



FULBRIGHT

Scholar Program

Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program 2026-2027

Writing Clinic for Applicants

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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.



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)
- 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

Our mission is to foster mutual understanding between nations, advance knowledge across communities, and improve lives around the world.



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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





Two Key Insights for Writing Proposals

- 1. Proposals are pitches**
- 2. Write concisely**





Proposals are Pitches

Convince readers that you and your project are the perfect match for Fulbright's goals

- Fulbright is a person-to-person diplomacy program sponsored by the State Department
- Created by Congress to build bilateral relationships
- Seeks to benefit participants, institutions, and communities by fostering long-lasting connections

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Proposals are Pitches, cont.

Know your audience

- Peers from your discipline
- Host and home country representatives
- Alumni

Show that you are likely to be successful

- Think about what success looks like
- *Have you done your homework?*
(e.g. checked on approvals, or contacted those whose assistance you may need)





Write Concisely

Take the reader by the hand and walk them through the proposal

- First things first:
 - From the outset, clearly state what your project is and how it aligns with and advances the Fulbright mission
 - Start each paragraph or section with the main idea of the paragraph (The Signpost Sentence)
- Clarity is Key
 - Ensure that your goals, methods, and expected outcomes are easy to locate and understand
 - **Avoid jargon:** It doesn't make your work sound smarter; it often makes it less clear
 - If there's a precise term for something, use it consistently throughout your application.
- Have a novice read your application.





Review Criteria

Materials should address criteria and requirements clearly.

- Training, background, and experience
- Quality of project; also consider activity (teaching, research, teaching/research, professional project)
- Project's potential impact, outcomes, and benefits
- Cultural preparation
- Previous Fulbright Scholar Awards; Veteran status





Common Mistakes

- Application is not well developed: vague or generic, methodology lacks specifics; project is not contextualized in existing work
- Application does not clearly demonstrate the benefit to being physically present in host country(ies)
- Application does not clearly demonstrate why Fulbright, and why now
- Feasibility and timeline are overly ambitious or not well defined
- Impact, outcomes, and benefits are ambiguous or partially addressed
- Connection between expertise and project is not apparent
- Not proofread; materials are confusing, hard to follow





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)*





Application Components continued

Requirements:

- ✓ Application Form
- ✓ Project Statement
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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



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