

2021 Fulbright US Student Program Information Session

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

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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



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

MSU and Fulbright

MSU has a long and successful history with Fulbright

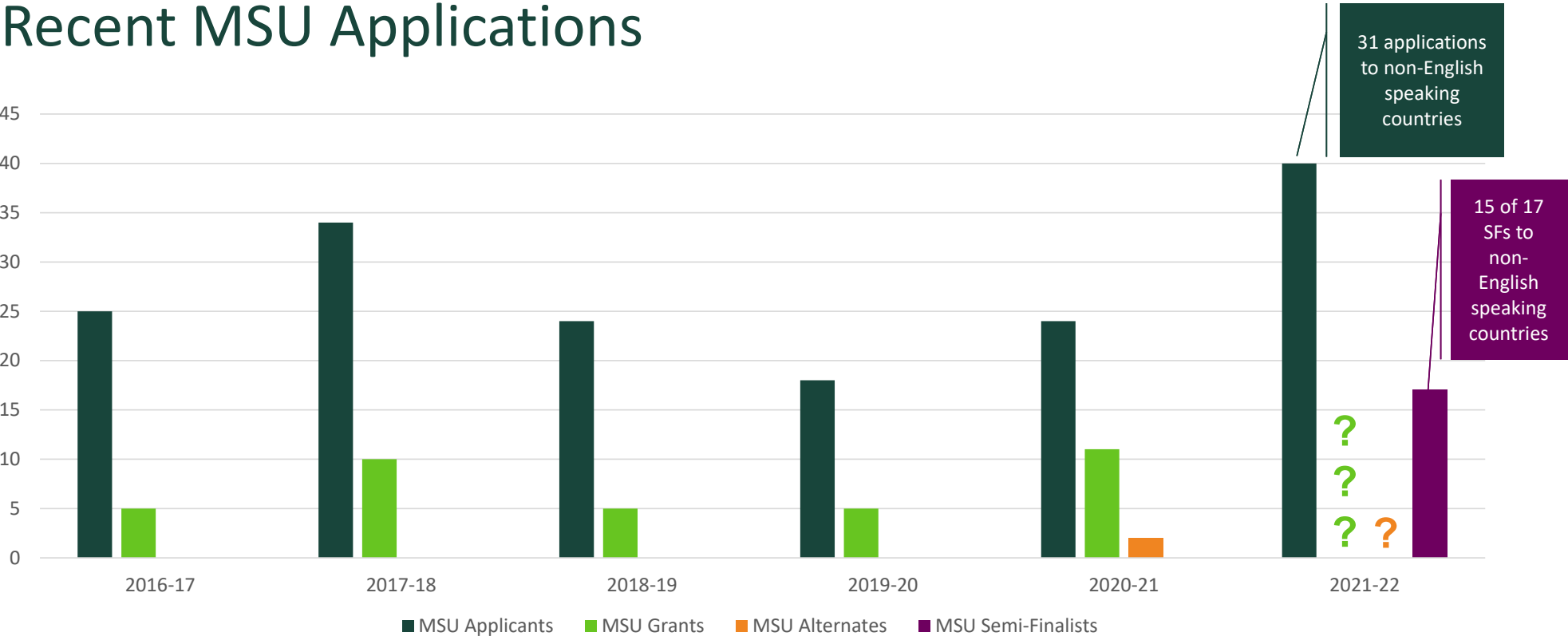
- Over 200 Spartans have won IIE student awards to over 65 countries since 1949
- Over 375 faculty scholars have had grants since 1960

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



Program Eligibility

Open
to

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

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

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



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

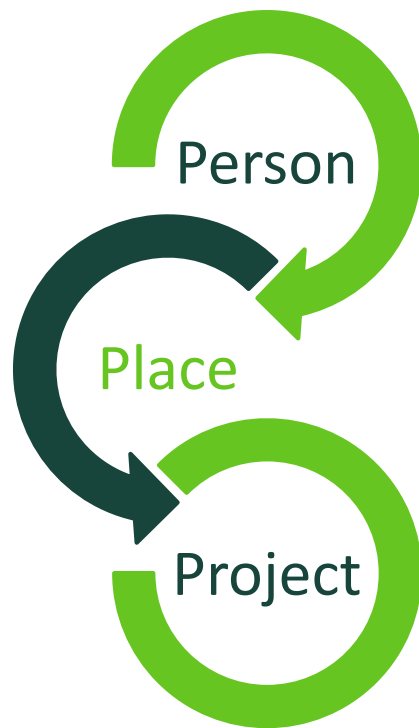
- Transcripts
- Three References
- Foreign Language Evaluation
- Campus Committee Evaluation

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*

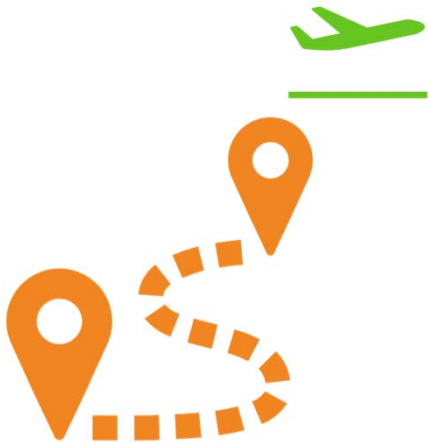
- **Novice** language level required
 - French: France ETA
 - German: Germany (some SR)
 - Korean: South Korea SR
- **Intermediate** language level required
 - French: Luxembourg SR, Benin SR, Burkina Faso SR, Cameroon SR, Guinea SR, Cote d'Ivoire SR, Niger SR, Senegal SR, Togo SR, Morocco SR, Congo SR
 - 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
- 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
- **Advanced** language level required
 - 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

Application Timeline



Winter into Spring: Research grant type, select country, competition opens in late March



Summer: Prepare application, meet interim MSU deadlines



September: MSU application deadline, campus committee interview



October: National application deadline



November-December: US review, National Screening Committees



January-May: Semi-finalist notifications (January), host country review for semi-finalists




March-June: Final selection and notification

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

