

# 2021 Fulbright US Student Program Information Session

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

May 12, 2021

Joy Campbell, MSU Fulbright Program Advisor

# Welcome!

- Joy Campbell (she/her)
  - Fulbright Program Advisor
  - Fulbright-Hays DDRA Project Director
- International education at MSU
  - 19<sup>th</sup> year at MSU
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> year as Fulbright advisor 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
- Eligibility
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Benefits
- 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

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“ *Our mission is to foster mutual understanding between nations, advance knowledge across communities, and improve lives around the world.*

## History and Administration

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- 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

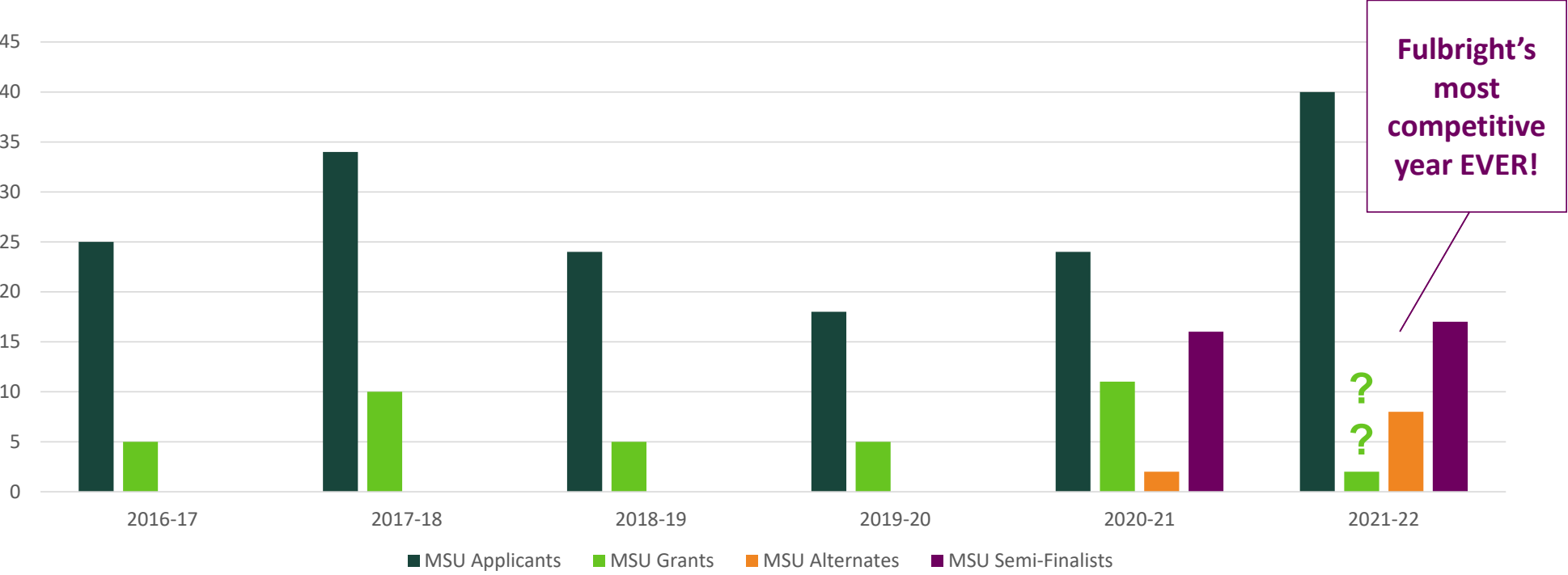
- Over 200 Spartans have won IIE student awards to 74 countries – from Argentina to Zambia – since 1949
- Over 400 faculty scholars have had grants to 90 countries – from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe – since 1950

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

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- US citizen by the application deadline
- Bachelor's degree by start of grant
  - **Fall 2022 for this cycle**
- No doctorate at the time of application
  - **October 2021 for this cycle**
- 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

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- 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

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- 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



**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 Data & Program Information

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

## Essays

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

## Reports / References

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

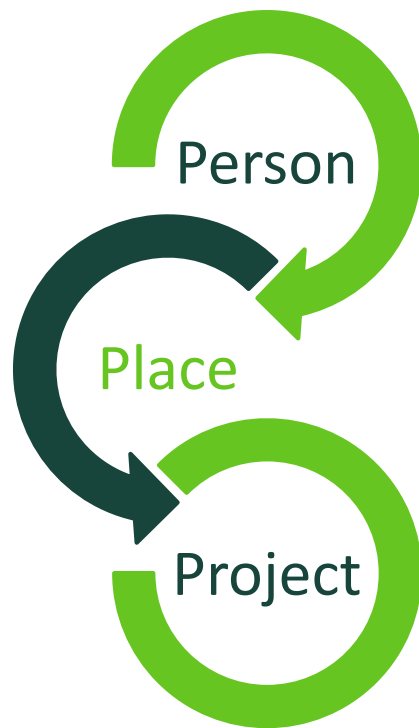
## Other

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- Research/Study
  - Affiliation Letter(s)
- Arts
  - Supplementary Materials

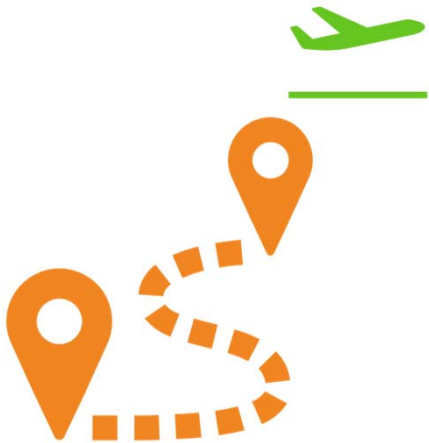


## Factors in Selection



- 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

## 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](mailto: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
  - 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 webinars (upcoming and past recordings)

