

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

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
Hello! I quickly realized I'm on the wrong call. I'm applying through the U.S. Student Program, not the U.S. Scholar Program, but I imagine a lot of this information will still transfer to my application. I do have a question about dependents. My wife and I are expecting a child who will be born after the application deadline. Since I obviously won't have all of the dependent information for an unborn child at the time I submit, how should I handle that section of the application? Should I note the expected child somewhere, or update the dependent information after the child is born?	Hi! We suggest you notify the Fulbright US Student Team after your child has arrived. It is OK if this is after the deadline.
Last year I applied for a FA at UCC and got a wonderful letter of Invitation from their Film Director. I started focusing my project with UCC as my Host Location. Is it possible in my reapplication for 2027 to apply to the same host location/UCC?	Hello! You could use the same host, but you will need to get a new letter since the dates will need to coincide with the current project.
Are all applicants notified in December whether they have progressed in the process? Or is it only those applicants who will progress who are notified? Thanks!	Hi! All are notified of whether or not their application has been recommended in the peer review process.
My project sits at the intersection of artistic research, performance, and pedagogy, and my proposed host is a nonprofit arts organization rather than a university. How would you recommend I frame the project so that it reads clearly as a Fulbright Scholar project rather than primarily as an artistic residency?	Hello! Fulbright projects CAN be artistic residencies if that helps!
If your discipline is social work, will the reviewers be from social work or from a more broad discipline (humanities)?	Hello! Your reviewers will be in the discipline you select on the application, so in this case Social Work. They are generally alumni who have completed Fulbright awards in the same discipline.
CV and resumes have pretty different conventions. IS there a preference?	Hi! There is no preference. It should be whatever shows your work best.
Do we need to include a summary of our training and background in the project proposal as well? or just ensure it is included in CV and essays?	Hello! That should be in the CV and essays. The project statement should be covering your project.
Is a host institution within a host country required to provide funding for a Fulbright project?	Typically, no, there is no financial obligation for the host institution, unless it is specified in the specific award itself that they may need to provide a housing provision, etc.
I think many applicants are nervous about navigating the "tricky political climate" that we are currently in.	This has always been a consideration abroad as well as in the US.

During the review process (especially here in the US), is this something for applicants to consider?	
Whom should we contact if we are unable to start an application? I am receiving an error message that says, "there are no application types currently available."	Hello! Email scholars@iie.org .
Hello! Are there information sessions specific to application writing for the IEA seminar award?	Hi! We don't have any scheduled but keep an eye on the Office Hours, we may add one for this specific award type. You are also welcome to write to iea@iie.org
When applying for a postdoctoral award in science, how in-depth should I go into the background and methodology when describing the project? So far, setting up the background and reasoning takes up half of the allotted pages. You mentioned wanting it to be accessible to a wide audience. The evaluators will not all be field-specific, so I do not want to use too much jargon, but I also want to be able to describe the project in the appropriate amount of depth. Any additional advice as I finish writing?	Hi! Just follow the prompt questions we have for project statement.
If I understand correctly, I can include more than one host in a letter of invitation, i.e., combining the two letters into one pdf?	Hello! You can include up to three letters of invitation. You can combine them into one or submit them separately.
For a research project, can you confirm that the literature we cite in the application project narrative can be submitted separately in the reference list/bibliography?	Hello! Yes, it can.
For the proposed project, are descriptive section headings encouraged—for example, 'Why this XXX country,' 'Project Approach,' and 'Expected Impact'—or would you prefer the statement to read more like a continuous narrative?	Hi! This is up to you but headings can make it easier to read.
Thank you for all this clear and encouraging information. Two questions if we have time: (1) does the letter of invitation need to be in English? and (2) how much of a disadvantage is it to request a different timeline if this is the best match for the hosts (June to August)?	Hello! The letter has to be in English, and ultimately, you need to follow the awards timeline. If the award is open to awards during that time, then that is fine. But if it's not, then the project can't take place during that time.
Please clarify, are 2 or 3 letters of recommendation required?	Hello! 2 letters of recommendation. Here are the application component requirements: https://fulbrightscholars.org/us-scholar-awards#steps
Is it encouraged to contact your targeted host institution?	Yes, unless the award specifies otherwise (can be found on the second tab of the award the invitation letter expectations, as some awards indicate that invitation letters should not be sought).
My project is adjacent to my academic training (i.e. the project is community engaged work on human-elephant conflict, while my training is as a plant ecologist and restoration ecologist). How can I prepare the strongest application possible given this situation?	You will want to explain the connection in your project statement, what led you to this work. Include any relevant training in your CV.
Can I have as a recommender a past RELO who I worked with while an English Language Fellow? He is not in a RELO position now but still works for English Language Programs in Washington DC	Hi, yes!
Will the essay questions be viewed alongside the project statement? I want to use the essay questions to save space on the project statement, but I do not	They will all be part of the application package, so reviewers will be able to read them all

want to miss potential criteria requirements in the project statement when just looking at that document alone.	
If we are applying to a teaching/research fellowship, should we structure our project statement so that each of the sections describes my teaching and research goals, or should I have two parts of the statement, one for teaching and one for research?	Hello! This is up to you but we have seen both approaches used successfully - separate and unified
Can I ask one of you to review my application before submission? I applied last year and was not accepted. If so, who do I reach out too? My countries are Southern Africa and Trinidad and Tobago	Hi! We are not able to review individual applications. You may wish to reach out to an alum or a peer on campus.
Noticed that the apply link dropped in the chat area shows "no application types currently available" message when logged in and attempting to start an application.	Sorry about that! Please use the "Application Steps" link and go to "begin application" We have more instructions on the App Steps page that may help.
Is there any topic/areas of focus that are of particular interest or not as interested to support?	Hello! This all differs per award. Every award is different and has different areas of interest.
I am proposing to teach do I need to have a reference list in addition to the syllabi	Hello! If you are applying for a Teaching only award, no. If it is a Teaching/Research award, then yes, you would need to submit both. Here you can find requirements on Application Components: https://fulbrightscholars.org/us-scholar-awards#steps
Should I have the proposal almost completed and share it with the person at the site that would write the letter of invitation? Is that typically a part of the request for this letter?	It is a good idea to share a draft of your project statement. Do not delay reaching out but do share some information that will assist the host in understanding the activity you propose.
I am applying for the Fulbright Postdoc Fellowship in Chile and currently working on my research statement. Can we include figures/tables in the research statement? Should the order of the research statement follow the order of the sections in the prompt/application materials, or can I shift the ordering around?	Yes, but leave more space for your narrative.
For the CV, the Fulbright application states not to include our name and contact info, which is usually at the top of the CV/resume.	Name is fine but we ask not to include contact or sensitive info like DOB -or a photo
I'm a faculty member at a community college teaching mathematics; my Ph.D. is in mathematics and my post-doctoral program was in mathematics education. I am interested in a teaching/research award teaching mathematics but the research in mathematics education is not a listed discipline. What discipline would you recommend for me to look under?	I suggest you choose Math as your primary discipline and choose Education as your specialization.
if the award has a range (i.e. 6 - 12 months), do we need to say that we are planning to stay for a specified number of months?	Yes, you should state the amount of time and what months.
For research award, is the first round of reviews done by a panel or individual ad hoc reviewers?	There aren't interviews in the first round. Some host countries have interviews but may only interview a short list of candidates
Also, does the reference list for a research project count as part of the 3-5 page limit?	Hello! It does not. It is a different application component.
I have questions about teaching. I have heard both that the syllabi in the application need to be developed by the application and not been taught at	You can use a sample syllabi you have used before but please check with the host if this is feasible for them.

the host institution previously, and that the host can request specific classes be taught (and send the syllabi to be included with the application). Can you please clarify this? Also, if it is the former, how do we ensure that the teaching proposed is aligned with the host institution's needs?	
Do I need internal partial cites in my project statement if full citation is in bibliography?	Use citations on your reference list/bibliography.
I am a citizen of the host country and lived here most my life. I am also a US citizen and did my PhD in the US. How relevant is the program for me? As I am not "coming from the US" and "taking cultural knowledge back to the US"?	All U.S. Citizens are eligible to apply, despite having dual citizenship.
Can you have a reference list for a teaching application?	No, if it is a Teaching only award, you would not submit a reference list/bibliography. If it is Teaching/Research award, then yes. Find details on Application Components here: https://fulbrightscholars.org/us-scholar-awards#steps
I anticipate being invited by an Australian university, but the mutual project will best be served by starting in the second half of their academic year. Will that be a negative for the application if I wish to go in term 2?	As long as the award indicates that start dates include the month you wish to start you are fine.
Is it helpful to mention/identify specific collaborating faculty/partners at the host institution or does this seem too narrow/limited in scope?	Hello! This is helpful!
Does teaching in the Fulbright program necessarily mean "teaching formal courses in classrooms"? Can the teaching take place in individual consultations, workshops, or other formats instead?	Yes! there's a description of teaching activity on the website that goes into more about this, but many awards have some flexibility on this.
The Fulbright Israel asks the host to make a financial contribution. I am wondering if this financial requirement has been waived before and what options the host institution may have. Let me know who to contact regarding this question. Thank you.	If it is specified on the award as a requirement, then it would not be able to be waived.
Are the requirements for the postdoctoral fellowship the same as a Scholar Awards?	Generally, yes, however you can find for the specific award if there are any additional qualification requirements on the second tab of the award itself.
If I am applying for a Teaching/Research award, does one of my recommendation letters need to address teaching ability?	That would be preferred, thank you!
Hi. silly question but.... From a previous workshop, I wrote in my notes to 'highlight materials in the vita related to the project'. But now I am wondering if I meant 'make sure to have those things in the vita' or 'highlight related things in yellow'. Any chance you want to comment on that?	Hello! There is no need for yellow highlights.
Can we ask for more than two letters of recommendation just in case somebody is late submitting?	No, 2 letters of recommendations is the limit.
If I am semi-retired but teaching online, should I include that university as my home institution.	Hi! Please list your *current* employer
Does an additional proposed host university increase the odds?	We are unable to share data regarding selection chances or odds. Please check out our Review Criteria are what reviewers utilize
can the 2nd recommendation letter come from a colleague at the host institution?	Yes, as long as they aren't also the same person issuing the invitation letter

I am an independent artist. For the recommendations, can I get one from a mentor and another from a colleague?	yes
If it is possible not to have a decision until June, should our project timeline begin as late as possible?	Most candidates are notified before then. Award start dates are as per what the award indicates.
Regarding recommendations, is current employer recommendation required for professional proposal (not research or teaching) or can it be someone from a previous job in the past two years who better understands the type of work I'm doing or who is familiar with my work more than my current employer?	In general, for all projects, one of the recommendations should come from your current employer or somebody within the org.
Greetings. Are Adjunct Faculty considered affiliated at the institution they teach, or should they consider themselves as independent?	You would consider the institution where you teach as your home institution.
Another question: In the project statement, what is your recommendation on balancing narrative flow versus the use of bullet points for readability/clarity?	Bullet points tend to be more clear, however, it is ultimately up to you!
I am a professor emerita, retired 4 years ago and an independent author now, seeking a Fulbright for a contracted researched book and to also teach. I did have a recommender from my prior institution whom I have overlapped with professionally but he is unable to write a letter in time. Should I still be looking to someone from my prior institution or simply two colleagues?	We do recommend that if you can find someone else in your past institution, to go with them. However, if not, two colleagues that can best speak to your work and self.
Should the recommenders write about the suitability / fit in the specific institution you're targeting or just the country? I'm still in the process of obtaining a letter of invitation but would like to inform recommenders today so they can get started.	Your recommenders do not necessarily need to address the host institution.
Is it against any protocol to be able to see the letters of recommendation, or are they to be submitted privately to the Fulbright Review. Are letters of recommendation from last year considered that would already be on file for the same project?	Rec letters are confidential, if they were submitted last year, your recommenders can resubmit the same letter (if they wish) but it's not copied over on our end
If someone completes a Fulbright Specialist Program grant in 2026 will they be eligible to apply for this 2027-2028 cycle of Fulbright US Scholar program? Does the 2 years gap still stand or will be waived? Thanks	Recipients of a Fulbright Specialist Program grant are not required to adhere to the two-year waiting period before applying for a Fulbright Scholar award
What is difference between distinguished scholar and scholar	You can find details here: https://fulbrightscholars.org/us-scholar-awards#Distinguished
My colleague who knows the most about my research and teaching just retired - officially August 31 - and has been granted emeritus status. Could she write a letter of recommendation, or do I need to ask somebody currently here?	It is okay for her to write rec letter!
Also, if each application is evaluated on a stand-alone basis, are reviewers essentially making a binary recommendation (whether an application is fundable or should be rejected)?"	I encourage you to review our review criteria for this question!
Do I need internal partial cites in my project statement if full citation is in bibliography?	I would make the best judgment for what makes sense based on what you're citing, and the guidance

	provided on our website. https://fulbrightscholars.org/us-scholar-awards#steps
What if I am unsure whether my family will be able to come with me if I am selected? How should I address that on the application?	I suggest you include them and then if they cannot come it's not a problem.
The proposal statement has page limit 3-5. If I have a reference list for the research proposal, may I have a different page limit or may I submit the reference list as a separate file? Thanks	Please use the reference list that has a 3 page limit for your citations.
Is it ok if my second letter comes from a scholar at an institution in another country and who is at the point of retiring?	That's okay as long as they meet the recommender requirements we've discussed and our listed on our website: https://fulbrightscholars.org/us-scholar-awards#steps
What if we have written to our liaison (twice) and have not heard back from them?	Please reach out to outreach@iie.org to see if we can assist in getting in touch with them
I assume that the success rates vary considerably by country, but could you provide a "rough" estimate of the success rates for the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program for different continents?	Hello! Due to FFSB policy, we don't post application stats or numbers.
Where is the Review Criteria page/information?	Hello! You can find it here: https://fulbrightscholars.org/us-scholar-awards#review-process
Amy Marrion mentioned earlier that we can add any institution even if it is not in the prepolated list of institutions -- so I apologize for askign it again :) --- there is no prior clearance required for host institutions? Some type of national accreditation is required in host country?	It will depend on award but it OK if it's not already listed. There is no formal clearnace unless mentioned on award webpage.
Just in case I missed it: am I correct in understanding that a Research Chair application does not need an invitation letter?	It depends on the specific award & country. You can find on the second tab of the specific award under "Award Requirements" regarding the invitation letter requirement.
if an applicant has strong ties with host countries is it considered beneficial?	It depends a bit on how it's presented, it can be a strength
For the invitation letter from the host, can we combine 2 letters to upload? one from the research partner and another from the host institution?	Hello! You can combine then, or you can submit them separately.
Can I enter application over and over again? Does it save?	Hi! You need to manually save it! If not, you lose your work.
Each application can only name one potential host institution in one country, is that right? Can we target multiple host institutions in the same country?	Hello! You can, but you need one main host.
Does the two-year waiting period apply to specialist grants as well? I did an IEA grant in 2023 and a Specialist Grant in 2025. Can I apply again this cycle?	Hello! The two year period does not apply to those from the Specialist Program.
How do I find awards for which there is no specific host institution (applicant open to any institution where the expertise is most useful)?	Many times, the awards with a specific institution have that institution in the award title, but some are a little less clear. If you have a specific region or country, or discipline, I'd start with one or two of those and start to narrow the list, but you'll likely need to read the awards
do we need to follow the exact order of the review material in our research statement?	No but it can be helpful to use headers, lists, etc. to help organize your materials and make it easy to navigate for reviewers!

Is it possible for spouses to apply for simultaneous applications? could those both be awarded possibly? (non-overlap, each an independent projects)	They can apply separately, and applications will be reviewed and selected independently.
For the multi-country awards, do you need an invitation letter from every country?	It depends on the award. Please review "award requirements" to learn more about requirements.
Great presentations! Two questions: 1. Regarding the Language requirement....For the Japan All Disciplines Teaching/Research Award, if all teaching is in English and my research uses English-language interviews/materials with host support, do I need to submit a Language Proficiency Report? 2. Regarding the Invitation letter....For the Japan Teaching/Research Award, what specifically should the required host invitation letter confirm about both the teaching and research components?	You can confirm language requirements on the second tab of the award under "Award Requirements". What needs to be contained in the invitation letter can be found here under "Invitation Letter": https://fulbrightscholars.org/us-scholar-awards#steps
Are research proposals driven by the researcher, the host institution, or in collaboration?	I would say is collaborative! Ideally you find an award that is a good fit for you, and what the award is looking for. Every award is different so it's hard to say too many specifics, but I would say it will likely be collaborative.
Page limit of the project statement, 6 pages? 🙋	5 pages. Please see full details here under "Project Statement": https://fulbrightscholars.org/us-scholar-awards#steps
Is it okay if one of your recommenders is a scholar from another country? In other words, do they have to be American scholars?	That is okay. Be sure the letter is submitted in English or with a translation, if applicable.
When awards have criteria like "working as a teacher and scholar for no more than seven years," is that seven years calculated using the application deadline or the award start date?	Hello! It is seven years by the application deadline.
does the letter of invitation need to include the specific proposed dates?	Some sort of timeline that aligns with the award, and your plan from your proposal, would be ideal.
If one has had previous Fulbright, how should this be addressed?	Applicant provides compelling justification for prior Fulbright Scholar award(s), including International Education Administrator awards. Preference will be given to candidates who have not had previous Fulbright Scholar awards, especially within the past ten years. View the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board's policies on previous Fulbright Scholar grants. (This does not apply to the Fulbright Specialist Program or the Fulbright Student Program.)
Also, For the Teaching/Research award, should I submit a syllabus or a course plan? considering that I may not be teaching a full course (I am applying for the Global Scholar Award and will conduct workshops and seminars)	Hello! A Teaching/Research award would require a syllabi/course plan to be submitted as part of the application.
For a Flex Award, if research is the primary activity but the project also includes guest lectures and mentoring, should we still select "Research" rather than "Teaching/Research"?	Ultimately up to you which you decide depending on the breakdown you want to propose. You can find guidance on the award activity types here: https://fulbrightscholars.org/us-scholar-awards#activities
some awards say a specific number of people will get them, some dont specify. does that mean there is no cap on the ones that dont specify?	No, not necessarily as there is still an approximate maximum of grants that can be awarded.
Once you are a finalist, public affairs at State Dept. reviews it, and the host country reviews it, but who	Hello! It is the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.



else reviews it (I thought you had mentioned three entities).? Thanks!	
Is the “Norway all disciplines” Fulbright very competitive? Are there too many applications for the five awards?	We are unable to share data regarding competitiveness of specific awards.
I was an 'At Large' Fulbrighter in 1993 and a Senior Research/Teaching award in 2003. Should these both be mentioned?	Hello! The application will have you note any past Fulbright awards you have gotten.