are carefully designed to elicit evidence that will help us to gauge the candidate's leadership experience, how he/she views the Fulbright year in relation to career goals and how actively he/she is involved in social and cultural activities . . . we make no apology for asking tough questions; we have to separate the outstanding from the very good.
4. Short listed applicants (selected after the interview for further review) are unusual in the work that they do --- they are other focused, multi-talented/gifted individuals. **It is people like this whom we believe will become influential leaders, committed to improving US – UK relations.** That is why we believe they are our best investment in the future.
5. Questions are usually asked by one or two people. They warn the student that they may interrupt an answer if they have enough information or wish to pursue a different direction.

Some questions reported in the past by students from various institutions (collected 2009)

Tell us about your undergraduate institution?

Why (the UK university you chose)?

Why not do your grad work and the work you're proposing in the US?

Give us 3 leadership experiences

What makes you a leader?

What kinds of activities are you involved in?

How/What will get involved in the UK—outside your work?

What will your Fulbright do for the US?

What will you do if you don't get a Fulbright?

How will you finance what you propose to do?

What other UK programs have you considered?

Questions reported by a different student:

Tell us something about your long term goals – where will you be in 10 years time?

What is the perception of the UK in the US?

What have you learned as an undergraduate?

Who besides you would benefit while you're in England?