

Fulbright U.S. Student Program ADVISING SESSION

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CAL POLY
International Center

HOW CAL POLY SUPPORTS FULBRIGHTERS:

- Provide group advising for prospective Fulbright applicants.
- Review of drafts of students' Fulbright essays. (Applicants should allow at least a few weeks for the feedback.)
- Host interviews for campus applicants in late September/early October.



In Today's Advising Session

- Overview of the Fulbright U.S. Student Program grant types
- A closer look at the Application Components
- The competition timeline and campus interview process
- Overview of Web Resources
- Application Tips
- Q & A

What is the Fulbright U.S. student program?

- **Fulbright** is a vast umbrella under which there are many unique specific awards. Be sure to read specific award descriptions carefully.
- The Fulbright is primarily a cultural exchange program, and secondarily an academic program.
- Cultural diplomacy is at the heart of all Fulbright programs, including the Fulbright U.S. Student Program.
- Focus on recent U.S. college/university graduates and graduate students, young artists, and young professionals.
- Funds most costs of full-time projects abroad, including research, study , and others.

Eligibility

- U.S Citizens only (**not** permanent residents)
- Those with Bachelor's degrees, equivalent training or professional experience *by start of grant*
 - Note: Recipients may not have received a Ph.D.
- Sufficient language ability as recommended by host country and in keeping with Fulbright mission
- Good health; ability to undertake the project

Grant types

Study/Research (~950 awards in 140 countries)

- Independent Research Project
- Graduate Degree Grants
- Field-specific Awards (Arts, Business, Journalism & Communications, STEM)

English Teaching Assistantship (~1,200 awards in 75 countries)

- Assistant teach 20-30 hours per week, English & U.S. culture; K-12 or university-level

Fulbright-National Geographic Digital Storytelling Fellowships (<10 awards)

Critical Language Enhancement Awards (supplemental grants)

Website Resources

- Country pages
- Eligibility Requirements
- Application Checklists
- Types of Awards (including grad school options)
- IIE Contact Information
- Online Application
- Award Search
- Grantee Directory
- Webinars and Q&A
- Social Media Links



Website resources

us.fulbrightonline.org

Getting Started

Types of Awards

Study/Research Awards

English Teaching Assistant Awards

Fulbright-National Geographic Storytelling Fellowship

Critical Language Enhancement Award

Fulbright-Fogarty Fellowships in Public Health

Search for a Fulbright Program Adviser

Award Search

Application Components

Application Checklists

Information Sessions

Types Of Awards

The **2024-2025 Competition is now closed**. The 2025-2026 competition will open in April 2024.

Open Study/Research Awards

The [Fulbright Study/Research Award](#) is the traditional award opportunity where a candidate designs a proposal for a specific country. [Read the Country Summaries](#) for more information.

English Teaching Assistant Awards

The Fulbright English Teaching Assistant programs place grantees in schools overseas to supplement local English language instruction and to provide a native speaker presence in the classrooms. [View the countries offering English Teaching Assistant Awards here](#).

Special Programs

Fulbright-Fogarty Fellowships In Public Health

The [Fulbright-Fogarty Fellowships](#) are offered through a partnership between the Fulbright Program and the Fogarty International Center of the U.S. National Institutes of Health. These awards were established to promote the expansion of research in public health and clinical research in resource-limited settings.

Field-Specific Award Opportunities

> Fulbright Arts Grants

> Fulbright Business Grants

> Fulbright Journalism & Communication Grants

> Fulbright Grants in STEM and Public Health

Fulbright Graduate Degree Grants


The Fulbright awards below include the standard benefits (monthly living stipend, health benefits and round-trip airfare) and may include tuition coverage for the graduate degree program. Please see the country summary for specific details.

Website resources

Award Search

Award Search

Clear All

 Albania 2


English Teaching Assistant Award

English Teaching Assistant

Bachelor's, Master's

Elementary School, Middle School

9 Months

 Algeria 2


English Teaching Assistant Award

English Teaching Assistant

Bachelor's, Master's, Doctoral

University/Post-Secondary Institution

10 Months

 Andorra 5


English Teaching Assistant Award

English Teaching Assistant

Bachelor's, Master's, Doctoral

Secondary School, Vocational/Technical


10 Months

 Argentina 7

Open Study/Research Award

Open Study/Research

Bachelor's, Master's, Doctoral


 Argentina 20

English Teaching Assistant Award

English Teaching Assistant

Bachelor's, Master's

Teacher Training,

 Armenia 2

Open Study/Research Award

Open Study/Research

Master's, Doctoral

Website resources

Checklists

Application Checklists

Application requirements will vary depending on the country and type of grant for which one is applying so it is important to follow both the general guidelines for applications as well as the country and award-specific guidelines. Application Checklists vary depending upon the type of application.

Study/Research

- [Study/Research: Academic Checklists](#)
- [Study/Research: Creative & Performing Arts Checklists](#)

English Teaching Assistant

- [English Teaching Assistant Checklists](#)

Checklist For Academic Candidates

Starting The Application

- ☐ Contact the Fulbright Program Adviser at your school to discuss the campus application process and note any campus deadlines (pertains only to candidates applying through a U.S. institution).
- ☐ Carefully review the program summary for the country and award to which you are applying.
- ☐ Draft responses for the following required short answer questions: 1) Abstract/Summary of Proposal, 2) Host Country Engagement, 3) Plans Upon Return to the U.S.
- ☐ Draft a *Statement of Grant Purpose* that is feasible and culturally appropriate for the country of application.
- ☐ Identify a potential affiliation in the host country and make contact with an appropriate person there who might be able to serve as an adviser and who could write the Affiliation Letter for the Fulbright application. Provide the author of the affiliation letter with a copy of your *Statement of Grant Purpose*.
- ☐ If you are proposing a graduate degree program, review the admission requirements and application deadlines of the proposed host institution and program. Applicants proposing to pursue a graduate degree program must apply to the degree-granting program separate from their Fulbright application.

Webinars

Upcoming Events	Past Events
>	ETA Application Components: Short Answers and Essays June 17, 2022 - 3:00 PM ET to 4:00 PM ET Event Type: Webinars
>	Finding an Affiliate June 21, 2022 - 2:00 PM ET to 3:00 PM ET Event Type: Webinars
>	Fulbright UK University Exhibition June 28, 2022 - 1:00 PM ET to 3:00 PM ET Event Type: Webinars
>	Fulbright U.S. Student Program Overview July 21, 2022 - 3:00 PM ET to 4:00 PM ET Event Type: Webinars
>	Applicants with Disabilities - MIUSA & Alumni Ambassadors July 25, 2022 - 4:00 PM ET to 5:00 PM ET Event Type: Webinars

Grant benefits

- Round-trip airfare
- Monthly stipend (for room, board, incidental costs - varies by location based on cost of living)
- Health insurance
- Benefits *may* also include (varies by country):
 - Dependent support
 - Research allowance
 - Tuition
 - Language lessons
 - Enhancement activities



Online Application

- The Fulbright Application is ONLY available online
- Currently enrolled students: You should apply through Cal Poly and must therefore meet the campus deadline
- Students who have graduated from Cal Poly no more than three years before the deadline (and have not since attended another college) may apply through Cal Poly of at-large

First-time users:

[Create an account](#) to start a new application.

Deadlines

Campus Deadline

Sept. 15, 2024

- Enrolled candidates submit Embark applications by campus deadline.
- Applications will be un-submitted after campus interview so that additional edits can be made.

IIE Application Deadline

Oct. 8, 2024

- At large applicants must submit Embark application by this date.
- Campus applications must re-submit Embark application by this date.
- Applications are processed at IIE and sent to **National Screening Committee** members.

Competition Timeline

Work on project, application, recommendations, affiliation

April-September



Campus Deadline

September 15



Faculty Committee Interviews

Late September



IIE National Deadline

October 8



National Screening Committee

November-January



Host Country / FFBSB Review

March-June

Application Components

- Online Application
- Essay 1: Statement of Grant Purpose
- Essay 2: Personal Statement
- Three reference letters
- Affiliation letter for host country (for research grant)
- Transcripts
- Language Self Evaluation
- Foreign Language Evaluation
- Creative work portfolio (Arts & NatGeo)
- Resume (NatGeo only)



Personal Statement

- The **Statement of Grant Purpose** is where you make the case for the project itself—that it is timely, worthy of funding, viable, and only possible at the proposed project site(s).
- It resembles a grant proposal, though it also differs from that genre in important ways. You **are** “selling” something: if they choose your project, they are funding you to live and work abroad for one year in order to complete the project. They need to believe in the project (just like they need to believe in you).

Statement of Grant Purpose

- Questions to ask yourself while drafting it:
 - Is it interesting, well organized, and reader-friendly?
 - Does it portray you as someone who is a self-starter, capable of succeeding individually?
 - Does it portray you as someone deeply interested in intercultural cooperation, and in the destination location in particular?
 - Does it maintain a theme, thread, or motif from the Project Statement?
 - Does it demonstrate how you-the-person is connected to you-the-scholar (or the person who will do the project); does it connect your personal and intellectual lives?
 - Does it unnecessarily repeat things included elsewhere in the application?
(**“Real estate” is limited!!**)

Letters of Recommendation (3)

- **Letters should include the following:**
 - Strong level of knowledge and potential for future growth in the chosen field;
 - Ability to carry out research/project and think and write analytically;
 - Emotional stability, maturity, motivation, and seriousness of purpose;
 - Appropriate linguistic preparation and ability to adapt to a different cultural environment;
 - A proposed project that is feasible and has merit; and
 - Likelihood of making a favorable impression as a United States citizen abroad.

Letters of Affiliation (Study/Research)

- Carefully read your country summary before requesting letter
- Connect with a host contact willing to advise/mentor you as you conduct your Fulbright project
- Identify an appropriate professional (or even two) at a university, laboratory, library, community organization
- Request a signed letter on institutional letterhead indicating the person's support
- A strong letter of affiliation is a signal to the selection committees that your project is feasible, timely, and of interest in the host-cultural setting
- Use existing networks
 - Colleagues of your profs
 - Professional/field networks
 - Online communities/interest groups
 - Other contacts through personal networks

Note: ETAs DO NOT make affiliations

The Campus Interview

What is the benefit of a campus interview?

- IIE values an objective assessment of your relative qualifications and preparedness to undertake the proposed Fulbright project.

Who is on the committee?

- At Cal Poly, the committee consists of 3-5 faculty and staff members, all of whom are internationally engaged in their research, teaching, or other work.

What happens at the interview?

- The committee members will have read your entire application, and will have some questions about your project, and about your cross-cultural competence.
- The committee will offer recommendations on how you can further strengthen your application prior to the IIE Deadline.

After the Campus Interview

- The Committee chair will attach a brief campus report to your Embark application (you will not be able to view it or your recommendation letters)
- The Committee chair will un-submit your Embark application (you will receive an email when this occurs)
- You will be able to make additional edits to your application
- It will be YOUR responsibility to re-submit your Embark application by the IIE Deadline

Other tips

- Know the Fulbright program: its history and mission. Be prepared to articulate how your project augments the Fulbright mission.
- To practice an effective and concise “pitch” for your project, prepare the “2-minute elevator speech.”
- Know current U.S. events – especially any relevant to your project. You may be asked how you will represent the U.S. situation to your international colleagues while abroad.
- If you are confused by a question, ask for clarification. A good strategy is: “I want to make sure I understand what you’re asking. Is it [fill in the blank]?”
- Do not be ashamed to admit the limits of your knowledge. It’s fine to say something such as “I haven’t fully explored the particular set of issues yet, but I hope undertaking this project will allow me to delve into it.” It’s better to be honest than to over-reach or exaggerate your knowledge (pretending is often see-through!!)



Questions?

