

Application Writing Clinic for the Fulbright U.S. Scholar 2027-2028 Competition, Part I

Webinar Q&A Box Questions and Answers

These questions have been anonymized. Any question too specific to any one applicant has been removed.

Question	Answer
<p>1. In the instructions there is a mention that an invitation letter should not be sought. So, should I just contact one of my colleagues there to establish a proposal/plan of activities and then just mention that in the application without an invitation? Would that suffice? 2. I am originally from Brazil, and I still hold my Brazilian citizenship, though I have lived in the US for over 25 years and have been a US citizen since 2017. I have not resided in Brazil since 2008 (after a brief sojourn there). Would that be OK in terms of my eligibility for the award?</p>	<p>Hello! Yes, you can reference the communications with a potential host in the body of your project statement. Your dual citizenship is not disqualifying provided that, as you wrote, you are not currently residing in Brazil. Good luck with your application and thank you for joining us today!</p>
<p>Any additional advice or instructions regarding the Global Scholar Fulbright?</p>	<p>Hello! Please connect with our colleagues at the Fulbright Global Scholar award globalaward@iie.org.</p>
<p>Hi, was the 4 prong slide the rubric that the reviewers use?</p>	<p>Hello! Yes, you can see more here: https://fulbrightscholars.org/us-scholar-awards#review-process</p>
<p>If not required, are invitation letters still *recommended*?</p>	<p>Hello! As long as the award doesn't say "invitation letter should not be sought," it's always great to include one if you have reached out to a potential host who indicates they would like to host you.</p>
<p>Please comment briefly on difference between RESEARCH v TEACHING tracks.</p>	<p>Hello! Step 2 here has more info about the award activities: https://fulbrightscholars.org/us-scholar-awards#getting-started</p>
<p>There are several award opportunities that would be good matches for my aspirations. Is it a bad idea to apply for multiple awards in the same round?</p>	<p>Hello! You can only apply for one award per cycle, so we recommend finding the best award for your background and aligns with hosts interests and apply for that one.</p>
<p>Can a Fulbright offer be deferred to a later year, for example, if a sabbatical request is not granted?</p>	<p>Hello! Unfortunately, grants cannot be deferred.</p>
<p>If you are awarded, can you defer a year? For example, if your home institution does not approve leave for the year awarded.</p>	<p>Hello! The Fulbright Program policies do not allow for a deferral. If you propose to start in the fall but may not be able to start until the spring, that can often be accommodated, but deferring from AY 27-28 to AY 28-29 is not permissible.</p>
<p>What is the rationale for not offering feedback on applications that don't advance?</p>	<p>Hello! It's a Fulbright Program Policy</p>

<p>Please comment briefly on effect of current country political climates on operation and follow-through of program.</p>	<p>Hello! Fulbright Program is fully operational, and we are accepting applications.</p>
<p>I have talked to a potential host institution about a multi-disciplinary project that fits my interdisciplinary research and teaching (in my case mixing psychology, sociology, and education). The host is very interested in this interdisciplinary approach and offered affiliations with multiple programs. How should I pick which one discipline to identify for my application?</p>	<p>Hello! The project statement you submit will show the interdisciplinary nature of your project. When selecting a discipline, select one that best represents your program, but you have the ability to type in your specialization further to explain the other disciplines that intersect with the one you selected.</p>
<p>Do we have the letters of rec sent to us to include with the application materials are they submitted directly to an application portal?</p>	<p>Hello! Letters of rec are submitted straight to the portal.</p>
<p>If your application made it to the semi-finalist round, however your project wasn't selected as a finalist, are there any resources, (Office Hours?), where you can receive feedback or ask specific questions about your application?</p>	<p>Hello! We cannot provide personalized feedback, but you are welcome to join us in office hours to ask questions and/or reach out to discuss your current application.</p>
<p>Can you speak about Professional Projects that are not in the area of arts (for instance science or engineering)?</p>	<p>Hello! Can you clarify further what information you're seeking? We also have more info on the award activities here, under Step 2 https://fulbrightscholars.org/us-scholar-awards#getting-started</p>
<p>Describe Office Hours. Can someone look over Proposal as it is being developed and provide feedback?</p>	<p>Hello! Office hours are an open forum for IIE staff to answer your questions live! These events function like group advising, so bring your questions about the application process, selection criteria, and award opportunities to receive answers in real time - or simply join to listen to the conversation. Feel free to join/leave at any point within the hour. However, we cannot review your proposal and provide feedback during an office hour.</p>
<p>What can you tell us about the importance of the two letters of reference that accompany the application? Is it preferable to provide letters from scholars who know our work well or are letters from "big name" scholars who will be supportive but may not be as familiar with our work?</p>	<p>Hello! We encourage you to get letters from people who know you and your work best.</p>
<p>I have an application focused on a special art exhibition project in Bulgaria. I have recently communicated with the Bulgarian-Fulbright representative, and she gave me positive feedback on the proposal and suggested a host institution. She also suggested I add a course of interest for the host institution in addition to the exhibition. I am moving forward on that, but my question is, on the application, artists must choose only "special project" or "teaching", not both. How do I apply with my special project, but indicate there is also an</p>	<p>Hello! If you can email us at europ Eurasia@iie.org we can take a closer look at the award, but the award also indicates the activities (I'm not sure what you mean by "special project"), https://fulbrightscholars.org/award/all-disciplines-982</p>

educational component without the option to apply with a 'both' option?	
Curious whether a Master of Public Policy/Public Administration is generally considered a terminal degree?	Hello! You can check here: https://fulbrightscholars.org/sites/default/files/2024-07/US-Scholar-Terminal-Degrees.pdf
How can I learn about the selection rate for awards? For example, Singapore has just 1 award. How can I learn the success rate so I can decide whether it's worth it to take the risk of applying for a location with only 1 award?	Hello! We do not provide this information.
At my potential host institution, there are several groups that I would be working with, if they were to send an invitation, could they do so as a single, joint 'invitation letter' that includes several supporters/signatories?	Hello! Yes, the host institution can be signed by multiple supporters/signatories.
What if you are likely to transition in positions/home university in the next 3-9 month? how would this impact the home institution reference letter? can you have reference letters from other Univ/home intuitions?	Hello! You can have reference letters from other institutions. It's also ok to have one from your current institution (soon to be former) if they know you/your work well.
Who do I contact to determine if my degree is terminal for a professional project?	Hello! You can contact us and review this list: https://fulbrightscholars.org/sites/default/files/2024-07/US-Scholar-Terminal-Degrees.pdf
If the application does not require an invitation letter, would it strengthen the application to include one nonetheless?	Hello! If the award indicates optional or recommended, we recommend you upload an invitation letter if you have one!
Is having experience in the host country and a prior/ongoing collaboration with the host institution or inviter seen as a strength or weakness? Are you looking for the formation of brand-new relationships, or strengthening and continuation of former ones?	Hello! The program welcomes both! How it's perceived can depend somewhat on how it's presented - it can be helpful to presenting the strengths
I already have a colleague with whom I work in Sweden. What additional pieces do I need to ask from their university to support my application?	Hello! For an example of what a letter of invitation should look like: https://fulbrightscholars.org/us-scholar-awards#steps
If you are an independent artist who has taught at an institution, but are not currently at one, who do you ask for letters of recommendation?	Hello! Please consider asking a previous supervisor at the institution you used to teach at as well as another individual who knows your work well and speak to your strengths as a potential cultural ambassador abroad.
For research applications, how many publications typically considered competitive in preparing for the reference list? Thanks.	Hello! Depends on the field and the topic. ex., a topic that's really new might not have many but also consider if the topic is being addressed in other/related fields - again, contextualizing it
For an award that has a host institution already attached, is it acceptable to reach out to the institution in advance?	Hello! Yes!
I plan to apply for specialist program. Is the application process similar to one you describe now?	Hello! We can only advise on the U.S. Scholar Program but you can connect with World Learning re: your question-

	https://fulbrightspecialist.worldlearning.org/the-fulbright-specialist-program
Can independent scholars apply? I have served as a tenured professor at my current university for 20 years, but I will be leaving the university August 31 to continue my research outside of academia.	Hello! Yes, we welcome scholars in all forms of their career.
Hi, I am interested in applying for a Fulbright in Mexico or Dominican Republic. Do I need to have an invitation for these countries?	Hello! It will depend on the award. Please refer to the award requirements tab to better understand this requirement.
What is required in the invitation letter? What should the contents of the letter include? Which office should the invitation letter come from? What kind of commitments should be included?	Hello! The Application Steps page has more on invitation letters, including a template! https://fulbrightscholars.org/us-scholar-awards#steps
Is it helpful for one of our letters to come from an international collaborator?	Hello! letters should come from people who know you best. If that international collaborator can talk to your work and person well, please ask them for a recommendation.
In the finalist letter, there is a statement encouraging applying again. In your opinion, is it best to apply the following year, or to wait a year.	Hello! It is perfectly fine to apply again in the following year. The application does not request information on whether this is a reapplication and the peer review committee would not be aware of your status as having applied earlier.
I left my academic position a year ago and am now a researcher and consultant in private practice. One of the reference letters needs to be from my host institution, but since I'm now self-employed, does that make me ineligible to apply for a Fulbright?	Hello! You are still eligible to apply! Consider requesting a letter from a previous supervisor as well as someone who knows your current work well.
Hello, will there be any upcoming webinars for international scholars and their application process? Thank you!	Hello! Please refer to the US Embassy or Fulbright Commission for your home country. This program is for US citizen scholars. Foreign scholars are recruited through the embassy and commission in country.
Is it OK to apply for Fulbright Scholar and Fulbright Specialist programs at the same time?	Hello! Yes, you can. You just can't do both at the same time if you receive both.
Is there a preferred format for the project statement? Such as Q/A or narrative or something else?	Hello! There is no preferred method. Just as long as it's clear and specific.
what if you are an independent scholar, how do we account for home institutions	Hello! There is a page in the application form for professional/employment info, but also there are awards that are open to "professionals" and "artists" - look under the Career Profile
the deadline is extended from June to September ?	Hello! The deadline for the US Scholar program is September 15, 2026. The deadline has not been in June, you may be thinking of a different program.
Recommendation letters. Can it be 3 instead of 2?	Hello! The application asks for two applications, you will not be able to include more letters and any additional would not be considered.
For those in an arts/design field that allows for a portfolio, are there any more specific guidelines for how to curate that work? Can it be spreads from publications or work that's been exhibited?	Hello! The application steps page (https://fulbrightscholars.org/us-scholar-awards#steps) has a section on the portfolio - the short version is that it can be a mix of your work but

	it should support the nature of your proposed project
For awards where countries are requesting specific experts, how do you contact them to receive an invitation?	Hello! In the award description, there's a section on locations/invitation - it's on the second tab of the award - and many of them have contact info. The app steps page also has more on this, too https://fulbrightscholars.org/us-scholar-awards#steps
Can we include working on a book during the Fulbright if we have an accepted book proposal and we will teach a class that complements the development of that text?	Hello! I think it sounds like it's relevant to what you're proposing so mentioning it would make sense
Is the reference list of your publications or research related to your project? thank you!	Hello! The reference list is intended to place your research within the field so may certainly reflect the works of others whose research is related to your project.
The host has asked me to share with them if Fulbright pays for my visa. Is there a specific page that explains this? My award does not have that level of specificity	Hello! In the award description there should be an IIE contact (@iie.org email) - I would recommend contacting us for more guidance
Are we able to upload portfolio and publications?	Hello! The ability to upload portfolio materials is available to disciplines in the arts / architecture, so this will depend which discipline you select as you are starting your application.
Hello, is it possible to connect with you to go over my draft application, to discuss 1) what award is optimal for me to apply to and 2) whether there are any errors or items I may have missed? Thank you.	Hello! Unfortunately, we don't have the capacity to give feedback on draft applications - and we strongly recommend having colleagues review it. But you might consider reaching out with a few ideas of what you propose to do & the awards you're considering and we may be able to advise further
Hello there. The project statement can be 3-5 pages. Is this single-spaced or double-spaced?	Hello! The Application steps page has more on formatting for these materials, https://fulbrightscholars.org/us-scholar-awards#steps
Do you have to be tenured to apply for Distinguished Scholar? My case is is under review now. I did see the years guidelines but double checking.	Hello! Unless the specific Distinguished Scholar award specifies tenure status then no. Each distinguished scholar award provides information on the second tab that addresses this.
Hello, will a non-U.S. Scholars workshop be available?	Hello! Non-US Scholars are advised to review the Fulbright opportunities listed on the US Embassy website of your home country
Is there an age limit to apply?	Hello! There is not an age limit and retired or emeriti faculty and professional are welcome.
Can Emeritus faculty be eligible for this award?	Hello! Yes, Emeritus faculty are eligible. Tab 2 of the award provides eligibility details. Please review that section of the specific award you are looking at.
Does a past Fulbright-Hayes award count as a Fulbright Scholar award?	Hello! No, because it is a different Fulbright program.
this webinar is only for US citizens?	Hello! Yes, this webinar is for the US Scholar program, and US citizenship is required for these awards.

<p>Is it advisable to ask the two recommenders to organize their letters based on the review criteria (e.g., training, background, expertise; quality of project/proposed activities, etc.)?</p>	<p>Hello! Yes, it's great to have the recommender writers touch on all aspects of the review criteria.</p>
<p>Hi, what is your recommendation about including a number of links to current work - or should they be embedded as text/images? - will reviewers have time to follow links?</p>	<p>Hello! The application instructions specify that links should NOT be included in the application. Reviewers are trained not to leave the application to view any other materials. Please include any information you want reviewers to know about in the body of your application. Thanks for asking!</p>
<p>Hello. i am looking for the recordings of country office hours. but can't find them</p>	<p>Hello! Office hours are not recorded. Webinars are recorded and can be found under resources - webinars - webinar archive.</p>