2022 Fulbright US Student Program Information Session

Information for MSU students and alumni considering a Fulbright grant for the 2023-24 academic year

Joy Campbell, Fulbright Program Advisor
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Welcome!

• Joy Campbell (she/her)
  • Fulbright Program Advisor (FPA)
  • Fulbright-Hays DDRA Project Director
  • Peace Corps Prep Program Manager

• International education at MSU
  • In 20th year at MSU, all related to international education
  • In 3rd year as FPA in International Studies & Programs (ISP)

• Long-term international experience
  • France – 3 years (studying, teaching)
  • Morocco – 2 years (Peace Corps, teaching)
Topics to Cover Today

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

• Fulbright is the US government’s flagship international education and cultural exchange program
• Established in 1946 by Congress
• Sponsored by the US Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
• Administered in the US by the Institute of International Education (IIE)
• Administered overseas by bi-national Fulbright Commissions and US Embassies
MSU and Fulbright

• MSU has a long and successful history with Fulbright
  • Over 200 Spartans have won IIE student awards to 74 countries – from Argentina to Zambia – since 1949
  • Over 460 faculty scholars have had grants to 90 countries – from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe – since 1950

• Other Fulbright-adjacent programs at MSU
  • Fulbright student grantees from abroad
  • Fulbright visiting scholars from abroad
  • Humphrey Fellows program
  • Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants
  • Training programs for incoming international grad students, outbound Fulbrighters
Recent MSU Applications

Fulbright’s most competitive year EVER!
11,728 apps
Eligibility for US Student Program

Basic Eligibility

- US citizen by the application deadline
- Bachelor’s degree by start of grant
  - Fall 2023 for this competition cycle
- No doctorate at time of application
  - October 2022 for this cycle
- 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, socio-economic status, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity.
• Fulbright encourages the involvement of people from traditionally underrepresented audiences in all its initiatives.

2020 & 2021 Webinars

• Ask an Alum: Black Abroad
• Opportunities for Applicants with Disabilities
• The Fulbright Experience as a Visible Minority
• Alumni Ambassador Panel: LGBTQ+ Applicants
• Alumni Ambassador Panel: First Gen College Students
• Military-Connected Students Webinar
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)
  • Special hiring status within the federal government
• Lifetime Fulbright email address
• Fulbright Association

Intangible Benefits

• Cultural immersion opportunities
• International professional & personal contacts
• Life-changing experiences
• Amazing résumé builder
Fulbright US Student Program Locations

- Over 2,000 grants available annually
- Over 140 countries
  - Divided into these six geographic areas, each represented by a regional desk at IIE
Award Types

2,000+ Awards

140+ Countries

Study/Research Grant

Independent research, study, or arts projects abroad

900+ Awards
6-12 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 & Program Information

• Demographic survey
• Abstract
• Host Country Engagement
• Plans Upon Return to the US

Essays

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

Reports & References

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

Other

• Study/Research
  • 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
- Desirability of achieving wide institutional and geographic distribution
- Requirements of the program in individual countries
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
US Student Award 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: Semifinalist notifications (January), host country review for semifinalists
- March-June: Final selection and notification
Resources 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 Fulbright “write-ins”

• Career Services Network & College-Specific Advisors
  • Virtual workshops, helpful guides and tips on website
  • Experience advising Fulbright applicants on personal statements
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
  • Watch the “Getting Started” video under Recorded Events on the home page (will be posted soon!)
  • IIE-specific pages
  • Study/Research, ETA, timeline with interim campus deadlines, application components, tips and hints, sample statements and short answer questions
  • MSU-specific resources

• Visit the IIE Fulbright website: https://us.fulbrightonline.org/
  • Begin researching host countries and programs
  • Explore webinars (upcoming and past recordings)
Thank you!

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Time for Q&A