2021 Fulbright US Student Program Information Session

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

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Joy Campbell, MSU Fulbright Program Advisor
Welcome!

• Joy Campbell (she/her)
  • Fulbright Program Advisor
  • Fulbright-Hays DDRA Project Director
• International education at MSU
  • 19th year at MSU
  • 2nd 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

“*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 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

Fulbright’s most competitive year EVER!
Program Eligibility

Basic Eligibility

- 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

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, 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
- 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

- 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
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
  • 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)