Fulbright U.S. Student Program

http://us.fulbrightonline.org/

**Deadline:** national deadline: October 6, 2017; campus deadline: September 8

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**Fields of Study**

Open. The Fulbright U.S. Student Program provides grants for individually designed study/research projects or for English Teaching Assistant Programs.

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**Description**

The Fulbright Program was created by Congress in 1946 to foster mutual understanding among nations through educational and cultural exchange. Fulbright Grants are funded by an annual appropriation to the Department of State, and are coordinated by the Institute for International Education (IIE). The Fulbright U.S. Student Program is now the largest U.S. exchange program offering opportunities for students, scholars and professionals to undertake international graduate study, advanced research, university teaching, and teaching in elementary and secondary schools worldwide. Currently, the U.S. Student Program awards approximately 1,900 grants annually in all fields of study and operates in over 140 countries worldwide.

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**Criteria for Selection**

Eligibility requirements include U.S. citizenship, bachelor's degree before the beginning of the grant, good health, and language proficiency sufficient to communicate with the people of the host country and to carry out the proposed study. Preference is given to applicants who have received the majority of their education at educational institutions in the United States. Graduating seniors, recent graduates, current graduate students, and young professionals with up to five years of professional study and/or experience are eligible to apply for the U.S. Student Program.

Graduating seniors and recent bachelor's degree graduates generally propose specific study projects for which they have had some undergraduate preparation. Master's and doctoral degree candidates must demonstrate capacity for independent study or research, plus a general knowledge of the history, culture and current events of the countries to which they are applying. Ordinarily, candidates may apply for one country only.

Selection is made on the basis of the applicant’s academic or professional record, language preparation, the feasibility of the proposed study project, personal qualifications, the requirements of the programs in the host country, and other factors, which include the extent to which the candidate and the project will help to advance the program aim of promoting mutual understanding among nations.
Application Procedure

After reviewing the Fulbright website, confirming eligibility, and researching the host country and proposed program, applications are completed using the Embark Online Application form. Follow these links and directions to the Embark Online Application: https://us.fulbrightonline.org/

Applicants create an account and begin working on the Embark Online Application directly. However, applicants from WPI should contact the WPI Fulbright Program Adviser, Dr. John S. Galante, for advice about application essays. (Applicants at other institutions should contact their own FPA). A complete application must be submitted online by the **on-campus deadline of 8 September** to be considered for institutional endorsement from WPI and to meet the national deadline in October. Candidates should compose essay drafts and discuss them with the Fulbright Advisor well before the deadline. Application components vary depending upon the type of application: https://us.fulbrightonline.org/applicants/application-components

The most important components are typically:

- **Statement of Grant Purpose**: This 2-page document outlines the Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How of what you are proposing for your Fulbright year. Developing a strong, feasible and compelling project is the most important aspect of a successful Fulbright application. The first step is to familiarize yourself with the program summary for the host country. The program design will vary somewhat depending upon the country and the field of study. The proposal should indicate a clear commitment to and description of how you will engage with the host country community. *For ETA programs*, this 1-page document outlines why you are interested in teaching English to non-native speakers as well as why you have chosen to apply to a particular country. You should describe clearly what you will be able to bring to the classroom in the host country, as well as explain any ideas you have on how to reach students coming from a different pedagogical tradition.

- **Personal Statement**. This 1-page narrative is designed to give the reviewers a picture of you as an individual. It is an opportunity to tell the committee more about the trajectory that you have followed and what plans you have for the future. Whereas the Statement of Grant Purpose focuses on what you will be doing in the host country, the Personal Statement concentrates on how your background has influenced your development and how that relates to the Fulbright opportunity. The personal statement can deal with your personal history, family background, intellectual development, and the educational, professional, or cultural opportunities to which you have or have not been exposed; explain their impact. This should not be a reiteration of facts already listed in the Biographical Data sections or an elaboration of the Statement of Grant Purpose.
• **Three letters of recommendation**, two of which should be from professors in the applicant's major field. (Note: Letters of recommendation must be submitted to the institutional representative by the on-campus deadline.)

• A **transcript** from each institution attended since graduation from high school.

• Foreign **language forms** to be completed by a professional language teacher.

Note: The statement of purpose and personal statement should be written specifically for the Fulbright application. It is inadvisable to recycle statements written for other fellowship applications. Essays have different formats for academic proposals, creative & performing arts, English Teaching Assistant, or other Fulbright grants.

After institutional endorsement, applications will be evaluated in a preliminary national screening, the results of which will be communicated in the winter (typically by the end of January). Candidates who receive notification that their application was recommended for further consideration are often interviewed by a national selection committee over the telephone. Notification of the final decision usually takes place in April or May, but notification can come as late as June.

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**Additional Information**

While graduating seniors are encouraged to apply to all countries, applications from recent graduates are particularly welcome to the certain countries that change from year to year. Statistics on the number of applications in the previous year for each country are on the Fulbright website. Most countries in Western Europe are fiercely competitive and most likely to select candidates who are already in a graduate program and demonstrate a compelling need to do research for a doctoral dissertation in that country. Critical Language Enhancement Awards can supplement the grant to certain countries. For details, check the country summaries: [http://us.fulbrightonline.org/countries/regions](http://us.fulbrightonline.org/countries/regions)

Graduating seniors are strongly encouraged to consider opportunities as an English Teaching Assistant (ETA). These awards are numerous in some countries such as Korea (80 awards) or Taiwan (90 awards) or Indonesia (35 awards). New Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship programs are announced each year.

The Fulbright website contains excellent advice on all aspects of the application process: [https://us.fulbrightonline.org/applicants](https://us.fulbrightonline.org/applicants)

It is essential to begin the planning and application process early, planning during the summer after junior year for opportunities in the year after graduation.

In recent years, WPI has hosted Fulbright Scholars from Germany, Malaysia, and Romania, and elsewhere. Many WPI faculty have received Fulbright grants (see below). The Fulbright awards for faculty or for citizens of other countries are selected in separate competitions from Fulbright competition open to recent graduates or graduate students.
WPI US Student Program Fulbright Scholars:
Hajar Jafferji, graduate student, Fulbright U.S. Student Award to Morocco, 2015-16
Virginia Ward ’08, International Studies and Society, Technology & Policy, English
Teaching Assistantship, Taiwan, 2008-2009

WPI Faculty Fulbright Scholars by department and country visited (partial list):
  Peter H. Hansen, Humanities and Arts, France
  Brian Meacham, Fire Protection Engineering, Sweden, Spain, Japan
  Luis Vidali, Biology and Biotechnology, Spain
  Rajib Mallick, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Sri Lanka
  Steven Taylor, Business, New Zealand
  Kristin L. Billiar, Biomedical Engineering, Ireland
  Seth P. Tuler, Interdisciplinary and Global Studies, Thailand
  Thomas B. Robertson, Humanities and Arts, Nepal
  Steven C. Bullock, Humanities and Arts, Japan
  Mikhail Dimentberg, Mechanical Engineering, Germany
  David Dollemay, Humanities and Arts, Germany
  Michael Elmes, Business, New Zealand, Netherlands
  Jeffrey Forgeng, Humanities and Arts, Iceland
  Karen Lemone, Computer Science, Nepal
  Konstantin Lurie, Mathematics, Denmark
  Eric W. Overström, Biology and Biotechnology, Denmark
  Kaveh Pahlavan, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Finland
  Elke Rudensteiner, Computer Science, USA/Germany
  Aaron Sakulich, Civil & Environmental Engineering, Morocco
  John Zeugner, Humanities and Arts, Japan

Please contact the WPI Fulbright Advisor for information about student applications for
the Fulbright competition in the first instance.