

Fulbright US Student Program Information Session Transcript

February 4, 2021

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16:02:27 Alright, we're going to record this for future reference. So hello and welcome. I'm delighted that you're here today and hope that I can provide you some information about the Fulbright student grant, just to make sure everybody's in the right place.

16:02:42 This is a presentation about the Fulbright US Student Program which is available, and I'll give all the details, but available to students who have a bachelor's degree by the time the program starts I see that many of you are juniors which is exactly

16:02:58 the right place to be thinking about this. If you're a senior that's great. Anybody who's a recent graduate is also able to apply.

16:03:07 And I know we have a couple of advisors on to who are learning about this to maybe pass the information on to their own students. So, I would like to introduce myself just a little bit so that you get to know who I am and if you haven't seen yet in the

16:03:23 chat we have been just students are introducing themselves and mentioning their major what college there and just so that you can know who else is here as well.

16:03:32 But, so that I'm more than a talking head, this is, this is, brief introduction. So my name is Joy do call me Joy. I am not a not a PhD holder so you can certainly call me by my first name, and I do use she and her pronouns, and the Fulbright advisor

16:03:50 here at MSU, and also the Fulbright Hays DDRA project director, and that is the doctoral dissertation research abroad grant. That's also under a slightly different Fulbright umbrella but that's for PhD students who want to go abroad and do their research.

16:04:08 This is my 18th year here at MSU, and all of that has been devoted to some aspect of international education that really is my passion, and I've addressed that in some different ways and different avenues, and this is my second year here, starting with

16:04:27 with ISP with being a Fulbright Program advisor so I've been here one whole year. And I'm excited. it really excited to start the second year.

16:04:37 So, I have not had a Fulbright myself, I did serve in the Peace Corps I've lived overseas in both France and Morocco for multiple years, I've done a lot of traveling and had had some really amazing experiences overseas, where you can see the pictures

16:04:53 there we're really trying to share with our own kids I, my husband and I met in the Peace Corps actually we're trying to share that, that passion for travel and that interest in being a world citizen with our kids.

16:05:07 So, the topic.

16:05:10 I had a question.

16:05:12 Is ISP as in like the integrated like physical science or is that another acronym, I am sorry, thank you for checking me I met because there are so many, so many acronyms I'll be throwing out and usually I remember to define them but that what I miss

16:05:28 ISP is the department that I work in the unit on campus its international studies and programs. We're in the International Center, when we're not in our homes.

16:05:39 So if you go to the food court and International Center, and you turn right from those stairs and go to the other end of the building where there's three floors that's where education abroad, and the Peace Corps office, Japan center for Michigan universities.

16:05:56 The Center for gender and global context, Asian Studies Center African Studies Center and the Fulbright office are all there in the international center so thank you for asking that question.

16:06:09 And I, I, that that's a perfect segue into my next thing that I wanted to let you know if you do have a question, I set this up as a conversation, it's just a meeting, as opposed to a webinar, because I want you to feel like you can hop in and I want

16:06:23 you to ask questions when you think of them, you can put them in the chat and I can try to try to view between my two screens, but if I miss something or you just really have a question you want to ask right the second just hop in exactly like Chloe just

16:06:41 did. So topics that I'll be covering today this is a pre application session. So my goal today is to provide you with enough information, so you can figure out if a Fulbright is a good match for you at this stage in your academic career.

16:06:56 And just so that you have the date straight in your head, the grants that I'm talking about today, have a long application cycle, you have the final deadline in October of this year, and then travel would begin in the academic 22 to 23 year, so a year

16:07:15 from this coming September, is when traveling would start, most likely, so this is a long application cycle where you can really plan ahead and make yourself competitive for this grant.

16:07:31 So, just to get that in your in your head where we're looking at for the dates.

16:07:36 So these are the topics that will cover today.

16:07:39 Kind of a program overview and then some of the details like, how does eligibility work, what are the actual benefits that that I could get if I was a full brighter, what types of awards are there Where can I go, and that kind of information so we'll

16:07:53 be covering all of these things in the next few minutes.

16:08:00 So, at its heart, first and foremost, the Fulbright Program is an international exchange program.

16:08:10 It is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. And, you know, in that 75 year history The program has existed to foster mutual understanding between nations that was what it was founded on back in 1946 proposed in 45.

16:08:29 And that has always been. Its aim. So, the exchange part comes in that you travel overseas, of course, and you learn things about that culture but also that you're an ambassador for American culture, and your corner of the world.

16:08:46 So, that is always the overarching goal that you want to have in your mind is that it's, it's not a gap year program it's not so that you can go and absorb absorb absorb but not give back.

16:09:00 It is an exchange program.

16:09:03 It gives you an opportunity to build lasting relationships, explore, you know, expand your network overseas advance your career, and Fulbright offers not only grants to us, students and scholars under various programs, but also offers grants for foreign

16:09:21 students, and international students and scholars to come here to the US and study. So, since its inception in 1945. The program had for 88 grantees in that first year, and now there are over 8000 annually through all of the different programs under that

16:09:42 umbrella.

16:09:45 It is run by, it is sponsored by the Department of State, and administered by IIE that's the Institute of International Education, and I'll, I'll call this program that we're talking about today.

16:10:03 The IIE Fulbright you'll hear that a lot. So that's where the IIE comes from is that for most of those 75 years I he has been administering this program, on behalf of the Department of State.

16:10:17 So the formal name is the Fulbright US Student Program, but you'll hear it called the IIE Fulbright a lot. So there Chloe I got one of my acronyms right for you.

16:10:27 Alright, so where can you go all the places that are not beige, I guess. There are over 2000 grants available annually, and I'll talk about the different kinds of grants that that you can possibly apply for a Fulbright is active in over 140 countries

16:10:46 all over the world, and administrative Lee the colors here are divided into six world areas and each of those world areas has a regional desk at IE, where they have someone who is very familiar with the programs in that particular area, but you can see

16:11:02 that there are so many places that that you might be interested in traveling to so I'll talk more about more about those that hundred and 40 countries is the number that is available for students wanting to do a study or research grant.

16:11:19 And then there are 75 countries among those hundred and 4075 of them, offer English teaching assistant grants, where you go overseas and teach for that year.

16:11:31 So, lots of different opportunities in places.

16:11:35 As far as MSU and Fulbright. You're all students here, you've been here for several years or some of your staff members, and you know that MSU has a tremendous reputation as a global institution.

16:11:49 The university admitted its first international students in 1873. So, there is a long tradition, a lot of you might have gone on a study abroad program education abroad, you might have had a faculty member from another country.

16:12:04 You had classmates I guarantee you've had classmates from other countries, maybe you've taken language classes from a Fulbright language teaching assistant and FL TA.

16:12:12 So you by virtue of being on campus for these years have come to know that MSU has deep deep roots globally.

16:12:24 In terms of MSU's global profile there are 1400 faculty involved in international research and teaching and service. We have 30 internationally focus centers and Institute's on campus, many of which I kind of reeled off there when when talking about ISP,

16:12:40 we're ranked number 12 in the US for study abroad. Number 24 international student enrollment, so you're at the right place to apply for a Fulbright you've been surrounded for years by this kind of global atmosphere.

16:12:56 So MSU does have a long history with Fulbright we've had over 200 Spartans that have won these IE awards. Not to mention, many other kinds of Fulbright awards but the one that we're talking about today.

16:13:09 Over 200 students to over 65 countries or sorry yeah over 65 countries since 1949 I couldn't find any Spartans in those first couple of years but long long history there.

16:13:21 And then we've had us just since 1998, which is as far back as I can go online, we've had over 124 faculty scholars who have gone overseas, on, on faculty scholar grants.

16:13:34 So there are lots of people all around you that you might not realize but are related to the Fulbright program on campus. We also have.

16:13:44 As I mentioned before Fulbright student grantees from abroad, so students who have come from other countries to enroll in a Matthew and do a degree program.

16:13:52 We have Fulbright Scholars from abroad, they might be taking classes they might be teaching classes they might be doing research.

16:13:59 We have the Humphrey Fellows program again bringing scholars from certain parts of the world. We host on campus for the last several years we've won a grant to host a foreign language teaching assistant national orientation where FLTAs who are going

16:14:16 to come and teach their language at us institutions, they all come to MSU first it's one of the regional orientations and have a few days, getting to sort of getting their, their legs under them in terms of being in the US, and then travel to their,

16:14:32 their institutions for their academic year. And then we have FLTS who remain here on MSU's campus we've had up to 13 at a time teaching, whatever their native languages to MSU students.

16:14:45 So there's a lot of Fulbright going on at ms you even if it's, you know, in the background if you haven't heard of it before it's it's still out there.

16:14:55 All right.

16:14:57 In terms of MSU application so you can see on this. This graph, going back just a few years. So, that dark green ribbon is the number of applicants that we've had for the last six competitions, and that's been anywhere from eighteen, all the way

16:15:17 we had last year, forty, for this program. The light green shows the number of grants that Spartans were actually awarded. And so we've never had fewer than five in the last several years, and this last year we've had 11, which is fantastic.

16:15:31 So, we do have a good, strong history of being successful with this program.

16:15:38 The orange is for alternatives, which means that in the, the 2022 21 year, there were two students who were awarded alternate status, but didn't make it to finalist or at least haven't yet because they designate a couple of alternatives in case a finalist

16:15:59 is not able to go or has to defer at the last moment, they, they do, let an alternate take that person's place so that orange bar could in theory move up to a couple more in the light green bar in the future.

16:16:16 The last section there for the 2021 22 grants so those are students who will be heading out this fall. We had as I mentioned before, 40 applications, which was the most, the highest number of applications that we've had since I think 2011 was this last

16:16:32 year which is fantastic and I'm excited to keep going with those high numbers and have a good group here.

16:16:39 We don't know how many will be offered a finalist or an alternate position, because just last week, just last Friday. We learned who are semi finalists are.

16:16:50 And we do have 17 that's the purple bar so 17 of those 40 made it to the next stage, and we are really excited to have nearly 40, or sorry nearly 50% of that 40, who made it to the next step.

16:17:06 And what that means is that now those applications for those 17 students, they've been vetted by the National screening committee here in the US, and they've made it to this step now their application goes to the host country, and those 17 students represents

16:17:22 14 different host countries in seven different colleges around campus so we're excited to see what happens with the next step and see where that light green bar goes in the next year, with with how many finalists are named.

16:17:40 Alright, so now this is why you're actually here.

16:17:43 What is the program about how do I get in. So the eligibility for the program, they're open to all fields of study all disciplines areas of interest from the hard sciences to creative arts Performing Arts.

16:17:57 There's a wide wide variety of programs available.

16:18:02 You need to be a US citizen by the application deadline. And the reason for that is because as I said before, this program is sponsored by the Department of State, and they are using federal money for the program and the purpose of this one is to send

16:18:18 us citizens abroad, to be able to enhance their own understanding of other countries and then bring that knowledge back to the US.

16:18:27 Applicants need to have a bachelor's degree before the start of the grant, so you don't have one now you're a junior that's fine. You just have to have that degree by the time the grant begins in September October of 2022.

16:18:41 All right, that's not the only timeline that works a lot of our students are juniors now thinking about it writing during the summer, applying their senior fall, hoping to travel in the fall, after they graduate.

16:18:57 But that's not the only thing that works. You can be a graduate student, you can be a doctoral student or masters level, you can be an alum, who's not enrolled in a, in a institution right now that's fine.

16:19:09 So there's lots of different options. The only sort of cap on the other end is that you cannot have a doctorate, but at the time that you apply. So if you are a PhD student, you would have to use the Fulbright to do say dissertation research or another

16:19:26 project, but you can't have your degree yet, the PhD.

16:19:33 As I said, you don't have to be enrolled in any institution of higher education to be eligible, and I'll work with alumni up to about five years after graduation.

16:19:42 So if you have peers who are a couple of years ahead of you who may be interested in this kind of opportunity you can spread the word that I'm happy to work with them.

16:19:51 Then language or country specific requirements are also a big factor in this.

16:19:58 You have to think of Fulbright not as one big program, but really is 140 different programs because each country has its own little things that it may require so every country has a detail page that gives those requirements, you want to make sure that

16:20:17 you're paying attention to, to all of those details that they provide. So a couple of examples of the these kind of country specific requirements would be language proficiency have a certain level.

16:20:31 And don't panic. Lots of countries don't have any language requirement at all so if language has not been something that you've had a chance to study a great deal of that, that doesn't close the door to you at all, but there are countries that do require

16:20:46 a certain level might be novice that might be an more intermediate level.

16:20:51 Other countries might have a preferred degree or a field that they're looking specifically for this comes up a lot with those English teaching assistant grants.

16:21:01 Many countries want you to have a degree in linguistics or education or something related so that they know they're putting someone in the classroom, who has the necessary background and experience.

16:21:12 One other thing I'll note is that during each competition cycle, you can only apply for one type of grant.

16:21:19 So if you have to choose at the very beginning of your process, which country and which program you're applying to. There's no sort of blanket universal application where, where you might be able to to go to a few different places.

16:21:34 You do have to narrow it down right at the beginning and that's probably one of the hardest parts.

16:21:40 Alright, so that is the basic eligibility.

16:21:47 I do want to very specifically mentioned diversity and inclusion because Fulbright is committed to making sure that the cohorts that go overseas to represent the US represent the whole of our country, and all of the different ways that people can be diverse.

16:22:07 So, you know that there's the legal language about opportunities that are open to people, regardless of all these different ways that people can be different from one another, but they really mean it and I want you to know that.

16:22:22 So I think one of the ways that we can see how important it is to Fulbright to, you know, encourage people from all different backgrounds to apply is looking at the these are just some of the 2020 webinars that they offered last year, for applicants,

16:22:38 you can see that they have them on different world areas of course and on nitty gritty things like how do I write my statement of purpose, but they had application webinars for first generation college students, applicants that have disabilities LGBT

16:22:54 q IA plus, applicants, you know with with a panel of students from that background who were able to answer questions, traveling with a family if you have dependents, and etc So I do want to make it clear to everyone that Fulbright is truly committed to

16:23:14 sending a diverse cohort overseas. And so, that is, that's just something that they're that we're excited about that that picture is not just a stock photo there.

16:23:26 That image is the 2017 class of full writers from Dartmouth, it's it's one that I was able to find on their website but it gives a nice representation of an actual group of people from a real institution here that went out quite recently.

16:23:43 Joy. Yes. Quick question about because I am an advisor, you know, but the teaching the teaching fulbright's teaching English run with ot saw minor be considered a good credential for those specific education related.

16:24:01 Yep, absolutely. And we are like, Okay, well we'll talk to you about that in a little bit more specifically how to make yourself competitive. But yeah, t small minor would, would be to it so for those who are unaware is teaching English to speakers of

16:24:17 other languages, and it is offered as a minor out of the linguistics and languages department here at the College of Arts and Letters.

16:24:27 Alright, so the award benefits What do you get when you get a Fulbright so there are tangible benefits that sounds kind of transactional. This is the money stuff, but there are so many intangible benefits as well.

16:24:41 But as far as the, you know, Show me the money. You hear you receive round trip airfare from wherever you live, you know, however many stops that takes to your country, you receive a stipend that covers things like your food and lodging and a bus pass

16:25:02 pass you know for mobile travel within the city your internet that kind of thing so utilities that that kind of maintenance allowance. And that's based on the standard of living.

16:25:17 Yo officially it's based on the standard of living of a graduate student in that country. So they use the formula that are developed by the State Department for this purpose, and so there's a specific amount that you're allotted.

16:25:27 You do get benefits with with accident and and health insurance. And then there are possible benefits that includes the things that you see there for dependents, if you have a spouse or unmarried child who is traveling with you.

16:25:43 You might receive a research allowance that would allow you to get into archives for example or pay for museum admissions or that kind of thing.

16:25:56 tuition is possible with some of the grants, there are there are study grants that allow for graduate education, you might be able to do language lessons supplementing what you already know, different enhancement activities and disability related accommodations.

16:26:11 So, again, going back to that statement that I made about diversity and inclusion. If you are coming from a background where you have a disability, whether it's seen or unseen.

16:26:23 I he works with Mobility International to determine what kinds of support might be available to you internationally. So, there have been full writers, we've had two visually impaired flt as we've come to us campus and been very successful teachers we've

16:26:44 had a full brighter with with cerebral palsy, who was very successful in in their, their time overseas, that was a US citizen who went over and I'm on an IE grant, and then many, many other, you know, whether it's a mobility issue or a, you know, mental

16:27:03 health or learning disability.

16:27:06 Don't let those things, you know, make you think that for some reason your application wouldn't be competitive because Fulbright will work with, with you with your applicant with your host country with Mobility International to determine how best to support

16:27:20 you.

16:27:22 Okay, so those are some of the tangible things before the grant and in country after the grant, of course you have access to Fulbright alumni network, which is 380,000 plus people, and growing of course every year, you have access to the alumni website

16:27:40 for the State Department and for those of you who are planning a career in you know diplomacy that is a huge benefit you have 12 months of of what's called NCAA noncompetitive eligibility and federal jobs, which coming right right back into the country

16:27:57 and entering job market can be a huge benefit, you get a Fulbright address you can join the Fulbright association which is the nonprofit arm of alumni.

16:28:08 So, lots of.

16:28:12 True, true benefits but I think a lot of return full riders would tell you that it's really the intangible benefits that made the biggest difference. So things like those cultural immersion opportunities, the chance to make friends and professional contacts

16:28:26 from all over the world, because it's not only in your host country, but there might be full writers from other places who are in that same institution or you might be meeting people who are studying abroad from their own location.

16:28:39 Just the life changing experiences that you get from living abroad. And of course it's going to open doors in your career and not only that alumni network, and the noncompetitive eligibility for federal jobs, but have being a full brighter really has

16:28:56 some cache and it's going to open doors for you further down the road.

16:29:03 All right, so how hard is the application, what do I actually have to do to apply.

16:29:09 There are a few different sections of the, the personal data, you know, things that you would expect your name and your address and so on. And you write an abstract, which you probably will write last because you want it to reflect the application as

16:29:25 a whole.

16:29:27 you there's a section.

16:29:29 The three short answer sections are that abstract something called host country engagement, and then plans upon return to the US, the host country engagement is just a paragraph, I forget the exact word count but it's it's a few sentences about how you're

16:29:45 going to get involved in your host community.

16:29:48 And that could mean taking up a volunteer position you could join an intern or year old sports team at your school, you could take a cooking class, you could join a choir.

16:30:05 It's whatever you decide to do to fulfill that part of the mutual exchange goal a Fulbright, how will you engage with the community in which you're living for that year.

16:30:15 And so this is separate from your, your grant purpose the research that you're doing or the classes that you're teaching, and it's how you personally are going to engage in the host community.

16:30:31 You want to make sure that it is a logical extension of what the readers are seeing in your application already. So, if you don't have anything in any of your statements or any of your activity lists, about, hiking, it would be a little weird to say that

16:30:48 your host country engagement is going to be starting up a hiking club. Okay, so you want it to be logical, but something that you can be really passionate about because that's going to put you into the host country, in a way that you're engaging with

16:31:00 them in a different way, then your main project.

16:31:04 The plans upon return section is another brief description of what your career plans are or your academic plans after you do the Fulbright How will you use the Fulbright experience as a stepping stone for that next part of your career, your academic career

16:31:23 or your or your job, there are ups.

16:31:28 There are two essays, and everybody regardless of the type of grant that you apply for everybody will write a personal statement. And that is one page is short and sweet.

16:31:44 The readers are busy professionals, and, you know, doing this as volunteers. And so it is a one page. Biography in narrative form and gives you a chance to introduce yourself to the screening committee.

16:32:02 And then the statement of grant purpose research grants you have a two page limit, and the English teaching assistantship is just one page. So that's where you describe why you want to go to the country that you're, you're choosing what your project would

16:32:18 be that that you propose to do or what the graduate program is that you want to attend for the, for the English language teaching one, you have to discuss your, your teaching philosophy why you want to teach English to non native speakers, and why this

16:32:34 particular country.

16:32:37 As far as reports and other kinds of references they'll need your transcripts of course.

16:32:44 Just undergrad and graduate if sorry undergrad and higher if you are in a graduate program right now, but not high school I guess I can go forward but they don't go that far back as high school, you'll have three references.

16:33:02 And then some countries require a foreign language evaluation, many, many others don't. But some countries will have a foreign language evaluation, and then everybody will have a campus committee evaluation.

16:33:13 The campus committee meets in October.

16:33:18 You'll have most likely if it's like last year you'll have to faculty readers and me, and the faculty readers read a certain number of proposals, and then we meet with you to give you feedback on your application.

16:33:32 Find ways that you can strengthen it tweak here and there to make it seem more cohesive or that kind of thing. So the campus community evaluation is something that happens.

16:33:44 Last year it happened on zoom, we'll see what happens this coming fall but that's something that you'll have some feedback from outside readers who are familiar with Fulbright and be able to get some feedback from them before the national deadline.

16:33:59 Other application components.

16:34:01 I guess I should say the campus committee evaluation is a form that we as a committee fill out after the interview, to give our thoughts about your, your project and your proposal.

16:34:13 And then there are sometimes other application components. If you do a research or study grant you need to have an affiliation letter, and that is a letter that would show that somebody in the host country at whatever institution, it is knows that you're

16:34:27 out there is planning to work with you as excited to work with you and so on.

16:34:31 And then there are some other kinds of grants that require other supplementary materials as well.

16:34:41 All right.

16:34:45 Okay. So factors in selection.

16:34:48 The over arching thing that you need to remember is that you have to convince your readers on the national screening committee that you are the perfect person to go to this particular place and do this project.

16:35:06 That is what you always have to come back to is that you're the right person to send this country for this specific project. So, being the right person that's going to be your background, your academic interests, your extracurricular activities, showing

16:35:23 them that doing a Fulbright is the next logical step that the things that have led you to this point maybe you did Education Abroad maybe your grandfather immigrated from the country that you want to go to study.

16:35:37 Maybe you've studied a particular language ever since junior high, but you've never had a chance to go there so you want to convince them that you are the right person to send here.

16:35:51 And then the place you make the case that this specific country is the best one for you to go to. What you don't want is what I've heard, called a location agnostic application that you could do anywhere you could be in Bolivia, you could be in Bangladesh,

16:36:09 you don't want to have a project that is not specific to the host country that you've chosen, you have to show the readers that there is a very good reason for them to send you to the specific location.

16:36:25 And then the project. Again, you want to make sure that it's clear from your academic background and other activities that you can do the project that you're claiming to want to do that, it's feasible and that it's manageable and that you have what it

16:36:39 takes to complete the project successfully.

16:36:44 So I won't read through every one of those bullet points but these are the the factors in selection and

16:36:53 they always are looking at Can you advance the Fulbright program goals are you going to be a good ambassador for the Fulbright Program and for the US as a whole.

16:37:05 And then that last point there goes back to the, the diversity goal that they have for making sure that students from a wide variety of institutions a wide variety of geographic distributions within the US are sent overseas.

16:37:26 Right.

16:37:27 And then, just a note on the requirements of the program for individual countries that again might be things like a language requirement preferred qualifications or degrees.

16:37:41 Visa requirements if you're able to get the correct visa, being politically sensitive, there's an example from from Peru, that I found is an example of this one that talks about that border disputes and crime are considered sensitive issues, applicants

16:37:59 proposing projects on these topics must demonstrate a clear understanding of and experience with research in these areas. So especially with the research ones, and especially in politically charged topics.

16:38:13 You have to show a sensitivity in that area and that's one of the things that the review committee will look at in terms of your.

16:38:21 Whether you're a good fit for a Fulbright.

16:38:26 All right, the application timeline.

16:38:29 It's a long cycle, as I said before, but you are in the perfect spot. We're kicking off kind of the application season with this session and I'll be doing more sessions about once a month for people who hear about the program after, after this initial

16:38:44 one. But from now, you know, kind of winter into spring, you'll be looking at the type of grants that are available to you. You want to read into what countries are available and find if any of them speak to you in terms of, you know, specific thing that

16:39:01 happens in that country. That would be interesting. An example of that is for a English teaching assistant grant, some of the countries, specifically say that they're going to put people in institutes of higher education.

16:39:16 Other countries have opportunities to teach an elementary level or primary schools. So, that kind of thing might draw you to one country or another.

16:39:25 And then the competition will open in late March actually March 31 we just got confirmation yesterday. So March 31 the open the application will open online, and you'll be able to log in and make an account and, and see all the different steps, but you

16:39:40 can certainly be thinking of it right now and, and starting your research, the information that's on the it website right now is the country's from last year, but there's not.

16:39:51 There aren't going to be drastic changes there will be some but there will be drastic changes with the information that's there was pretty accurate.

16:40:00 Then this coming summer, you'll be working really in depth on your application, you'll be getting those reference letters you'll be finding your affiliation and receiving that letter downloading your transcripts, that kind of thing.

16:40:12 And then I'll have a number of interim deadlines throughout the summer to keep you on track and make sure that you're getting the information in that we need to see.

16:40:23 In September September 1 will be the MS you application deadline. And that looks exactly like when you submit it in the at the National deadline. It'll be in that same portal that you'll create an account in the spring, you'll hit submit, but instead

16:40:40 of going to IE, it comes to me and I'll download the PDF, which is going to appear exactly as it would to your readers The following month. I'll provide that to members of the campus committee who are on your team, they'll read it carefully and then we'll

16:40:56 interview you sometime in September.

16:40:59 And then we'll release your application. Back to you, we can go back and forth as many times as you need to. As long as by October, the National application deadline.

16:41:09 That's it once, once you hit submit that that last time after that deadline, then it's out of our hands. But in September. That's really a chance to fine tune your application, and receive feedback from not only your committee members but the writing

16:41:26 center the Career Services network, other advisors your peers, and that kind of thing. So, that's what happened September 1, we don't have the exact date in October last year it was October 13 was the final national deadline, you'll be around them, this

16:41:42 year as well.

16:41:45 Then what happens after that in November and December is that us review the national screening committee. So, that is, I think there were 430 something reviewers, and they all read their set of applications.

16:42:04 And then the national screening. So then those committees meet. And I had an opportunity actually to observe, one of those one of those committee meetings, and there were three faculty members from universities all over, and they had all read the same,

16:42:20 I think it was 45 applications, and they had all ranked them individually on a number of different categories. And then they came together on zoom and discussed and I got to watch the whole thing.

16:42:34 And so they go through and then if they all agree on a certain number that the numbers are, you know, pretty accurate there's maybe not a lot of discussion, but were there disparities.

16:42:47 They do discuss they really get into the details and that's when things like your country requirements you know what is this person's language ability or what did it say in the country requirements for the degree that they wanted their applicants to have

16:43:02 does this person match that. So there is discussion they read these things very carefully.

16:43:08 And they do talk about it they know that you're real people with with, you know, a real desire to to go overseas. So that's what happens in November and December.

16:43:20 And then, from now until May so last Friday we got the word of how many semi finalists we have, like I said it's 17 this year. And so now those 17 applications will go to the host countries they go to the US Embassy or the Fulbright Commission in those

16:43:36 hosts countries, and more people get advanced as semi finalists then will ultimately be offered a Fulbright, but this gives the host countries, a wide range of applicants to choose from, and some of them will go through interviews and some might be required

16:43:55 to put in some more supplemental materials or fill out another form as the host countries make their decisions of who they're going to offer those final fellowships to.

16:44:06 And then from March until June, hopefully earlier, is the final selection and the finalists will will discover who they are and when their pre departure orientation is and they'll get ready to travel in.

16:44:21 Usually the academic year so probably September, they'll be heading out.

16:44:28 In terms of a more detailed timeline, I do have a practically week by week one that is on the MSP website which I'll share that link and make sure you all have it.

16:44:39 It's I think six pages long and it really talks you through exactly what you should be doing at what time. And for those of you who are super early like this.

16:44:48 That is fantastic. You can take a look at that form, and just kind of keep it in the in the back of your mind and make sure that you're making progress.

16:45:01 All right.

16:45:02 As far as resources available here at MSU me, so the Fulbright Program advisor, I am available for brainstorming here at the very beginning, giving you information helping you understand the IE website, talking you through that application process.

16:45:21 If you have questions for IT staff I can, I can kind of serve as a go between, and, I do all the campus community evaluation, writing and coordinating those interviews.

16:45:32 So, I do maintain the MSC Fulbright website, and I'll make sure that you get links to that in the, in the chat, but that has links to the IE different areas of their website because it's quite comprehensive it has a lot going on.

16:45:49 And so sometimes I'll steer you directly to the thing that that you should be looking at at that part of your application. It's got the MS your timeline, it goes through more detail on all this application components and upcoming workshops and sessions,

16:46:05 like this one, as we as we get further into the season. It also does quite regular webinars that are really informative. like I said before there's ones about certain demographic groups ones about particular world areas where they'll bring in the desk

16:46:23 officer for for that session or that world area. There are one specific to the type of grant like an English teaching grant or a study grant.

16:46:32 I feel like we missed a slide about types of grants will have to go back and check.

16:46:39 Then the Career Services network on campus some of your may be familiar with that but they do workshops all the time on how do you write a cover letter.

16:46:47 There isn't a cover letter per se, for Fulbright but that kind of seminars also is still useful for writing your statements, they can look at your CV, they can, they have interview skill workshops to, to give you some practice, and they also have people

16:47:06 who are specifically experienced in working with Fulbright applicants on their on their statements.

16:47:12 Same with the Writing Center I'm in contact with them and we're hoping that this summer we can do some writing workshops and, you know, information about techniques and some peer editing and some writings where you can really just sit down and focus with

16:47:27 like minded peers and knock out some of those. Some of those statement drafts.

16:47:36 Right.

16:47:37 So those are the resources, the among many others all the, all the international faculty members the centers that are related to different world areas and so forth but MSU

16:47:47 is a fantastic place to be in order to you know to be positioned to be successful in a, in a Fulbright.

16:47:56 in a, in a Fulbright. Your, your advisors and professors, as well can serve as as resources for you, many of them might be Fulbright Scholars themselves from the past, or they know people in their departments who do.

16:48:10 Also, you all. You all can be a wonderful resource for one another. And my hope is that as we come back to campus and we can work things out virtually but I also hope that you'll come to lean on one another and, and we have a group me, text, you know,

16:48:30 chat going and there are slack channels and things like that so I would like you to view each other as resources, Instead of just competitors, and also past applicants.

16:48:43 Nearly everyone that I've worked with. So far, has talked about how someone who came before told them about the program gave them advice and so I have lots and lots of people who would be more than happy and we'll set up some, some panel discussions and

16:48:58 things with people who've who've been at MSU and had a successful Fulbright application process so that you can hear directly from other Spartans and build on their experiences.

16:49:13 All right.

16:49:15 So in terms of the next steps, there are the

16:49:20 cut and paste from my, my view, but the Fulbright website and I can show that if people want me to after, after we turn off this this thing. Okay so Megan has given us a link there for people who are in the College of Social Science in the chat, there

16:49:38 are there's a resume review resource, so that's great. Thank you. we are resources for each other already.

16:49:45 So the next steps and then I'll open it up because people have been pretty quiet in the chat but your brains are probably exploding with all this information you probably have questions, but connect with me let me know that you're out there, and the.

16:49:58 You've got my email right there also go to the MSC Fulbright website. It's got.

16:50:04 One of the first things that I'll have you do if you haven't already is complete a Fulbright Program interest survey. And that just gives me kind of your demographic information so I know you know I get you in my database and make sure that you're getting

16:50:16 updated emails and things. It gives you general information it tells you about the events that are coming up like like this one so you probably all been there.

16:50:25 And then as you dig further down there are very specific resources for the, ie grants and studying research grants, the ETA those English teaching assistant grants that timeline that I talked about that document that you can download and other tips and

16:50:41 hints and so forth. And then there are a few specific resources like links to the Career Services network the Writing Center, and that kind of thing.

16:50:50 And then absolutely, visit the IIE Fulbright website because that's where all of the, you know, all of the detailed information about every single country every single program, how to request a foreign language evaluation, were to, you know where to upload

16:51:09 your transcripts, etc. That's where that's located.

16:51:12 They also have all of their past webinars that are recorded and able to be viewed, even in subsequent years and those can be really useful as your, as you're starting up as well.

16:51:25 All right.

16:51:27 That was a lot of me talking. And now I'm going to stop sharing because I want to see all of you find out who's here. And what questions you have.

16:51:38 Um, I think you did miss award type, slide. Did I that's so sad. Let me go back and find it.

16:52:29 So, the, I don't know how that happened but I apologize, these are the different award types, there are as you can see over 2000 different kinds of awards in 140 countries,

16:52:43 like I said, the two main types are study research grant, which really is two different things study and research, and then the English teaching assistantship or the ETA.

16:52:56 So, there are fewer study research grants, but they are available in more countries, and they're much more flexible, you can do independent research so you might have a project idea that you started in undergrad and you're interested in exploring more,

16:53:15 or maybe you started something on an education abroad and you want to delve more deeply into it, you might have research that as part of a graduate program that you're in or that you're looking into and you want to do some foundation work to make yourself

16:53:29 more competitive for grad school. So, study grants study research grants are very very flexible, but also kind of like choose your own adventure you have to be able to put together a proposal that gives the committee, the confidence that you will be able

16:53:47 to carry this project out.

16:53:51 The other part of study research is the study part, and there are a number of awards specific awards, or open ones where you choose the university that you want to go to and the program that you want to attend, and then Fulbright in.

16:54:08 In those cases, can assist with funding, you to do a master's degree overseas. Many degree programs in other countries for a Master's it's called a learned, or a taught degree and it takes just that one year, not one academic year.

16:54:25 So, there are many many different possibilities for this.

16:54:30 Some countries will have named awards at particular universities where you apply to that specific one, others will have awards called Open study where you propose the program and university that you want to attend with full right funding.

16:54:47 And then the English teaching assistantships, the, ETA is many more awards so there are more ETA, to go out to a smaller number of countries, but still 75 countries to choose from, which is, which is, you know, probably enough for you to choose from.

16:55:04 And those allow you to teach in the, in the classroom of some kind, could be elementary school, all the way up through university level, you generally are not the primary teacher you have a co host country counterpart, that you work with and assist in

16:55:24 classroom, you might do things like lead conversation groups or that kind of thing, but usually you are not flying totally solo in the situation.

16:55:37 So those that's the main the main breakdown is study research sometimes you'll see it as S/R and then ETA is, is the English teaching assistantships oh sorry I missed that one before it was kind of foundational too much of the rest of the presentation.

16:58:00 Yeah. All right, thank you for your questions.

16:58:05 You've all been so patient, or you're asleep I don't know, um, is there a place where I can like, look at the past MSU Fulbright Scholars I'm like, I'm like I tried looking online and accreditation but I can find specific like names I can like reach

16:58:20 out to them.

16:58:22 Yeah, there, there isn't yet because I haven't invented it but it's on my list of things to do.

16:58:30 When I was sort of building the, the website from scratch. So, there has never been a Fulbright advisor who were that was their dedicated position before so it's still new and I'm growing that.

16:58:45 But for now, I can put you in touch with people directly, you know if you visit my office hours or, or send me an email, let me know what countries you're interested in, and eventually there will be a public facing way for you to do that.

16:58:58 There's also on the Fulbright website, the grantee directory which you could drill down to find the MSU people. So that's that's available on the website in, and maybe I can give you guys a tour of that I'll make sure that you have all your questions

16:59:16 answered, but I can also hop on to the IE website and show you kind of where to find information on there, but there is a grantee directory that gives everybody from all universities, and you can narrow it down by institution, you can narrow it by country.

16:59:32 You can narrow it by the type of award, whether it's study research or an ETA so you can find that information publicly, but I can connect you with people as well.

16:59:42 Thank you.

16:59:44 Other questions.

16:59:50 I have a quick question.

16:59:51 Um, so my dad is an immigrant and I was wondering if you think maybe this depends on the country. If it would better my chances worse than my chances of a neutral chancing winning the applicant or becoming an applicant, if I apply to that country that

17:00:06 he emigrated from, you know, is entirely depends how you frame it.

17:00:12 And having, you know, being heritage language learner or having a heritage is absolutely I had a whole bunch of those, those applicants from last fall, who had personal ties in some way.

17:00:25 So as long as you can make a compelling case for going there, other than looking at family roots here you there has to be a strong reason for you to do the particular project that you're proposing, but it's not going to be to your disadvantage at all.

17:00:41 Now. Perfect. Thank you.

17:00:46 Other questions.

17:00:58 Right.

17:01:01 Let me share my screen again.

17:01:05 And just hop on to the website.

17:01:15 Yeah. Okay, thank you.

17:01:17 So this is the IIE website that I keep talking about and it really does have all the information you could possibly want. So it goes through in much more detail than I just have you have the types of awards, even some of the special ones that I mentioned

17:01:35 you've got the reminder if the eligibility what that looks like.

17:01:40 And in eligibility things like if you've lived in that country for a long time before.

17:01:46 It's got all the factors of selection that I went through the countries, so it breaks down all the different world areas I showed you this map but this one you can click on the countries or click on the world area and find out whether that particular

17:02:00 country offers only study research or whether they have named awards for studying at a particular University tells you if there are eta awards. Remember, more countries have studied research, then eta so familiarizing yourself with all of these different

17:02:16 places, is helpful for the applicants there's sort of this. Getting Started which I've gone over a lot of that information but they really do a nice job of taking you through step by step, the Fulbright online application, this will be open in March,

17:02:32 it's not right now but this is where you'll create your account for that portal Fulbright Program advisors, you already found me, you don't need that tab.

17:02:41 Here is the grantee directory that I was talking about.

17:02:44 Someone asked you know how to, how to find the people in the absence of that on my own website. Here they all are for like millions of years since forever.

17:02:54 So you can narrow it down by country if you want to try to connect with somebody, or see who's from MSU, you can narrow it by the field of study, that they were, they were in.

17:03:06 So there's yeah almost 62,000 people to keep you busy.

17:03:10 There's also alumni ambassadors, so the grantee directory is just everybody, but the alumni ambassadors, want to talk to you they want to share about their experiences they have been specifically chosen and volunteer for the position to be available to

17:03:30 you to answer questions, so you can look through all of the ambassadors from past years, who may be served in a country that you're interested in, or they are in a field that you're interested in.

17:03:42 So these are fantastic people to reach out to because they have made themselves available for that very purpose, so I was like to point out that one.

17:03:53 The statistics page is a little scary sometimes because this shows you how competitive.

17:04:01 This this grant is, it will show you, for example, Here's Cambodia, it gives you three years at a time.

17:04:10 So Cambodia for example here had 14 applications for study research awards last year, and there were four awards given, which actually is pretty good odds.

17:04:21 Let's look at China.

17:04:23 China had in 2018 day 101 applications for 28 position so the competitive rate changes dramatically country by country, there are you know the UK, Australia, some of the countries that don't have language requirements for example are extraordinarily competitive

17:04:47 and others that are a little more off the beaten path might be might be receiving fewer applications and therefore less competitive.

17:04:56 Well I'm here. This is the MSU Fulbright Program website this is the one that I'm still building. I've got a lot of information here but there's always more that can be added, but I think most of you have probably already found it, the MSC Student tab

17:05:12 is where you find information about the different grants.

17:05:17 All again stop sharing and see what other questions we have anything else.

17:05:27 Oh, let me put those links and NEA.

17:05:32 I kind of have a quick question so I noticed that you said some of the countries have language requirements. If you're interested in a country, and you're not.

17:05:41 You don't have like an experience with the language would you begin studying it would that still be a possible like way to do that or by the time like by March when you create an online application Do you already need to know, like the language you know

17:05:56 So if they have a language requirement of a specific level like you know you have to be at an intermediate level, and you haven't done any studying, yet for that language, get started.

17:06:07 Check out, you know, we have an amazing list commonly taught languages and other commonly taught languages program it at MSU lots of courses available in.

17:06:18 In, I don't know, something like 50 languages, some somewhat you're just on demand but I think there's up to 50 languages that can be offered I miss you so check it out.

17:06:28 Check out dual lingo, you know do do stuff to show that you are interested in it you have a long time remember before you leave, it's a year and a half before you leave, you can learn a lot in that time, but you should start laying the groundwork now

17:06:41 so that you can show them that you are interested.

17:06:51 in numbers for the grant grantees for each country are those finalized right now for the statistics page know like when you go to like to view the countries, and they can feel like oh like mouth like the European countries only have to, like, ETA, or

17:07:09 something like are those finalized. Those are last year's numbers, they probably won't be a lot different.

17:07:17 But those are last year's numbers.

17:07:20 Yeah.

17:07:25 Any other questions.

17:07:34 The hard part over zoom right. Just waiting.

17:07:37 So, so I've been looking at, Austria and Germany specifically for the research study. And it looks like both they're saying something along the lines of university tuition not being reimbursed.

17:07:49 So then what would the grant itself cover.

17:07:53 In those cases, and that's why you have to read the country pages very carefully as you're doing.

17:07:58 In those cases, it would be your airfare and your maintenance allowance you know so it would allow you to have a place to live and so forth. But yeah, that's something I'm really glad you pointed that out because some countries cover tuition and some

17:08:11 don't. So you've caught a very important detail there.

17:08:16 Thank you.

17:08:25 All right.

17:08:27 I don't want to keep you much longer. It's been over an hour already I will hang out here and people do have more questions and want to chat. Otherwise my office hours are every Tuesday from two to three over zoom the, the link is on the homepage of the

17:08:41 Fulbright. I'm always available by email you can you can find me the bunch of different ways so I really am excited to speak with you I hope to see some of those interest surveys coming in from those of you who I don't know yet.

17:08:55 And you can head on off into the sunset here I hope that this was helpful, and I'll hang out in case. Other people have questions, but otherwise thank you so much for coming, and I look forward to working with you.