2021 Fulbright US Student Program Information Session

Pre-application information for world language students considering a Fulbright grant

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Joy Campbell, MSU Fulbright Program Advisor
Welcome!

- Joy Campbell (she/her)
  - Fulbright Program Advisor
  - Fulbright-Hays DDRA Project Director
- International education at MSU
  - 18th year at MSU
  - 2nd year as advisor in International Studies & Programs (ISP)
- Long-term international experience
  - France – 3 years (teaching, studying)
  - Morocco – 2 years (Peace Corps, teaching)
Topics to Cover Today

- Overview of the Fulbright US Student Program
  - Worldwide and MSU stats
- Eligibility
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Benefits
- Award Types
- Application Components
- Factors in Selection
- Language Skills and Fulbright

- Countries with Language *Requirements*
- Countries with Language *Recommendations*
- Making Yourself More Competitive
- Application Timeline
- Resources Available at MSU
- Next Steps

Explore  Prepare  Apply!
Fulbright US Student Program Overview

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 Congress
• Sponsored by the US Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
• US Student Program administered in the US by the Institute of International Education (IIE)
• Administered overseas by bi-national Fulbright Commissions and US Embassies
Fulbright US Student Program Locations

- Over 2,200 grants available annually
- Over 140 countries worldwide
  - Administratively divided into six world areas, each represented by a regional desk at IIE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>World Area</th>
<th>Region</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Asia-Pacific</td>
<td>Europe &amp; Eurasia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle East &amp; North Africa</td>
<td>South and Central Asia</td>
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<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>Western Hemisphere</td>
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MSU and Fulbright

MSU has a long and successful history with Fulbright

- Over 200 Spartans have won IIE student awards to over 65 countries since 1949
- Over 375 faculty scholars have had grants since 1960

Other Fulbright-adjacent programs at MSU include

- Fulbright student grantees from abroad
- Fulbright visiting scholars from abroad
- Humphrey Fellows program
- Annual Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant national orientation, and FLTAs who teach language courses on campus
Recent MSU Applications

- 31 applications to non-English speaking countries
- 15 of 17 SFs to non-English speaking countries

2016-17: MSU Applicants, MSU Grants
2017-18: MSU Applicants, MSU Grants
2018-19: MSU Applicants, MSU Grants
2019-20: MSU Applicants, MSU Grants
2020-21: MSU Applicants, MSU Grants
2021-22: MSU Applicants, MSU Grants, MSU Semi-Finalists
Program Eligibility

Basic Eligibility

- US citizen by the application deadline
- Bachelor’s degree or equivalent by start of grant
- No doctorate at the time of application
- Country-specific requirements
  - Language proficiency
  - Preferred degree or field

Open to
- Graduating seniors
- Recent graduates
- Graduate students
- Early career professionals, including creative and performing artists and musicians
Diversity and Inclusion

- Fulbright strives to ensure that it reflects the diversity of US society and societies abroad.
- 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.
- Fulbright encourages the involvement of people from traditionally underrepresented audiences in all its initiatives.

2020 Webinars
- Alumni Ambassador Panel: First Generation College Students
- Applicants with Disabilities
- Alumni Ambassador Panel: LGBTQ+ Applicants
- Dependents: Fulbright with a Family
- Fulbright Impact in the Field: Race, Justice, and the Global Civil Rights Struggle
- Fulbright for Military Connected Students
Award Benefits

Pre-Grant & In-Country

• Round-trip airfare
• Monthly stipend
  • Varies based on grant and host country
• Accident and sickness benefits
• Other possible benefits
  • Support for dependents
  • Research allowance
  • Tuition
  • Language lessons
  • Enhancement activities
  • Disability-related accommodations

Post-Grant

• Fulbright alumni network
• 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

Intangible Benefits

• Cultural immersion opportunities
• International professional and personal contacts
• Life-changing experiences
• Amazing résumé builder
Award Types

2,200+ Awards
140+ Countries

Study/Research Grant
Independent research, study, or arts projects abroad

950+ Awards
8–10 Months
~140 Countries

English Teaching Assistantship (ETA)
Help teach English and US culture in the classroom

1,250+ Awards
8–10 Months
~75 Countries
Application Components

Personal Data & Program Information

- Abstract
- Host Country Engagement
- Plans Upon Return to the US

Essays

- Statement of Grant Purpose
  - Research/Study – 2 pages
  - English Teaching Assistantship – 1 page
- Personal Statement – 1 page

Reports / References

- Transcripts
- Three References
- Foreign Language Evaluation
- Campus Committee Evaluation

Other

- Research/Study
  - Affiliation Letter(s)
- Arts
  - Supplementary Materials
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 wide institutional and geographic distribution
Language Skills and Fulbright

• The heart of the Fulbright program is cultural exchange.
  • Language proficiency plays a critical role in effective exchange.
• Strong applications demonstrate that:
  • You have the skills to do the proposed project or
  • You will have those skills by the time you begin your grant.
    • MSU or community college courses
    • Campus clubs, local groups (e.g., Meetup)
    • Online tools, apps (e.g., Mango Languages, Duolingo, Babbel)
    • In person or online language exchange (e.g., Tandem)
    • Volunteer ESL tutoring

During their grants, Fulbrighters will meet, work, live with and learn from the people of the host country, sharing daily experiences. The program facilitates cultural exchange through direct interaction on an individual basis in the classroom, field, home, and in routine tasks, allowing the grantee to gain an appreciation of others’ viewpoints and beliefs, the way they do things, and the way they think.
Countries with Language Requirements

- **Novice** language level required
  - French: France ETA
  - German: Germany (some SR)
  - Korean: South Korea SR

- **Intermediate** language level required
  - Spanish: Ecuador SR/ETA, Costa Rica SR/ETA, Spain SR/ETA, Argentina SR, Bolivia SR, Chile SR, Colombia ETA, Dominican Republic SR, El Salvador SR, Guatemala SR/ETA, Honduras SR/ETA, Mexico (some SR), Nicaragua SR, Panama SR/ETA, Paraguay SR/ETA, Peru SR, Venezuela SR
  - Arabic: Jordan SR, Morocco SR

- **Advanced** language level required
  - Chinese: Taiwan (some SR), China SR
  - German: Germany ETA, Luxembourg SR, Austria SR
  - Italian: Italy SR
  - Japanese: Japan SR
  - Russian: Russia SR/ETA, Belarus ETA
  - Portuguese: Brazil SR/ETA, Portugal ETA, Mozambique SR

  - French: Madagascar SR
  - Spanish: Spain (some SR), Mexico (some SR, all ETA), Peru ETA
Countries with Language Recommendations

- Awards requiring no (or minimal) language proficiency
  - ~50 of the ~75 countries for ETA grants
  - ~75 of the ~140 countries for SR grants
- Nearly all countries where English is not widely spoken include recommendations or other stipulations in their descriptions:
  - Azerbaijan: Recommended novice; knowledge of Russian or Azerbaijani is helpful, but not expected
  - Belgium: Recommended novice; language proficiency is not required, but preference may be given to applicants with some level of proficiency in one of Belgium’s official languages (French, Dutch, German).
  - Egypt: Recommended intermediate; applicants are required to have sufficient proficiency in written and spoken Arabic to conduct the proposed study
  - Kenya: Not required; although English is one of the two official languages of Kenya, Kiswahili and/or other languages may be useful outside of Nairobi
  - Taiwan: Not required; no Chinese language skills are required. All classroom instruction is in English. Mandarin study in Taiwan is highly encouraged.
  - Laos: Not required; all class teaching is in English. Intensive Lao language instruction will be provided during in-country orientation. Candidates are encouraged to indicate plans for Lao language study in their applications.
  - Poland: Not required; knowledge of the Polish language is not a formal requirement, but some Polish language proficiency is recommended.
Making Yourself More Competitive

• It’s about more than your GPA
  • Experiences
  • Leadership
  • Flexibility

• Fulbright is **not** a gap year program
  • Needs to be a logical step in your trajectory

• Use the next few months wisely
  • Connect with student organizations or other groups related to your host country
  • Continue strengthening your language skills
  • For ETA applicants: gain teaching experience, look into education training
  • For research applicants: think of ways research for current classes could serve as a foundation for future study, gain experience in independent research
  • For open study applicants: look closely at schools, programs, and requirements for admission
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<tr>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Winter into Spring</td>
<td>Research grant type, select country, competition opens in late March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Prepare application, meet interim MSU deadlines</td>
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<td>September</td>
<td>MSU application deadline, campus committee interview</td>
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<td>October</td>
<td>National application deadline</td>
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<td>November-December</td>
<td>US review, National Screening Committees</td>
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<td>January-May</td>
<td>Semi-finalist notifications (January), host country review for semi-finalists</td>
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<td>March-June</td>
<td>Final selection and notification</td>
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Resources Available at MSU

• Fulbright Program Advisor
  • Brainstorming, information, application process, liaison for questions to IIE staff, editing, campus interview coordination
  • Connections to past MSU applicants and finalists
• MSU Fulbright website
  • Links to specific information from IIE, MSU timeline, application components, upcoming workshops and sessions
• Writing Center
  • Personalized help on outlining, writing, grammar, and more
  • Summer “write-ins” planned
• Career Services Network & College-Specific Advisors
  • Virtual workshops on cover letters, preparing your CV, interview skills, and more, plus helpful guides and tips on website
  • Experience advising Fulbright applicants on personal statements
  • May be able to help with mock interviews

Don’t forget YOU! Current and past applicants are great resources!
Next Steps

• Connect with me!
  • Joy Campbell, joycamp@msu.edu

• Visit the MSU Fulbright website: https://www.isp.msu.edu/fulbright
  • Complete the Fulbright Program Interest Survey
  • General information, events
  • IIE-specific pages
    • Study/Research, ETA, timeline with interim campus deadlines, application components, tips and hints
  • MSU-specific resources

• Visit the IIE Fulbright website: https://us.fulbrightonline.org/
  • Begin researching host countries and programs
  • Explore past webinars