

# Fulbright Arctic Initiative: Program Overview for Applicants

**Susan Muendl**, Assistant Director, Multi-Regional Fulbright Programs, IIE

**Cecilia Kocinski-Mulder**, Academic Exchange Specialist, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State

*December 6, 2023*



# Today's Presentation

---

- ➔ Fulbright Program Overview
- ➔ Fulbright Arctic Initiative Cohort Model
- ➔ Program Details: Activities and Outcomes
- ➔ Eligibility
- ➔ Application Components
- ➔ Timeline
- ➔ Q&A



## 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:



# Why Fulbright?



## Fulbright is transformational.

- **Foster relationships** that are real and lasting
- Expand your **publishing network**
- Become more **multicultural** in the classroom
- Serve as an **ambassador** for international exchange
- Gain the **professional recognition** as being identified as a “Fulbright Scholar”
- Join a vibrant **alumni network**



# Why Fulbright Arctic Initiative?

## A Different Fulbright Model

- Multi-lateral
- Multi-disciplinary
- Interactive and responsive
- Applied
- Policy relevant
- Diverse Stakeholder involvement
- Public outreach



# Fulbright Arctic Initiative IV



- Stimulate international research **collaboration** on different dimensions of Arctic security
- Strengthen a **network** of professionals, practitioners and researchers from the United States, Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark (including Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia and Sweden
- **Interdisciplinary** and multinational research teams will address policy and research questions related to promoting Arctic Security





# Lead Scholars



## Lead Scholars will provide Fulbright Arctic Initiative Scholars:

- Intellectual leadership
- Mentoring
- Facilitate discussion and collaboration



### **Dr. Lill Bjoerst**

Associate Professor of Arctic Studies in the Department of Culture and Learning at Aalborg University, Denmark, Fulbright Arctic Alumna



### **Dr. Elizabeth Rink**

Professor of Community Health in the Department of Health and Human Development at Montana State University, Fulbright Arctic Alumna



# Research Themes



- Scholars will engage in collaborative thinking, analysis, problem-solving and multi-disciplinary research in three main thematic areas:
  - **Climate Change and Arctic Resources**
  - **Arctic Security and Governance**
  - **Mental Health and Well-Being**
- Applicants will select a theme and explain how their research fits into these overarching areas of inquiry



# Program Activities



- **18 months:** September 2024-April 2026
- Three in-person seminar meetings
- Individual Fulbright research exchange visit (1.5 – 3 months)
- Monthly Webinars
- Ongoing thematic group collaboration
- Research Themes:
  - ❖ Climate Change and Arctic Resources
  - ❖ Arctic Security and Governance
  - ❖ Mental Health and Well-Being



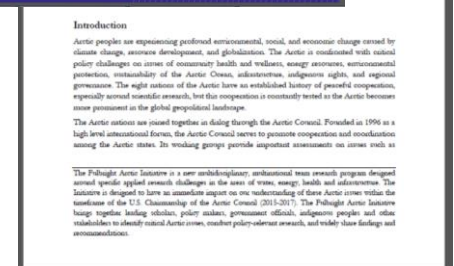
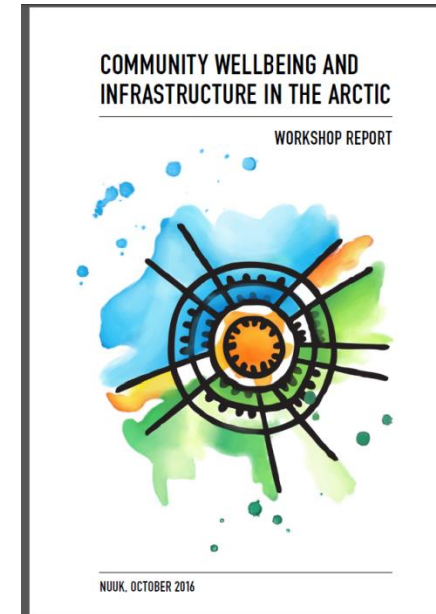
# Deliverables and Outcomes

## A. Group Work

- White Paper
- Diverse Stakeholder Listening Sessions
- Policy Brief
- Manuscript for Publication

## B. Individual

- Research Exchange Visit (1.5-3 months) – Between October 2024 and January 2026
  - U.S. grantees will complete exchange visit in an Arctic member country
  - Non-U.S. grantees will complete exchange visit in the U.S.
- Individual Exchange Report
- Poster for public exhibition



# Fulbright Arctic Initiative IV

## Eligibility Criteria



- Arctic Council nation **citizenship** and **residency**
- **Expertise** and **relevant experience** in one of the identified research areas
- Open to exploring and incorporating comparative, **interdisciplinary** approaches through **collaborative** activities



# Fulbright Arctic Initiative IV Eligibility Preferences

- Early or mid-career academics, applied researchers and/or professionals with research experience in the public, non-profit, or private sector
- A Ph.D. or equivalent professional/terminal degree is preferred
- Candidates who have not previously received a Fulbright Scholar grant
- At least four of the scholars will be selected from the United States; at least one scholar will be selected from each of the other Arctic Council member states.



# Financial Award and Benefits



- **\$40,000 (USD) grant award per grantee**
  - Supports travel to group program meetings, travel and maintenance for the individual exchange visit, research materials, and assistance for grantee
- **Accommodations and meals for full group seminar meetings are provided independent of the grant award**
- **Limited accident and sickness benefit while on exchange or participating in program activities**



# Application Deadline: FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2024

- **Apply Online:** <https://apply.iie.org/arctic>
- **U.S. and Russian Applicants:** Contact IIE
- **Non-U.S. Applicants:** Applicants from Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden contact Fulbright Office in home country





# Application Components



## Requirements:

- ✓ Biographical, Academic and Professional Background
- ✓ Project Statement (3-5 pages)
- ✓ Curriculum Vitae or Resume (up to 6 pages)
- ✓ 2 Letters of Recommendation
- ✓ Language Proficiency Report (non-U.S.)
- ✓ Letter of Invitation (optional)
- ✓ Bibliography (up to 3 pages)

## Supplemental Materials:

- ✓ Portfolio submissions (for artists, architects, and journalists)



# Tips for a Strong Application:



Before you start, **read the award description carefully** to ensure you meet all requirements and your proposed project is possible.



Start application and enter referees' information **as soon as possible**.



**Take advantage of IIE resources**, including webinars, application guidance and products from prior cohorts on our website.



# Tips for a Strong Project Statement

- ▲ Ability and experience performing team-based collaborative research
- ▲ Connection to program themes
- ▲ Plans for engaging with local stakeholders
- ▲ Potential impact and outcomes in both selected research theme and more broadly across the Arctic
- ▲ Plans for dissemination



# TIMELINE

NOVEMBER 2023	Competition Opens
<b>MARCH 1, 2024</b>	Application Deadline
APRIL	U.S. Peer Review / Home Country Review Shortlisted candidates submit video recording
MAY	Final Review Committee. Recommended applications are sent to the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. Finalists notified of selection decisions
JUNE	Virtual Orientation
SEPTEMBER 8-14, 2024	Opening Meeting in Norway
OCT 2024 – JAN 2026	Monthly Webinars; Individual Research Exchange Visit; Group Work
JUNE 2025 *	Midterm Meeting (Location TBA)
APRIL 2026 *	Final Meeting in Washington, DC

\* Exact dates to be announced



# Stay Connected with Fulbright

---

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

**VISIT** [fulbrightscholars.org/arctic](https://fulbrightscholars.org/arctic)  
to learn more about the Fulbright  
Arctic Initiative

**CONTACT** local Fulbright office



/fulbright



@FulbrightPrgrm



@the\_fulbright\_program



/the-fulbright-program

