



FULBRIGHT

Scholar Program

Fulbright U.S. Scholar Opportunities in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2026-27

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The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government and administered by the Institute of International Education.



Today's Presentation

- Program Overview
- Why Fulbright?
- Qualifications for Awards
- Types of Awards
- Application Cycle
- **Awards**
- Submit a Strong Application
- Questions
- Stay in Touch!





The Fulbright Scholar Program

Background

- Created in 1946 by U.S. Congress and funded by the U.S. Government
- Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) as its flagship program
- Administered by the Institute of International Education, binational Fulbright Commissions, and U.S. Embassies
- Supports research, teaching, seminar attendance, and professional projects abroad in 120+ countries



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Why Fulbright?

Fulbright supports your professional development

- Teach, research, carry out professional projects, and participate in seminars around the world
- Foster sustainable partnerships
- Expand your publishing network and gain new teaching perspectives
- Gain the professional recognition as a Fulbright Scholar
- Join a vibrant and supportive alum network





Why Fulbright?

Fulbright supports your family

- Approximately 60% of our awards provide dependent support in funds
 - Use our search filter
 - Check the “Award Benefits” tab
- Most countries allow for family to come abroad with the grantee
- Many Fulbright dependents go on to have international careers





Why Fulbright?

Fulbright supports you from application to grant

- There is a face behind every Scholar Award!
- Continued support while in country from IIE and host country staff
- Access to alums in the Scholar Directory





Fulbright supports you from application to grant

Fulbright Scholar Liaisons

- Your local guide to Fulbright awards and application at **1250+** institutions
- Assistance with securing leave and support
- Assistance connecting to alums on campus

Find your Liaison or become a Liaison yourself at
fulbrightscholars.org/liaisons





Qualifications for U.S. Scholar

- **U.S. citizenship**
- **Degree and experience**, as required by award:
 - Ph.D. or other terminal degree
 - Master's or professional or artistic experience
 - Teaching experience as required
- **Fulbright U.S. Scholar alums are eligible:**

Recipients of a Fulbright Scholar grant are eligible to apply for another Fulbright Scholar grant two years after the date of completion of the previous grant





Fulbright Scholar Awards

- **380+** awards in **120+** countries
- **2-12** months
- Options: Research, Teaching, Teaching/Research, Professional Project, Seminars (2 weeks)
- Flex option: segment your award into 2-3 non-consecutive month(s)-long visits over 1-2 years
- **ONE Award per cycle / competition year**





Fulbright Scholar Awards

Awards for Research, Teaching, Teaching/Research, or Professional Projects

- Scholar Awards
- Postdoctoral Awards
- Distinguished Scholar Awards

Awards for Seminars

- International Education Administrator (IEA) Awards





Choose “the Most Specific Award that Meets Your Needs”

- Consider “country” or “discipline.”
- Look for “Hidden Gems”
- Are you eligible for a Postdoctoral or Distinguished Award?
- Decide if you have a host in mind, or pick a named institution
- Reflect on the state of your career, your field, and current events in countries abroad.



Awards in Sub-Saharan Africa



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West Africa

Featured

- Benin: [All Disciplines](#)
- Cabo Verde: [All Disciplines](#)
- Cote d'Ivoire: [All Disciplines](#)
- The Gambia: [All Disciplines](#)
- Ghana: [All Disciplines](#)

SubSaharanAfrica@iie.org





West Africa, cont.

Featured

- Guinea: [All Disciplines](#)
- Nigeria: [All Disciplines](#)
- Senegal: [All Disciplines](#)
- Sierra Leone: [All Disciplines](#)

SubSaharanAfrica@iie.org





East Africa

Featured

- Ethiopia: [All Disciplines](#)
- Kenya: [All Disciplines](#)
- Madagascar: [All Disciplines](#)
- Mauritius: [All Disciplines](#)

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East Africa, cont.

Featured

- Mozambique: [All Disciplines](#)
- Rwanda: [All Disciplines](#)
- Tanzania: [All Disciplines](#)
- Uganda: [All Disciplines](#)

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Central and Southern Africa

Central

- Cameroon: [All Disciplines](#)

Southern

- Botswana: [All Disciplines](#)
- Eswatini: [All Disciplines](#)
- Malawi: [All Disciplines](#)
- Namibia: [All Disciplines](#)





Southern Africa, cont.

Featured

- South Africa: [Science and Technology](#)
- Zambia: [Journalism and Broadcasting](#)
- Zimbabwe: [Multiple Disciplines](#)

Multi-Country

- Africa Regional Research Program: [Benin, Botswana, Cabo Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Eswatini, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe](#)





Application Components

Requirements:

- ✓ Application Form
- ✓ Project Statement
- ✓ Curriculum Vitae or Resume
- ✓ 2 Recommendations
- ✓ Language Proficiency Report *(if required)*
- ✓ Invitation Letters *(if required)*

Supplemental Materials:

- ✓ Syllabi or Course Outlines *(for teaching)*
- ✓ Reference List *(for research)*
- ✓ Portfolio *(for disciplines like Arts, Architecture, and Journalism)*





Tips for a strong application:



Read all four tabs of an award so you know which one best meets your needs



Start an online application **as soon as possible**



Attend webinars and Office Hours and read guides on our website



Application Cycle

FEBRUARY	Competition Opens
SEPTEMBER 15	Application Deadline
SEPTEMBER	IIE staff conducts Preliminary Screening
OCTOBER – NOVEMBER	U.S. Peer Review
DECEMBER	Applicants notified of Peer Review result
DECEMBER – JUNE	Final decisions are made by Fulbright Commissions or U.S. Embassies abroad and by the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board in the U.S.
JUNE – ONWARD	Participants are selected and prepare for departure



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apply.iie.org/register/newsletter



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The Power
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Education

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