

FULBRIGHT AWARDS Concise Guide for Applicants

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Putting together a competitive Fulbright application is time consuming. Before starting the application, read through this guide carefully and reflect on your commitments in the months leading up to the campus deadline of Oct. 1. Only you can determine whether applying for a Fulbright is right for you.

OVERVIEW

What is a Fulbright award?

- Supports **one year of residence in a country outside the United States** for the purpose of research, study, or English teaching.
- Applicants must be U.S. citizens or nationals and must have completed a Bachelor's degree by the time of the award.
- Applicants can apply to **ONE country** per cycle. Find more information about countries and programs [here](#).
- Campus deadline is **October 1**. PFW and IUFW students and recent alumni who desire Fulbright advising and campus nomination should contact OMSA no later than August 1.
- Find detailed information about the award rates for specific countries and programs [here](#).

Selection criteria. Applications are reviewed in the Washington DC office and in the target country. Criteria include:

- Quality and feasibility of the applicant's proposed project or activity.
- Applicant's academic, professional, and personal qualifications.
- Language preparation.
- Alignment of the application with the Fulbright mission of promoting understanding among nations.

Application components (more info [here](#)).

- [Online form](#) with personal and academic information.
- Project Title (90 characters)
- **Short essays** [prompts from the Fulbright website]
 - **Flexibility & Adaptability (2,000 characters):** "Please explain how you will adapt to working and living in a new environment in the host country. Consider the ways in which you have grown throughout your life that make you the individual you are today. How have you demonstrated these qualities in your academic, professional, or personal life? Use specific examples from your personal experiences."
 - **Community Engagement (2,000 characters):** "How will you integrate within and engage with your host community? Consider the ways in which you engage with your U.S. community (through extracurricular activities, hobbies, or volunteering), and how you can engage with these ideas and practices while on

grant. In what unique ways do you plan to share your culture and values in your host community and learn from others? How do your lived experiences prepare you to represent the United States as a cultural ambassador? Provide specific examples.”

- **Impact of Fulbright Award (1,000 characters):** “An objective of the Fulbright Program is to: *‘support activities and projects with broad multiplier effects. As a relatively small number of persons can participate in any of these, it is desirable that they be persons who are or who are likely to be in positions to share their experiences and knowledge with others.’* Describe your career and/or educational plans after completing a Fulbright grant. How will your Fulbright experience help you reach these future goals? How will you share your Fulbright experience with your community upon your return from the grant?”
- **Statement of Grant Purpose.** 6000 characters. See more info below.
- **Recommendation letters** from three mentors.
- **Recommendation from PFW Fulbright Committee** based on the campus interview (scheduled after the campus deadline of Oct. 1).
- **Transcripts** from every institution attended. Request PFW transcripts through [Parchment](#).
- (Independent research applicants) **Affiliation letter** from hosting university.
- (If required by country) **Language assessment(s)**

STATEMENT OF GRANT PURPOSE

- Edit your statement so that it is clear, concise, and geared toward a general audience.
- Check country and program Fulbright pages for specific expectations of the statement.
- Cite your sources in the text of your statement. Citations are not required.
- Do not include links.

If you are proposing **independent research**, your statement should be 6000 characters, including spaces, and address some or all of the following:

- What is your project goal? (Write a research paper? Create an exhibition? Collect data for a thesis?)
- What is your research question?
- What will your research contribute to relevant disciplines?
- How is your research idea innovative?
- What methods will you use?
- What is the timeline of the different stages of your research? Offer milestones or benchmarks that you intend to reach during the grant period.
- Why do you need to be in the host country to complete the research? Who will you work with and talk to while you are there? What institutions will you work with? What other resources will you access and how will you access them?
- What intellectual, methodological, and language training do you bring to the research?
- How will the culture and politics of the host country impact your research? What safety or feasibility concerns do you have about working in the country? How will you respond to them?

- How will completing the research further your professional development?
- What contribution will the research project make toward the Fulbright goal of promoting cultural exchange and mutual understanding?
- If your research involves collecting data on human subjects (through interviews, etc.) express your intention to get approval from relevant ethics boards. (Info about the Purdue ethics board [here](#).)

If you are proposing a **plan of study**, your statement should be 6000 characters, including spaces, and address some or all of the following:

- What academic program have you selected and why? Will your studies lead to a degree?
- What academic background do you have that will allow you to succeed in the proposed program?
- How will you participate in life at the institution?
- Are your foreign language skills at a level to allow you to study successfully in the program? If not, what steps will you take to be ready to study in the target language?
- Will you complete a thesis or other project as part of the program? If so, address relevant questions under **independent research** (above).

If you are applying for an **English Teaching Assistantship** (ETA), your statement should be 3000 characters, including spaces, and address some or all of the following:

- What teaching (especially English teaching) qualifications or training have you received?
- What teaching experience have you had?
- What is your teaching philosophy?
- What pedagogical approaches are you familiar with and have you been successful with?
- How will you navigate cultural difference in the classroom?
- What do you know about the pedagogical traditions common in the target country?

USEFUL LINKS

- Fulbright main site: <https://us.fulbrightonline.org/about/fulbright-us-student-program>
- Fulbright country pages [here](#).
- Fulbright application requirements and procedures [here](#).
- Fulbright award rates by country, program, and year (last three award cycles): [here](#).
- Fulbright and IIE [online application system](#).
- Purdue Institutional Review Board, for help with human subjects research [here](#).
- Purdue Fort Wayne transcript order system: [Parchment](#).
- OMSA scholarship page: <https://www.pfw.edu/omsa/scholarships>

EXPECTATIONS

Applicants who begin preparations on August 1 should plan on 30-45 minutes of daily work, five days a week, for three months, to put together a competitive application. Students who begin earlier will be able to work at a less intense pace.

TIMELINE

TIMING	APPLICANT NEEDS TO...	OMSA DIRECTOR SHALL
August 1. NINE WEEKS to deadline.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange and attend meeting with OMSA director. • Research country and program options on Fulbright website to identify a list of possible programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with applicant. • Provide information about Fulbright and the writing process.
August 15. SEVEN WEEKS to deadline.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select program and country. • Begin working on statement and short essays. • Identify potential recommendation writers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with applicant. • Provide feedback on writing.
August 29. FIVE WEEKS to deadline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (For independent research grants) Prepare list of possible institutional affiliations and prepare draft of email query. • (If relevant) Make arrangements for language assessments. • Prepare new drafts of statement and essays. • Reach out to mentors to ask for recommendations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with applicant • Provide feedback on writing. • Assist with arranging language assessment and letters of reference.
Sept. 12. THREE WEEKS to deadline.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take additional steps to secure affiliation. • Prepare new drafts of statement and essays. • Create and begin completing online application. • Order transcripts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact members of PFW Fulbright Committee and schedule interview with applicant. • Provide feedback on writing. • Review online application. • Meet with applicant as needed.
Sept. 20. TEN DAY to deadline.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize on-line application. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with applicant as needed.
Oct. 1. CAMPUS DEADLINE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lock application in Fulbright system on or before the campus deadline. • Attend interview with PFW Fulbright Committee. • Work on revisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange and lead interview. • Write institutional endorsement letter. • Meet with applicant to discuss revisions.
NATIONAL DEADLINE (TBD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make final changes to application and resubmit/lock. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide assistance as needed.