



FULBRIGHT

Scholar Program

# Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program: Peer Review and Selection Process

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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.



# What happens after the application is submitted?

- Applicants will receive an email confirming submission of their application from [scholars@iie.org](mailto:scholars@iie.org).
- **September:** Preliminary Review: IIE conducts a preliminary screen of all applications for eligibility and completeness.
- **October-November:** Peer Review: All eligible, complete applications are reviewed by discipline committees, which determine whether the application is recommended for further consideration (see [Review Criteria](#)).
- **December:** Notification: Applicants are notified of the peer review outcome (recommended or not recommended).





# What happens after peer review?

- **December-May:** Selection: Applications recommended in peer review are forwarded for review and selection by the host country, the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, and the U.S. Department of State.
- **January-June:** Notification: IIE notifies candidates of the final outcome (selectee, alternate, non-select)
- **June-Onward:** Award details are finalized and grants may begin per start dates in the [Awards](#).





# What are the review criteria?

- ☐ Training, background, and experience
- ☐ Quality of the project
- ☐ Project's potential impact, outcomes, and benefits
- ☐ Cultural preparation
- ☐ Previous Fulbright Scholar awards (if applicable)
- ☐ Veteran status (if applicable)
- ☐ Diversity and geographic distribution

View the full [Review Criteria](#)





## How can I make my application stronger?

- Read the award description
- Read the instructions, prepare to apply
- Read the review criteria
- Ask questions if requirements or guidelines are not clear
- Project statement and essays should be clear, concise, and compelling
- Proofread, and have a colleague read your project statement
- Avoid common mistakes (follow the instructions)



# Common mistakes in applications

- Application is not well developed: vague or generic; methodology lacks specifics; project is not contextualized in existing work
- Unclear need to be in host country
- Feasibility and timeline are overly ambitious or not well defined
- Outcomes and impact are ambiguous or partially addressed
- Gap between expertise and the project
- Not proofread; materials are confusing, hard to follow





# What if my application is not successful?

- **Feedback:** According to Fulbright Program policy, we are not authorized to provide feedback about applications, including reasons for selection or non-selection.
- **Reapplying:** Applications are reviewed individually, on their own merit each year, so your status from a prior competition would not be taken into account by peer reviewers.
- **Email us at [scholars@iie.org](mailto:scholars@iie.org)**

