

# 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

April 7, 2022



# Welcome!

- Joy Campbell (she/her)
  - Fulbright Program Advisor (FPA)
  - Fulbright-Hays DDRA Project Director
  - Peace Corps Prep Program Manager
- International education at MSU
  - In 20<sup>th</sup> year at MSU, all related to international education
  - In 3<sup>rd</sup> year as FPA in International Studies & Programs (ISP)
- Long-term international experience
  - France – 3 years (studying, teaching)
  - Morocco – 2 years (Peace Corps, teaching)



A teal-colored world map is visible in the background of the slide, showing the continents of North America, South America, Europe, and Africa.

# 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



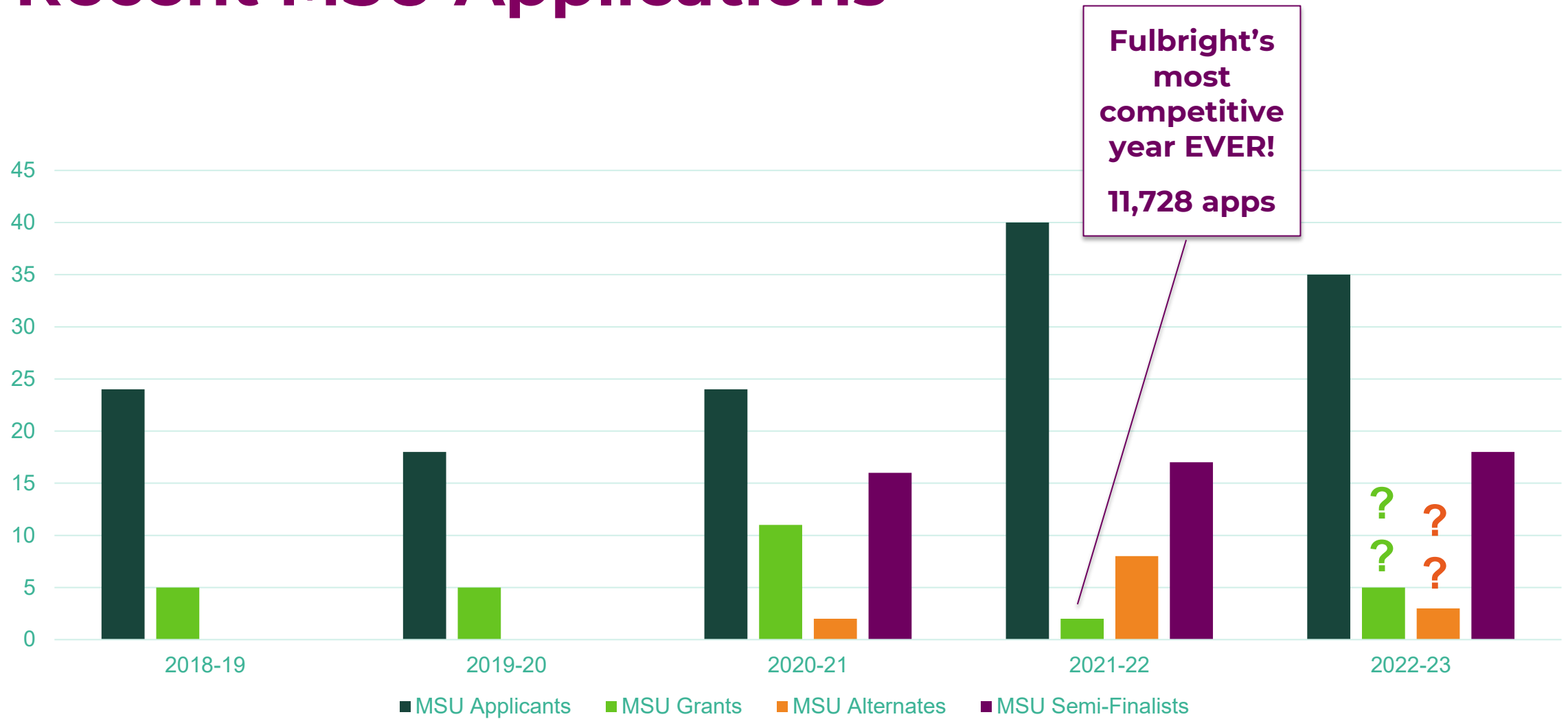


# MSU and Fulbright

- 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



# Eligibility for US Student Program

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 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



# 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

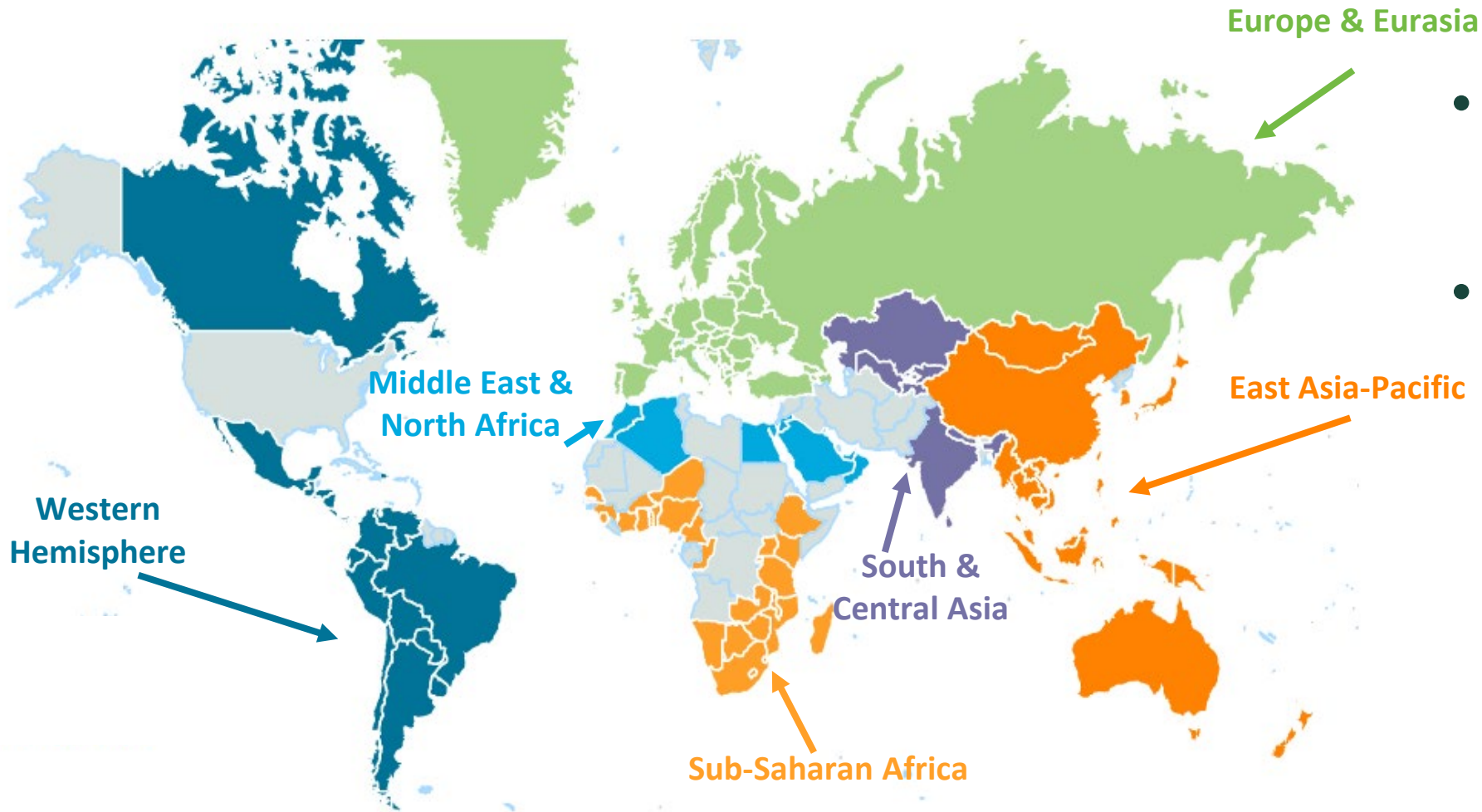
- Fulbright alumni network
- State Department's alumni website
- Eligible for 12 months of noncompetitive eligibility (NCE)
  - Special hiring status within the federal government
- Lifetime Fulbright email address
- Fulbright Association

### 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



## 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

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

## Essays

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- Statement of Grant Purpose
  - Study/Research – 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

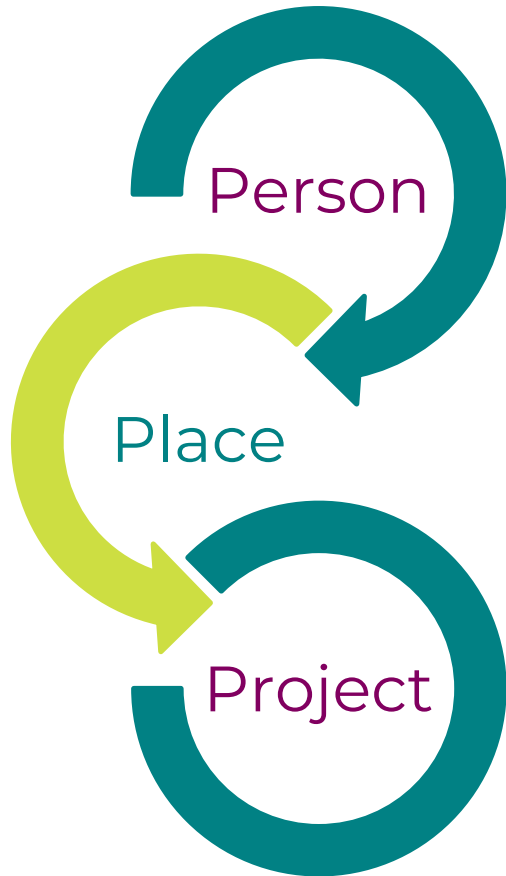
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- Study/Research
  - Affiliation Letter(s)
- Arts
  - Supplementary Materials





# 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

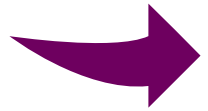


# Making Yourself More Competitive

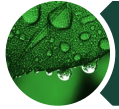
- It's about more than your GPA
  - Experiences
  - Leadership
  - Flexibility
- Fulbright is **not** a gap year program
  - Needs to be a logical step in your trajectory
- Use the next few months wisely
  - Connect with student organizations or other groups related to your host country
  - Continue 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](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 (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



International Studies and Programs  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY