

2021 Fulbright US Student Program Information Session

Pre-application information for students and
alumni considering a Fulbright grant

February 4, 2021

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
 - Beginning 2nd year in 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
- Application Timeline
- Resources Available at MSU
- Next Steps



Fulbright US Student Program Overview

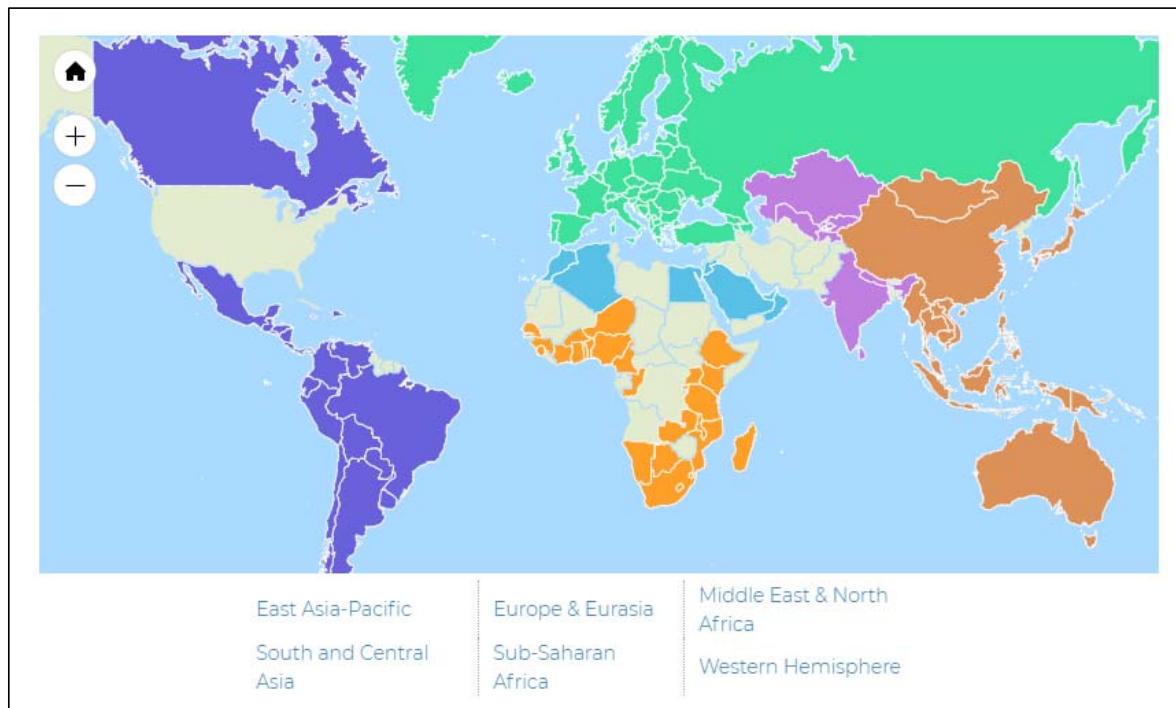
Program Goal

“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

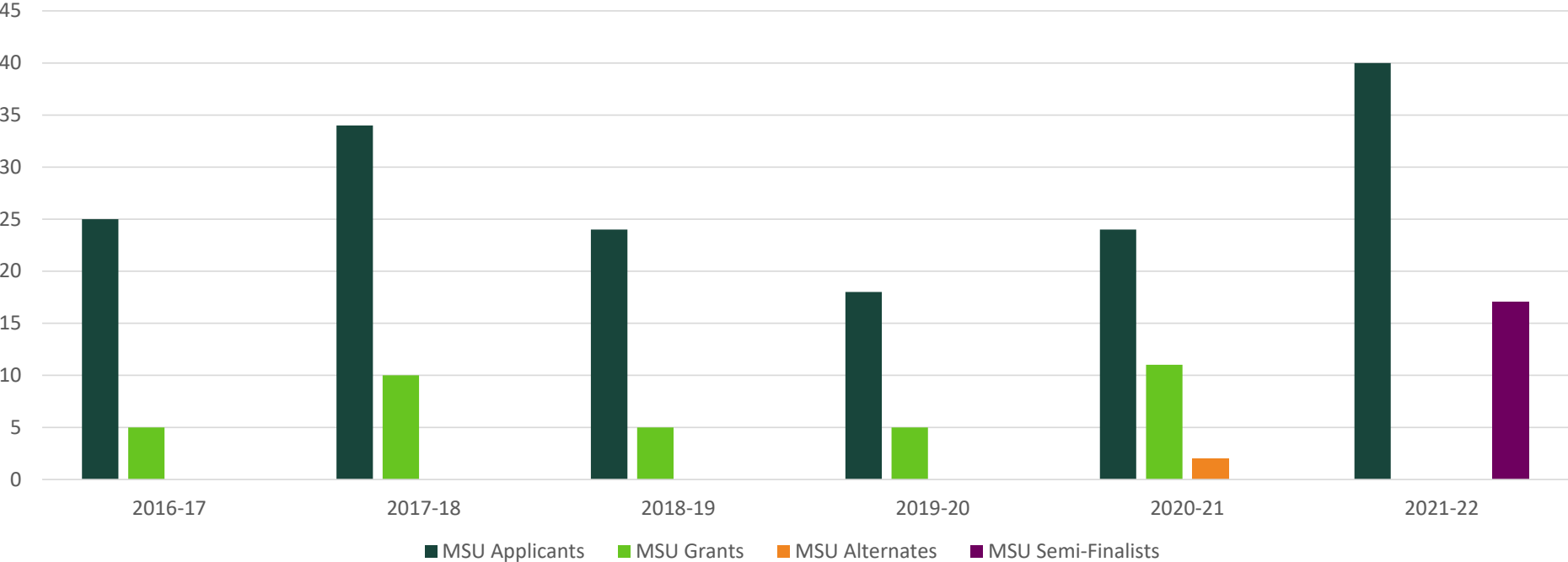
- Over 200 Spartans have won IIE student awards to over 65 countries since 1949
- 124 faculty scholars have had grants since 1998

Other Fulbright-adjacent programs at MSU include

- Fulbright student grantees from abroad
- Fulbright scholars from abroad
- Humphrey Fellows program
- Annual Foreign 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

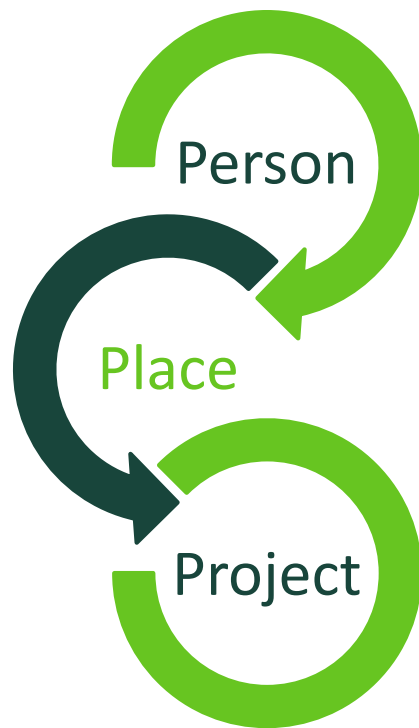
- Transcripts
- Three References
- Foreign Language Evaluation
- Campus Committee Evaluation

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

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
- MSU Fulbright website
 - Links to specific information from IIE, MSU timeline, application components, upcoming workshops and sessions
- Career Services Network
 - 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
- Writing Center
 - Personalized help on outlining, writing, grammar, and more
 - Summer “write-ins” planned

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

