



**FULBRIGHT**

Scholar Program

# Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program: Opportunities for Scholars with Disabilities

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The Fulbright U.S. Student 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.





## Before we get started...

- Ask questions through the chat box. Q&A will take place during the final 15 minutes of the webinar.
- For live captioning, select the Closed Captioning box at the bottom of your screen.
- There will be 2 ASL interpreters. We will spotlight the interpreters video to be seen throughout presentation and slides.
- This webinar will be recorded. The slides and webinar recording will be sent to you by next week.





## MISSION

- In partnership with **160 countries worldwide**, Fulbright offers passionate and accomplished faculty, administrators, artists, journalists, lawyers, and other professionals from all backgrounds an **unparalleled opportunity to study, teach, or conduct research**.
- Our mission is to **foster mutual understanding** between nations, **advance knowledge** across communities, and improve lives around the world.

## A BRIEF HISTORY

- Established in 1946 by Congress, Fulbright is the United States government's **flagship international educational and cultural exchange program**.
- Fulbright 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.





# Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Accessibility

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the United States Department of State strives to embed diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) in all aspects of its work.

Public diplomacy is most effective when people of diverse backgrounds and perspectives participate in people-to-people exchanges and programs to promote mutual understanding. The Bureau incorporates DEIA best practices throughout its exchanges and programs, grants, community partnerships, and in its workforce and workplace.

ECA is committed to addressing barriers based on race, ethnicity, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, geographic location, education, income, socio-economic status, and other diversity dimensions, that may hinder inclusion in the organization. The Bureau's commitment to DEIA strengthens U.S. foreign policy and is vital to building trust and partnerships here at home and around the world.





# Fulbright by the Numbers

The Fulbright Program funds over **8,000 awards** annually:

**900**

U.S. scholars and  
administrators

**900**

Visiting  
scholars

**2,200**

U.S.  
students

**4,000**

foreign  
students

**400**

language  
teaching  
assistants



The Power  
of International  
Education

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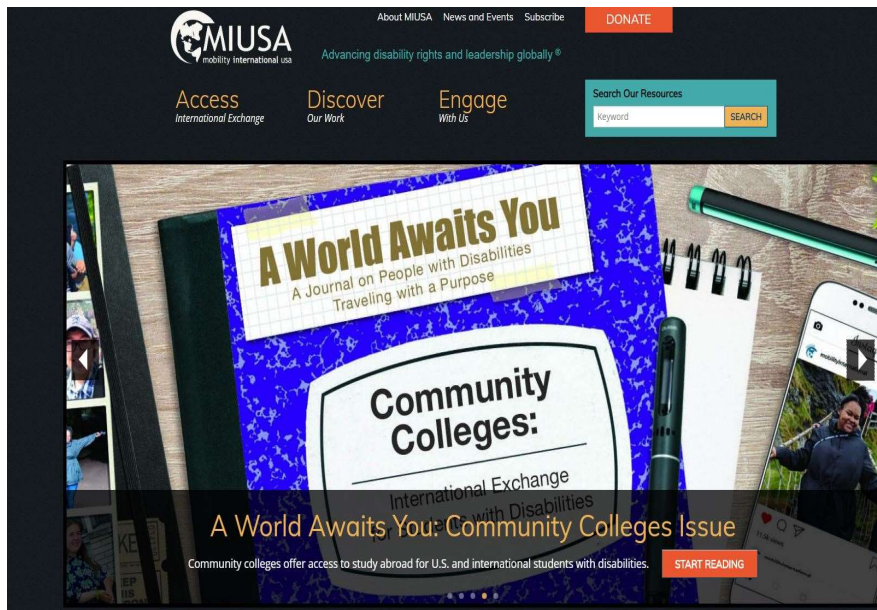
# National Clearinghouse on Disability & Exchange

- An ongoing project to increase participation of people with disabilities in international exchange
- We provide practical advice and referrals for people with disabilities on international exchange options and planning
- We provide technical assistance to the international exchange providers on disability inclusion practices and policies
- Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)
- Administered by Mobility International USA





# National Clearinghouse on Disability & Exchange



## NCDE Resources

- Free advising
- Online Stories
- Disability Travel Tips
- Social Media Campaigns
- Learn more at [www.miusa.org/ncde](http://www.miusa.org/ncde)







# Funding Reasonable Accommodations

- The U.S. State Department and cooperating agency staff are committed to providing reasonable accommodations.
- Disability-related accommodations are intended to remove barriers and provide equal access.
- If accommodations have costs, this does not reduce participant grants/stipend amounts; if costs are high, cost-sharing is between program partners.
- Specifics of what is needed is case by case, so discuss this early with Fulbright staff to give them time for planning with you and partners.





# Ken Rutherford

Fulbright Scholar to  
Jordan (2005)





# Polly Newcomb

## Fulbright Scholar to Canada (2015)





# While you are applying

- Plan early
- Ask questions
  - Does the host have an accessible office, library, lab space, and housing?
  - Ask for all options – on campus and in-community
  - Are there workarounds? What is possible?
  - Does my host country have the necessary accommodations and/or materials for me?
- Choose your host institution carefully
- Make sure you have a strong point of contact who can help/assist
- Be specific in project statement about how you will conduct your project
- Regarding your medical care, consider countries with robust healthcare systems
- Connect with Fulbright Scholar alums and/or Fulbright Commission staff about the in-country experience





# Before departure

- Plan early
- Speak with Program Management about the additional State Department funding
- Continue to ask questions during the Pre-Departure Orientation
- Continue to communicate with your host institution(s) about your needs
- Continue to communicate with the Fulbright Commission or U.S. Embassy Post about your needs
- If selected, complete the medical form thoroughly
- Consider what you need to pack





# During your grant

- Upon arrival, begin networking with colleagues and discussing your needs
- Continue to communicate with your host institution(s) about your needs
- Continue to communicate with the Fulbright Commission or U.S. Embassy Post about your needs
- Ask colleagues about other individuals with disabilities who can provide advice and insight
- Address problems immediately and create workarounds if necessary
- Make the most of your Fulbright experience!





# Additional Resources

- Fulbright Scholar Directory
- Fulbright Specialist Program
- Iceland Awards
  - Funding is available for US Fulbright Scholars to Iceland with a disability, be it a structural or functional impairment or activity/participation limitation, that entails additional costs that are not covered specifically through the Fulbright Program. Some funding may be available for a wide range of disabilities including, for example, hearing, vision or movement impairment. The funding could, for example, be used to assist with specialized housing needs, in-country transport, or specialized assistance. The extra funding amount will depend on need and will be decided by the Commission after consultation with the Scholar.





# Fulbrighters with Disabilities

- Fulbrighters with Disabilities offers a limited range of tangible services, including the following:
  - Proofreading/providing feedback on applications for grants, fellowships, and scholarships (Fulbright, Rhodes, Chevening, etc.) for applicants with disabilities;
  - Connecting Fulbright scholars with disabilities (and family members who're traveling with them) with resources and accommodations in their host countries and institutions;
  - Hosting educational sessions about the UN CRPD, laws governing disability rights and accessibility in various host countries, and strategies for securing reasonable accommodations under the appropriate laws;
  - Providing professional consultations to recent university graduates with disabilities who're seeking employment.
- Email [fwd@fulbright.org](mailto:fwd@fulbright.org) or visit the Fulbrighters with Disabilities LinkedIn page







# Questions & Answers



# Stay Connected with Fulbright

**EMAIL** us at [scholars@iie.org](mailto:scholars@iie.org)

**VISIT** [fulbrightscholars.org](http://fulbrightscholars.org) to learn more about the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program

**REFER** [your colleagues](#)

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