Fulbright U.S. Student Program

Scholar Development and Fellowships Advising
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All of the photos in this presentation are of Temple Fulbright recipients.
The Fulbright Program

Program Goal

Our mission is to foster mutual understanding between nations, advance knowledge across communities, and improve lives around the world.

History and Administration

- Created in 1946 by U.S. Congress
- Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)
- U.S. Student Program administered in the U.S. by IIE
- Administered overseas by bi-national Commissions and U.S. Embassies
Fulbright U.S. Student Eligibility

Open to:

- Graduating seniors
- Recent graduates
- Graduate students
- Early career professionals, including creative and performing artists/musicians

Basic Eligibility

- U.S. citizen by the application deadline
- Bachelor’s degree or equivalent by start of grant
- No doctorate at the time of application
- Country-specific requirements

“Recent graduates” usually means within about 5-7 years of graduating.

Notice that there is no GPA requirement. The range for our recent recipients is 3.4-4.0.
Diversity and Inclusion

Fulbright strives to ensure that it reflects the diversity of U.S. society and societies abroad. We encourage the involvement of people from traditionally underrepresented audiences in all our grants, programs and other initiatives.

Opportunities are open to people regardless of their race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, geographic location, socioeconomic status, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity.

A few Fulbright recipients from 2018
Program Award Types

**Study/Research Grant**

Independent research, study (graduate degree grant), or arts projects abroad

- **Awards**: 950+
- **Months**: 8-10
- **Countries**: ~140

Art applicants follow one of these paths

- **List of countries** that offer the graduate degree route

**English Teaching Assistantship (ETA)**

Help teach English and U.S. culture in the classroom

- **Awards**: 1,250+
- **Months**: 8-10
- **Countries**: ~75

Check out these **regional ETA grids** for a quick overview of your options

There are 3 common paths for study/research grants:
1) An original research or arts project
2) A graduate degree grant
3) A combination of research and courses taken as a non-degree student

Countries Worldwide

2,200+

Awards

140+

Countries Worldwide
Award Benefits

Pre-Grant & In-Country

- Round-trip airfare
- Monthly stipend*
- Accident and sickness benefits
- Other possible benefits*
  - Support for dependents
  - Research allowance
  - Tuition
  - Language lessons
  - Enhancement activities
  - Disability-related accommodations

* Varies depending on grant and host country.

Post-Grant

- The Fulbright network of alumni
- State Department’s alumni website
- Eligible for 12 months of noncompetitive eligibility (NCE) hiring status within the federal government
- Lifetime Fulbright email address
- Fulbright Association

Having won a Fulbright might open doors for those planning careers in the government, academia, or the non-profit sector.

Timothy Loftus, India Research
Factors in Selection

- Quality and feasibility of the proposal
- Academic or professional record
- Personal qualifications
- Language preparation
- Preference factors as established by Foreign Fulbright Scholarship Board
- Extent to which the candidate and the project will help to advance the Fulbright Program goals
- Requirements of the program in individual countries
- Desirability of achieving diversity

Do you have sufficient experience to do what you’re proposing? For the ETA, what sort of teaching/tutoring experience do you have? For research and study, what past coursework and research experiences prepare you for your Fulbright project? Finally, even if language is not required, do you have a plan to learn it before and during your Fulbright?

We’re back to the mission again!

Maggie Andresen, Nigeria Research
Other Considerations

• How does the Fulbright fit in as a critical component of your academic and career trajectory, both leading up to AND after the Fulbright?

• Why (country)? In other words, why do you need to have this experience in Spain, Poland, Macau, or (fill in the blank)?

• Community engagement. How will you fulfill the Fulbright mission of increased cultural understanding through exchange?

All Fulbright applicants—regardless of the type of grant—must present their ideas for how they’re going to engage with their host community outside of their research, studies, or teaching. Keep it simple!

Connect the dots of your life (particularly your academic and career trajectory). How have these experiences prepared and motivated you for the Fulbright? How will you build on the Fulbright after you return to the US?

Strive for a multi-pronged rationale. Reflect deeply on your coursework, the placement (for ETAs), other connections to the country (like study abroad, family heritage, etc), your research itself, and (for grad degrees) the nature of the grad program.
Application Components

1. Basic Personal Data & Program Information
   • Abstract, Host Country Engagement, Future Plans

2. Essays
   • Statement of Grant Purpose
     ➢ Research/Study (2 pg max)
     ➢ English Teaching Assistantship (1 pg max)
   • Personal Statement (1 pg max)

3. Reports / References
   • Foreign Language Evaluation
   • Three (3) References
   • Campus Committee Evaluation

4. Transcripts

5. Other
   • Research/Study/Arts: Affiliation Letter(s)
   • Arts: Supplementary Materials

Three letters (or forms, for the ETA) are required. They are typically academic in nature for research/study grants, and a combination for ETAs (at least one should be from someone who has seen you teach/tutor).

Arts/Research students must find a mentor at a host institution abroad (usually at a university). Grad degree applicants are encouraged to look for a faculty member in their proposed program who could serve as an advisor. The mentor then prepares an “affiliation letter.” This is not as daunting as it might seem! Come to a workshop or meet with us to discuss.

Elizabeth Rose, Poland Arts (Printmaking)
### Application Timeline (National)

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<td>AUGUST–SEPTEMBER</td>
<td>Campus Deadlines (see next slide)</td>
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<td>Final Selection and Notification: Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board</td>
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Temple University Application Timeline

• **Late March/Early April 2023:** Fulbright competition opens for 2024-2025 academic year. Create an account in the [Fulbright application portal](#). This is a recommended (not required) deadline.

• **May and June 2023:** Brainstorm and **begin to write**. Attend a Temple Fulbright Workshop. Have a draft? Meet with Fellowships Advising to review. Speak to letter writers. For Research/Study/Arts students, start exploring possible mentors abroad. Do some cyber sleuthing and communicate with past/current recipients. These are strong recommendations, not requirements.

• **June 15, 2023:** Draft 1 Target. Submit a draft of your Statement of Grant Purpose for review by Fellowships Advising. This is a recommended (not required) deadline.

• **June 30, 2023:** Submit “unofficial official” transcripts to the Fulbright application portal. This is a recommended (not required) deadline.

• **July to early August 2023:** Draft 2 Target. Continue to submit drafts of your Statement of Grant Purpose (and Personal Statement, if you have it). This is a recommended (not required) deadline.
Temple University Application Timeline

• **August 10, 2023:** Preliminary deadline (Draft 3 Target). Submit the following application materials and receive feedback from Fellowships Advising and/or campus and alumni readers. This is a STRONGLY recommended (not required) deadline.
  - List of three people you have asked or will ask to serve as a reference. Indicate how they know you and what unique qualities or experiences they are likely to write about. One sentence per reference is fine!
  - Short essays: Abstract/Summary of your proposal; Host country engagement; Brief explanation of your future plans upon returning to the U.S.
  - Statement of Grant Purpose
  - Personal Statement

• **September 10, 2023:** Official campus deadline for Temple applicants (students and alumni). The application, including all supporting documents, must be in the Fulbright on-line application system. **Be sure to give your references this deadline, not the national deadline.** Must also complete the Temple Waiver. This is a **required** deadline.

• **September/October 2023:** Campus Conversations. The campus committee will evaluate your application based on a review of your materials and a 20-minute conversation. The committee completes a campus evaluation, which is submitted with your application. You will be able to revise your Fulbright application as much as you would like after your conversation, up until the national deadline.

• **October 10, 2023:** National Deadline

*Note that most competitive applicants have written 7-13 drafts by the national deadline. My target draft dates above should be seen as a minimum; strive to prepare more.*
Tips to Become More Competitive

• **Language.** If you haven’t already done so, start studying the primary language of your proposed host country, even if language proficiency isn’t required.
  - Self-study
  - Temple courses
  - Local college courses near your hometown in the summer
  - Online courses/tutoring (much better than apps like Babbel or Duolingo; I’m studying German through Lingoda, for example)

• **Teaching and Tutoring Experience (for ETA applicants in particular)**
  - Writing Center (tutors and conversation partners) or other [Student Success Center employment](#)
  - [Diamond Peer Teachers Program](#)
  - [Resnick Academic Support Center](#) tutoring
  - [Mighty Writers](#)
  - Volunteer to teach/assist ESL classes at local organizations like:
    - [Nationalities Service Center](#)
    - [Garces Foundation English for Restaurant Workers](#)
    - [Free Library of Philadelphia](#) ESL Conversation Practice

*Student Success Center applications are usually due in mid- to late April for the following academic year. They hire both undergrads and PhD students.*

*Most of these organizations offer in-person and virtual options. You can gain experience in the virtual classroom, which still counts.*
Tips to Become More Competitive

• Teaching and Tutoring Experience (for ETA applicants in particular), continued

• Here are a few additional online teaching or tutoring opportunities that ETA applicants can explore from any location:
  - Google “Free ESL classes” in X county/city, then reach out. For example, “Free ESL classes in Montgomery County, PA.” Most organizations (non-profits, churches, etc.) that offer FREE courses always need volunteers or interns.
  - Italki.com (we have had an ETA applicant or two who volunteered through Italki). A similar site is Live Mocha.
  - Here’s a list of language-exchange websites (so it’s not for employment, but at least this could be a way to gain some experience working with someone who’s trying to learn English)
  - Here’s a list of volunteer ESL opportunities online
  - Most paid positions seem to require a bachelor’s in hand AND ESL/TEFL certification. They also seem to want a 6-month of yearlong commitment. You can google “Online ESL employment” and you should find many positions, if you meet the requirements.
Tips to Become More Competitive

- **Connect with past/current recipients**
  - They often have insight into the local Fulbright Commission’s priorities
  - They can give you an idea of what a Fulbright is like in that country

- **Gain broad knowledge of your proposed host country**
  - Explore the culture beyond aspects that relate to your project
  - Read about US and world news through your proposed country’s media
  - For research/study/arts: Review the scholarship/research (or arts) being done in that country related to your Fulbright project

- **For Research/Study: Gain research experience**
  - For undergraduates: See “Undergraduate Research and Teaching” on our [Find a Fellowship page](#)
  - Need to write a senior capstone/thesis or any paper for a class? Focus on an issue taking place in your proposed host country.

- **Start early! Don’t wait until August to start to write.**
  - Expect to write multiple drafts
  - Seek input from faculty, Fellowships Advising, Writing Center
  - Participate in one of our Fulbright Workshops in late spring/early summer

Marlise Brown, Germany Research
Next Steps

• **Brainstorm your Fulbright plans** with us one-on-one on Schedule an advising appointment through Handshake.

• Use the **Fulbright Award Search** feature to narrow down your options.

• Consider who you will ask for letters of reference.

• Research alternatives to the Fulbright on our **Find a Fellowship** page

• Take advantage of the resources on the **Fulbright program website**. Here you can find **application tips**, **statistics**, **factors in selection**, **Fulbright Alumni Ambassadors**, **directory of past grantees**, as well as other useful information.

• Register for a Fulbright Workshop. See our **Events page** for more information and links to register.

If your schedule allows, meet with us this spring to brainstorm your ideas and to discuss your specific Fulbright candidacy. It’s great to have these no-pressure conversations well in advance of any deadline.

Don’t select a country based just on the application statistics. However, stats can be useful if you are considering two or three different counties.
Get Inspired

For students attending our live session: Take our Zoom poll right now to indicate your interest

For students/alumni watching a recording or reviewing the slides: Take our Fulbright Interest Survey
  • This will make sure you receive information about the correct future cycle:

Here are a few of our newsletters and Temple articles that profile our Fulbright recipients:
  • March 2022 Newsletter (Fulbright focus, including our Day in the Life series)
  • March 2021 Newsletter (Fulbright focus)
  • May 2021 Newsletter (Year in Review, including several Fulbright recipients)
  • March 2020 Newsletter (Fulbright focus)
  • Temple Is Named a Fulbright Top Producer for the 4th Time (Temple Now)
  • Instagram: @templefellowships (We profile our Fulbright recipients, so follow us to learn more about what Temple Fulbright students/alumni are doing)
Questions? Follow-up?

• **General questions**
  • feladv@temple.edu or barbara.gorka@temple.edu

• **One-on-one Advising** (in person and on Zoom)
  • Schedule online through Handshake Appointments

• **Fellowships e-newsletter**

• **LinkedIn Fellowships Advising Group**

• **Fellowships Advising on Instagram**

We post announcements of our Fulbright recipients on Instagram, so follow us to learn more about who’s doing what. Most of these posts occur from late March through early May.

Kacie Hoagland, Spain ETA
Scholar Development and Fellowships Advising
FULBRIGHT
U.S. Student Program

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