

## THE FULBRIGHT IIE CAMPUS REVIEW AND INTERVIEW PROCESS

The MSU Campus Fulbright Evaluation Committee rates applications on the basis of the preliminary draft submitted to the MSU FPA, and a 30-minute interview. (Please see the website for deadlines)

At least one Campus Evaluation Committee member is selected based on his/her expertise relevant to the candidate's proposal. Other members may not be directly familiar with that field of study, but at least one faculty member will have either received a Fulbright grant(s) or have studied or worked abroad. Faculty members who have expertise in the language of the proposed host country will also interview applicants to non-English speaking countries.

The campus, national, and host country reviewers evaluate each application based on the following criteria:

- The candidate's academic or professional qualifications
- Project validity and feasibility
- The candidate's language qualifications
- Evidence of the candidate's maturity, motivation, and adaptability to a different culture (personal suitability)
- The candidate's knowledge of the host country
- Evaluation of the impression the candidate will make abroad as a citizen representing the United States
- Any other pertinent information

The purpose of the interview is to review and discuss the candidate's academic and professional qualifications, proposed study/research/project, language proficiency, motivation, host country selection, and any other pertinent information. In addition, the members of the Campus Evaluation Committee will make recommendations and suggestions for the candidate to strengthen the application before it is forwarded to the next stage of competition at the national level.

For the campus interview, prepare an 8-10 minute presentation that addresses:

- 1) Your social and academic background
- 2) Your reasons for selecting the host country
- 3) The validity, relevance, and feasibility of your proposal
- 4) Your language proficiency
- 5) How the study/research would promote mutual understanding between nations
- 6) Other factors that could enhance your candidacy

The remaining 20-22 minutes will be allotted for discussion with the members of the Campus Evaluation Committee. The issues may range widely. The candidate should prepare for the interview by reviewing the six specific evaluation criteria listed on Form 10 of the application materials. See *The Campus Interview Committee* by Virginia Franklin for more information about this process. Another useful reference is *Preparing for Your Fulbright Campus Committee Interview* by Paul Bohlmann.

Because this is essentially a job interview, the candidate should dress appropriately. A professional appearance is likely to contribute to your overall confidence and performance in the interview.

Each member of the Campus Evaluation Committee will read, critique, and annotate the candidate's application materials in preparation for the interview. Afterwards, the candidate will have his/her application returned with their comments. Then the applicant will have approximately two weeks to revise and/or supplement the application. An explanation of the process is available in *Revisions, Deadlines, and Individual Attention* by Gerise Herndon.

The MSU Fulbright Program Adviser will complete the required institutional endorsements and forward all of the MSU applications to the IIE Fulbright U.S. Student Program Office in New York City by the national deadline.

Applications then will undergo a second review by a national, multidisciplinary, review committee. The applications are then ranked and forwarded to the host country's Fulbright Binational Commission or the Public Affairs Office of the U.S. Embassy. They review the applications, and forward their recommendations to the J. William Fulbright Scholarship Board in New York City.

The award winners are announced in April and May.