

Applying for a DDRA with Dependents

Doctoral candidates with families are welcome to apply for a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Program (DDRA)! The DDRA, in many cases, provides generous support for dependents. This handout provides basic details on how applying with dependents will impact your proposal. Always refer to the current Application Instructions packet from the US Department of Education for the most current information.



Who Qualifies as a Dependent for the Purpose of the DDRA?

- A dependent means any of the following individuals who will accompany you to your research site **and** for whom you will be providing over 50 percent support during the entire overseas research period:
 - **Spouse** of program participant
 - A student is considered married if the student was legally married in any domestic or foreign jurisdiction that recognizes the relationship as a valid marriage, regardless of where the couple resides.
 - **Children** who are unmarried and under 21 years of age.

What Dependent Benefits are Offered?

- Dependents listed in the initial application are eligible for a **maintenance allowance**.
- The dependent allowance is approximately 50% of the fellow's allowance for a spouse (first dependent), and approximately 50% of the first dependent's allowance for each additional dependent.
- Monthly stipend amounts are determined by the US Department of State and are clearly listed in the DDRA Application Instructions packet. For example, these figures came from the FY22 packet:

Host Country and City	Monthly (Fellow) Stipend	First Dependent	Additional Dependent(s)
Belize (San Pedro)	\$2,943	\$1,177	\$589
Poland (Warsaw)	\$2,376	\$950	\$475
Sri Lanka (Colombo)	\$2,880	\$1,152	\$576
Uganda (Mbale)	\$1,314	\$526	\$263

- **NOT INCLUDED**

- Dependent travel expenses (travel expenses are covered for the fellow).

What Other Rules Pertain to Dependents?

- Dependents must accompany the fellow to be eligible for DDRA support.
- Dependents must remain with the fellow for the duration of the research to receive DDRA support.
 - Your dependents cannot receive maintenance for just part of your research period. For example, your family **can** join you for just a couple of months, but they **would not** receive any maintenance allowance because they would not be with you for the whole grant period.
- The dependent allowance is based on the number of dependents listed in your initial DDRA application, and are not adjustable.
 - If you get married after you apply but before you embark on your DDRA, your spouse would not be eligible for a maintenance stipend.
 - Similarly, if you become a parent in between applying and leaving, the child would not be eligible.
- You will list the name, age, and relationship (to you) of each dependent as part of your online application. Further documentation (e.g., marriage certificate) may be required later in the process.
- If offered a fellowship, you should research insurance coverage and make sure you have adequate health, travel, and evacuation insurance for your family. MSU's [Office for Global Health, Safety and Security](#) can help, and the Project Director can also provide more information.
- MSU has had several DDRA fellows who were accompanied by their dependents in recent years; the project director can try to connect you with one of them if you have questions about their experience living overseas with their family.