

# Fulbright U.S. Student Program



## 2018-2019 Application Cycle

- To increase *mutual understanding* between people of the U.S. and people of other countries through people-to-people exchange
- Created by U.S. Congress in 1946 (Senator J. William Fulbright)
- Over 8,000 grantees from 155 countries annually
- Administered overseas by bi-national Fulbright Commissions and U.S. Embassies
- Students apply for one type of award to a specific country
- Funding covers airfare, living costs, healthcare, enrichment activities, more

## General Qualifications

- US citizenship at time of application
- High level of academic and/or professional achievement
- A well-developed, feasible project
- Demonstrated leadership ability
- Sufficient language proficiency (varies by country)
- Focus on increasing mutual understanding through community engagement
- Contribution to achieving goals of diversity
- Compatibility with country preferences and requirements

## Application Components

- Basic Personal data
- Statement of Grant Purpose essay (1-2 pages)
- Personal Statement (1 page)
- Language Evaluation
- Three (3) References
- Campus Committee Interview & Evaluation
- Letter(s) of Affiliation (Research/Study ONLY)
- Supplementary Materials (Arts applicants ONLY)







## English Teaching Assistantship

- Approximately 1200+ awards, 75 countries
- 8-10 months
- 20-30 hours a week helping to teach English and US culture in the classroom
- Remaining time spent on a community-focused engagement activity

## Research / Study (all disciplines)

- Approximately 950+ awards, 140 countries
- 8-10 months
- Independent research in academic or arts fields
- In some countries, grants may be for graduate study which leads to a degree

## Thinking About Applying? Check out these resources....

 Video <a href="https://vimeo.com/fulbright">vimeo.com/fulbright</a> <a href="https://youtube.com/fulbrightprogram">youtube.com/fulbrightprogram</a>	 On Twitter <a href="https://twitter.com/FulbrightPrgrm">@FulbrightPrgrm</a>
 Webinars <a href="https://us.fulbrightonline.org">us.fulbrightonline.org</a>	 Applicant Blog <a href="https://blog.fulbrightonline.org/">blog.fulbrightonline.org/</a>
 On Facebook <a href="https://facebook.com/fulbright">facebook.com/fulbright</a>	 Instagram <a href="https://instagram.com/the_fulbright_program">@the_fulbright_program</a>

### Grantee Directory

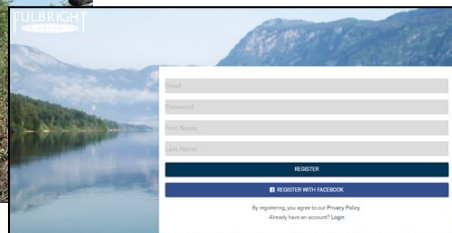
<http://us.fulbrightonline.org/component/filter/?view=filter>

### Statistics

<http://us.fulbrightonline.org/statistics>



1. From the Fulbright homepage, select “Embark Online Application” under the “Applicants” header.
2. This will open a new window to the Embark Application portal, where you can register an account. If you have previously registered for an account, you can log in from this page as well.
3. You will need to complete the preliminary information to get started. This ensures you meet the basic eligibility requirements to apply to the Fulbright US Student Program.



**Fulbright U.S. Student**

**Preliminary Information**

To secure your data, please remember to log out from the upper right-hand icon when you finish the session or leave your computer. This application session will not time out automatically.

Please enter the required (\*) information below. You may change this information at a later date if you choose.

**Preliminary Questions**

1. Are you a U.S. Citizen? \*

☒ Yes ☐ No

2. Do you have a doctorate degree or will you be awarded a doctorate degree before October 6, 2017. \*

☐ Yes ☒ No

3. Review the detailed information on [Award Types](#)

\*Indicates if other selection your initial response, you choose to a different Award Type when you only see a choice in this configuration.

On this page, you will need to select the type of award (English Teaching Assistantship, Study/Research, or Digital Storytelling).

As you make these selections, the page will change to ask more/fewer preliminary questions. The side navigation column will also change to reflect the necessary components of the application.

You can always come back to this page to update your award type.

**Program Information**

24. Select the Field of Study from the list below most suitable for your Grant Purpose.

Field of Study \*

25. U.S. Institution (through which applying) \*

This field is required. Progressive search: Enter at least three letters in your institution's name and then choose from search result.

- Currently enrolled applicants apply through their home institution and must contact the campus Fulbright Program Adviser (FPA). [Click here](#) to find your campus FPA.
- If you are not applying through a U.S. institution, select "At-Large".
- If your institution is not listed, contact Lora Seery: [lseery@iie.org](mailto:lseery@iie.org)

A common question and point of confusion is about the Language Evaluation form. You must check the appropriate box in order to submit the information about the person completing the language requirement. If for some reason you don't have the “Evaluator” section or can't enter a person's information, be sure you've appropriately marked the form(s) you need.

If you are planning to study in one of the handful of places that is eligible for the Critical Language Enhancement Award, be sure to check Yes. This will enable you to submit the additional application information necessary to be considered for this award. Currently, eligible countries include China (mainland China program only), Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Morocco, Russia. Eligible languages currently include Arabic (all dialects), Bahasa Indonesia, Bangla/Bengali, Mandarin Chinese, Gujarati, Hindi, Marathi, Punjabi, Russian, and Urdu.

5. Foreign language proficiency is documented by the Language Self-Evaluation/Foreign Language Evaluation. Language requirements vary by [program](#). Detailed information on the foreign language forms is available in the [Application Components](#) section of the website:

- For awards where language proficiency is Required: Submit both the Language Self-Evaluation and the Foreign Language Evaluation (If two languages are needed for the project, submit two Language Self-Evaluations and two Foreign Language Evaluations.)
- For awards where language proficiency is Recommended: Submit the Language Self-Evaluation and if you already have some language ability submit the Foreign Language Evaluation (If two languages are needed for the project, submit two Language Self-Evaluations and two Foreign Language Evaluations.)
- For awards where language proficiency is Not Required:
  - In countries where English is not an official language submit the Language Self-Evaluation and if you already have some language ability submit the Foreign Language Evaluation.
  - In countries where English is an official language but the project will require proficiency in another language, submit the Language Self-Evaluation and if you already have some language ability submit the Foreign Language Evaluation.

- \* ☐ I need one Language-Self Evaluation and/or one Foreign Language Evaluation
- ☒ I need two Language-Self Evaluation and/or two Foreign Language Evaluation
- ☐ I do not need the Language-Self Evaluation and/or the Foreign Language Evaluation

6. Are you applying for a Critical Language Enhancement Award?

- \* ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

Review the [Critical Language Enhancement Award Overview](#) for a full list of eligible countries and other details on the award. Applicants for the award must also complete the Language-Self Evaluation and the Foreign Language Form.

The application does not time out automatically. It is important to save your responses periodically and log out of the application portal. This will help protect the information you've entered.

It is important to know as much as you can about your host country. While you will not include all of this information in your proposals, doing this research will help you fine tune your proposals and be useful in your interviews. While the Fulbright program is meant for you to learn about the host country while living there, it is important to demonstrate a sincere interest in, and basic understanding of, the host country.

1. What do you know about the history of the country?
2. Describe the political structure of the country.
3. Describe the current political climate in the country.
4. What are the current economic conditions of the country?
5. Describe 3 key geographical elements of the country.
6. Name and describe the major cities in the country and the distance between them.
7. Describe how you have taken advantage of opportunities in a new place you have lived.
8. What are the current major domestic issues? Briefly describe them.
9. What are the current major international issues? Briefly describe them.
10. What are the current major domestic issues in the country? Briefly describe them.
11. What are some of the ways that you can (and will) be involved with the host community? (through your proposed project, volunteer service, or extra-curricular activities)
12. Describe the country:
  - ⇒ Who lives there?
  - ⇒ What languages are spoken?
  - ⇒ What religion(s) are practiced?
  - ⇒ What role does family play?
  - ⇒ How important is a group-oriented (or individual) approach to living?
  - ⇒ What are some typical etiquettes/customs of the culture?
  - ⇒ What does the national flag look like? How important is the flag?

## Resources

- US DOS Country Guides:  
<https://www.state.gov/misc/list/index.htm>
- Google Earth (know your geography)
- local/regional news sources
- DePauw librarians

## Requesting & Uploading a Transcript

The Fulbright Program requires a complete academic record of your higher education. You must provide transcripts from institutions from which you received or expect to receive degrees, regardless of your degree level. Transcripts must also be submitted from other institutions where you studied or received credit for coursework.

The transcript that you scan and upload must be a document that was produced by the registrar. Essentially this will be an academic record that is organized chronologically--with course titles, credits and grades. This may be a Student Copy of an official transcript or the official transcript itself.

Many students have studied abroad and received a transcript from that study abroad program. In most cases, that credit shows on the DePauw transcript. In this case, it is not necessary to also upload a separate transcript with that credit.

Instructions on uploading the transcript to the Fulbright system are online at <http://us.fulbrightonline.org/transcript-upload-instructions#>.

Requests for transcripts can be made on the Registrar's website at <http://www.depauw.edu/academics/academic-resources/advising/registrar/transcripts/>.

The Statement of Grant Purpose is an intellectually compelling narrative of what you propose to do in your year abroad, whether that's conducting research, pursuing graduate study or teaching English. This is the most important factor in presenting a successful application. The first step is to familiarize yourself with the country summary for the program to which you are applying. Requirements vary from country to country and while some countries encourage or require applicants to incorporate coursework into a project, others prefer independent research. You should ensure that your Statement of Grant Purpose fits the program guidelines for the host country.

## Research Proposals

1. With whom do you propose to work?
2. What do you propose to do?
3. What is innovative about the research?
4. What are the specific research goals and methodologies?
5. What is important or significant about the project?
6. What contribution will the project make toward the Fulbright goal of promoting cultural exchange and mutual understanding?
7. When will you carry out the project? Include a rough timeline.
8. Where do you propose to conduct your study or research? Why was this location(s) chosen?
9. Why do you want to undertake this project?
10. Why does the project have to be conducted in the country of application?
11. How will your project help further your academic or professional development?
12. How will you engage with the host country community? Give specific ideas for civic engagement.
13. What are your qualifications for carrying out this project?

**Design a feasible project:** You must demonstrate that your research strategy is viable, including its content, methodology, and time frame. Address the following:

1. How will the culture and politics of the host country impact the work?
2. Will the resources of the host country support the project?
3. Have you developed a connection with a potential adviser in the host country who has knowledge of the research topic and access to other appropriate contacts in the field?
4. Do you have the requisite academic/field-specific background to undertake the proposed research?
5. Do you have sufficient language skills for the project being proposed and to serve the basic purposes of the Fulbright Program? If not, how will you accomplish these goals? You should consider that, 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.

Candidates are urged to consult professors in their major fields or with experience in the host country, as well as their Fulbright Program Advisers, about the feasibility of their proposed projects.

6. What are your plans for improving your language skills, if they are not adequate at the time of application?
7. Are there any possible feasibility concerns that the project could provoke?

**Be clear and concise:** The individuals reading the proposal want applicants to get to the point about the 'who, what, when, where, why and how' of what you are intending to do as part of your Fulbright award. Avoid discipline-specific jargon.

**Organize the statement carefully:** Don't make reviewers search for information. We urge you to have several people read and critique your Statement, including a faculty adviser, a faculty member outside your discipline, a fellow student, and/or a colleague.

### Adhere to the following format:

- 1.Length is limited to a maximum of **two single-spaced** pages. Longer statements will not be presented to screening committees.
- 2.Do not include any bibliographies, publications, citations, etc., except those that will fit in the two-page limit.
- 3.Use 1-inch margins and Times New Roman 12-point font.

### At the top of the first page include:

On line 1: Statement of Grant Purpose  
On line 2: Your Name, Country of Application, and Field of Study  
On line 3: Your Project Title as it appears in the Biographical Data section of the application

On the top of the second page, enter the same information or just Grant Purpose, Page.

1. Why do you want to pursue the proposed program in the country to which you are applying?
2. What are your reasons for selecting a particular institution?
3. Do you have the requisite academic/field-specific background to undertake the proposed program?
4. Why do you want to gain a better understanding of the peoples and cultures of your host country? Please demonstrate a commitment to the community through volunteer and extra-curricular activity.
5. Do you have sufficient language skills to successfully complete the program?

6. Do you have the flexibility and dynamism necessary for active involvement in the host country?

**Feasibility matters:** Address the following:

1. How are the culture or politics of the host country important to pursuing the program of study?
2. What are the specific resources available in the host country that enrich your course of study that you can't get elsewhere?
3. Have you developed a connection with a potential adviser at the host institution who can encourage your application to the program?

## English Teaching Assistantship Proposals

**Carefully read the specific summary for the country to which you are applying:** This is necessary for you to understand the nature of the program and the specific requirements, since the design of the English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) program varies from country to country.

1. Why do you wish to undertake an ETA opportunity?
2. Why are you applying to this specific country?
3. What do you bring to the classroom that will enrich the learning experience of English language learners overseas?
4. What specific ideas do you have for engaging with students and helping them to learn English?
5. What specific qualifications, training, or experiences do you have to prepare you to serve as an ETA?
6. How do you expect to benefit from the assignment?
7. What plans do you have for civic engagement outside the classroom?

**Do not make your *Statement of Grant Purpose* location-specific within the host country, unless specifically requested to do so in the country summary.** ETAs will be placed by the Fulbright Commission or the U.S. embassy in the host country, so nothing addressed in the *Statement of Grant Purpose* should be location-

specific since you will not know where you will be based and what particular resources will be available.

**Adhere to the following format:**

1. Statement length is limited to a maximum of **one** single-spaced page. Longer statements will not be presented to the screening committee.

2. Use 1-inch margins and Times New Roman 12-point font.

**At the top of each page include:**

On line 1: Statement of Grant Purpose

On line 2: Your Name, Country of Application, and English Teaching Assistantship

### Need Help?

Both S-Center and W-Center tutors have experience and training to help fellowship applicants brainstorm, write and edit their essays.

## Personal Statement

A personal statement is an intellectual narrative about a selection of specific and relevant accomplishments to the proposed graduate fellowship goals. It provides the reader a sense of the candidate's priorities and judgment, allowing them to know the writer more personally.

The personal statement is just one, but very important, part of an application. **It is important to strategize** about what you want and need to convey, and in which component of the application it is most impactful. Read "Writing a Personal Statement" Guide for tips on brainstorming, writing and editing the personal statement.

The statement should be a narrative giving a picture of yourself as an individual. It should deal with your personal history, family background, influences on your intellectual development, the educational and cultural opportunities (or lack of them) to which you have been exposed, and the ways in which these experiences have affected you. Also include your special interests and abilities, career plans, and life goals, etc. It should not be a recording of facts already listed on the application or an elaboration of your Statement of Grant Purpose. It is more of a biography, but specifically related to you and your aspirations relative to the Fulbright Program.



As much as possible, references should come from faculty members. Occasionally, those proposing an English Teaching Assistantship may request a reference from a previous supervisor. If you are considering references other than faculty members, you are strongly encouraged to talk to the Fulbright Program Advisers first.

*English Teaching Assistantship:* Recommenders complete a form with a series of short-answer questions regarding items such as communication skills, interest in teaching, and ability to work in unstructured environments.

*Research and Creative Arts:* Recommenders write letters that speak to your ability to carry out the project being proposed, your intellectual and professional preparation, and your ability to represent the US abroad.

Language requirements vary by country, so review the country description carefully. Research/Creative Arts applicants must be sure to have sufficient language to carry out the project you are proposing. Both a self-language evaluation and a faculty evaluation are needed if there is a language requirement.

Preliminary Information
Instructions
Personal Information
Program Information
Experience Abroad
Education
Experience
Statement of Grant Purpose
Affiliation Letters
Personal Statement
Language Self-Evaluation
Language - Self Evaluation (2)
Critical Language Form
Transcripts
Supplementary Materials
Recommenders
Evaluators
Statement By Applicant
Review

1. You may register no more than three people to complete recommendations. You can register only one person per language needing a Foreign Language Evaluation Form.
2. You should provide each recommender a copy of your Statement of Grant Purpose.
3. Discuss the recommendation/evaluation with the person BEFORE you register them.
4. Make sure the person is willing to complete the form/letter by the deadline indicated AND that they will enter the information in the online system.
5. Let your recommenders/evaluators know that they should be expecting an email message with the following information in the header:
 

From: Fulbright U.S. Student Program (notification@embark.com)

Subject: Fulbright Recommendation /Evaluation for [your name]
4. Register the person for the appropriate form as per instructions below.
5. Follow-up to make sure that they have received the registration email. If they do not receive the email, you can resend it, but remind them to adjust their spam filter.
6. Monitor the Recommendation/Evaluation section to make sure that the person 'submits' the form. You are responsible for making sure that your recommenders enter their recommendations/language evaluation forms by the Fulbright application deadline.
7. Until the application deadline, recommenders/evaluators will be able to submit their recommendations/forms even if you have already submitted your application. You can follow the progress of the submission in this section after registering the people who will prepare your recommendations/evaluations.

You can remove a recommender/evaluator only as long as the person has not submitted the recommendation and add a new person.

**Deadline**  
Be sure to enter the DePauw deadline for recommendations. Refer to the timeline in this document.

## Affiliation Letters

ONLY Research/Creative Arts proposals are required to have an Affiliation Letter. These letters come directly from the affiliation in the host country to the student. The student uploads the letter directly. The Affiliation Letter should speak to the specifics of the proposal and should speak favorably about the project proposal and the feasibility of achieving the project outcomes. Students proposing research projects should start EARLY to secure an Affiliation Letter, reaching out to as many individuals and/or organizations as possible. Faculty, staff and students who have studied abroad in the host country can all be good leads on identifying a host affiliation.

## Fulbright is a very competitive award

- These NCS readers have been blown away at the caliber and quantity of good work the applicants have done and are proposing to do
- Competition is against students from many other schools of all kinds
- There is no gpa requirement; however, applicants with less than a 3.2 for ETA or 3.4 for research awards will find it more challenging because of the level of competition; if gpa is lower, applicants should clearly articulate what other experiences and strengths the applicant has that can offset the gpa
- All candidates have lots of experience, so NCS committees will ultimately look for things that make applicants stand out beyond others

## Know why the Fulbright program was started:

- Fulbright is the country's flagship study abroad program
- Senator Fulbright thought the way to end cold war was to have US students abroad so people could know US citizens personally
- Diplomacy remains at the heart of the program; applicants don't have to live and breathe US policy, but they must demonstrate they will represent the US well

## Successful applications have the following things in common

- They demonstrate how the Fulbright grant is the next obvious, logical step in the applicant's trajectory;
  - ◊ For research proposals in particular, there should be coursework that clearly aligns with the proposed research and/or location. Applicants should indicate the intent to take courses or pursue independent research on the topic prior to going, especially if they have not done so already.
- They demonstrate a reason for why they must go to the proposed country.
- They demonstrate a familiarity with or connection to the country in a way that suggests the applicant can execute on the proposed work once there; in other words, the applicant can begin immediately because they know the environment & culture they're entering.
- They demonstrate a balance between what the applicant can learn and what the applicant can bring to the work and the location.
- Strong recommendations are included. Applicants should work early and closely with faculty members for references, sharing drafts of application proposals with them. The goal is to have references speak specifically to the applicant's proposed project and to the applicant's skills and abilities relevant to being successful in carrying out the project.

## Be wary of:

- Proposing politically sensitive topics
- Using language that is colonial or missionary in nature, particularly when proposing to countries that have a strong history of this
- Using language that conveys a "fix-it" or "savior mentality"
- Using clichés
- Exotification of the people and culture of the proposed location
- Problem solving – if there's a problematic issue in the proposed country, demonstrate a willingness/desire to learn about the problem from local perspectives and with locally derived solutions

## Understand the Process

The National Screening Committee reviews applications from undergraduate and graduate students at the same time. For research applications, they do review them with different criteria, however, recognizing undergraduate students have less training and experience.

One NSC committee consists of 3 faculty members from across the US along with a Department of State representative, who observes and takes notes. NSC committees are assigned applications for a particular region of the world (e.g., southern Africa). When possible, 1 of the 3 is an individual from the country that has been proposed.

While the committee readers are generally familiar with the area through their own work, they may not have familiarity with proposed grant topics. It is important to pitch proposals at a level anyone can understand, regardless of discipline familiarity, but still convey the applicant is familiar with the discipline and methodology, and can carry out the proposed work. For ETAs, it's important to demonstrate an understanding of the education context of the country and transferable skills from previous experiences that will make them successful.

The committee reviews 60-70 applications and is asked to decide on which 20-25 applications will move on to in-country reviews.

The comments on the school's Campus Committee Evaluation that are derived from the on-campus interview are *very* important. These help the NSC members know the candidate's success regarding serving as a cultural diplomat, but also to the overall feasibility of the candidate's proposed grant.

## Letters of Affiliation for Research Awards

Be sure to network, starting early and spreading widely, in order to secure an affiliation letter.

*The OK letter:* "We've been asked and are willing to write a letter in support of Jane Doe."

*The PREFERRED letter:* "We are excited by Jane Doe's proposed research and believe her work is both feasible and valuable. We strongly support her proposal and look forward to supporting her during her project."

*Thanks for the content go to Jason Fuller and Brett O'Bannon (Last edited: May 1, 2015)*

# IMPORTANT DATES 2018

## **August 26, 2018**

Kickoff Dinner for 2018 applicants

## **August 31, 2018**

Workshop #1: Personal Statement Workshop, Overview of Statement of Grant Purpose

## **September 7, 2018**

Workshop #2: Statement of Grant Purpose Workshop

## **September 14, 2018**

Workshop #3: Interview Preparation, Country Knowledge, Revising the Personal Statement and Statement of Grant Purpose

## **September 17, 2018**

Recommendation Letters Due

Affiliation Letters Due (for those proposing research projects)

## **September 21, 2018**

Workshop #4: PS, Mock Interview and Last Questions

## **September 21, 2018**

Deadline for students to submit their application through Embark, the application system

## **September 24 – 28, 2018**

On-campus Interviews

## **October 3, 2018**

Deadline for students to submit their final, revised application through Embark, the application system

## **October 5, 2018**

Fulbright Adviser uploads campus committee evaluation forms and submits applications to Fulbright

## **October 9, 2018**

National Fulbright Application Deadline

## **Late January 2019**

Fulbright announces decisions of the National Screening Committee process via email. Applications moving on in the process are sent to in-country Fulbright commissions to review.

## **Mid-March thru late-May 2019**

Fulbright announces decisions of in-country Fulbright commissions.