

Global Hidden Gems of the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Competition for 2027-28

Webinar Q&A Box Questions and Answers

These questions have been anonymized. Any question too specific to any one applicant has been removed. Questions answered live will appear only in the video recording.

Question	Answer
Thank you to the information so far! Are there countries within the hidden gems category that have an expressed preference for research in language and culture (Humanities)?	Hello! You can search awards on our website under the Opportunities section. You can search by discipline or keyword to identify awards in your area of interest.
Hello! I missed the first 10 minutes; do you all have a recording available?	Hello! And you can find it here under the archive when it is posted: https://apply.iie.org/portal/scholar_webinars
For a Flex Award with 3 segments starting Summer 2027, does each segment need separate IIE approval, or is the full schedule approved at grant start.	Hello! The application requires that information about proposed segments is included at the application phase.
Are there any countries that have opportunities for mental health/suicidality?	Hello! We encourage you to search for those opportunities under the health sciences discipline.
Are you able to make introductions to faculty/administrators at host "hidden gem" universities?	Hello! We do not make introductions however, we do offer guidance on how to in our website: https://fulbrightscholars.org/us-scholar-awards#steps
How specific should the project timeline be in the Statement of Grant Purpose for a Flex Award?	Hello! It should be specific, because you need to show the feasibility of your project within that timeframe.
Hi. Is "all disciplines" the same as "multi-discipline"	Hello! No. All disciplines is ALL. and multi-disciplines will have the awards that they are accepting.
Does the flex option apply to specific grant programs or all? I am interested in the Italy programs (specifically the ones in the South, and the Bruno Zeri)	Hello! The Award Description will indicate whether Flex is allowed. Each country decides whether to opt in to the Flex option for awards.
Why are these hidden gems? Is there something undesirable about them that less candidates apply?	Hello! Of the more than 380 awards available through the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program in 2027-28, some simply do not receive as much attention as others. Awards featured today are considered by Program Staff to be the "hidden gems" of the competition! Many do not require letters of invitation or are partner awards, taking the guesswork out of finding a host.

<p>Are any of the special gems geared to mid and late career faculty with both teaching and research experience?</p>	<p>Hello! Yes, if you search by activity type and select the combined teaching/research you can also search by career stage to narrow the search. Central Asian countries and many in sub-Saharan Africa are particularly interested in experienced teachers.</p>
<p>Most regional slides had a contact email listed. What kind of inquiries are expected through this contact email?</p>	<p>Hello! We generally see questions related to specific awards in that region. Each advisor has a deeper familiarity with the awards in their region so can help explain aspects of the award descriptions.</p>
<p>My work focuses on cultural tourism and entrepreneurship. Are these areas of interest for countries or are there limited awards in these two disciplines?</p>	<p>Hello! If an award lists All Disciplines, then these would be eligible areas for a project. If you want to find awards that specify these disciplines we suggest using the search function in the Opportunities section of our website.</p>
<p>I saw that the Global Scholar Award does not require a terminal degree. Does that mean if I am a current PhD student, then I am eligible? I would NOT be seeking tuition funding.</p>	<p>Hello! The US Scholar awards, including the Global award are intended for scholars, not those currently in a PhD program. You may wish to explore the Fulbright U.S. Student program if you are currently a student.</p>
<p>For example, I'm interested in the RMIT (Australia) and Turku (Finland) opportunities but don't know anyone there.</p>	<p>Hello! You can search our Alumni Directory by those universities and consider reaching out to someone who has conducted a project at either place.</p>
<p>Is there any hidden Gem available for India and/or Sri Lanka?</p>	<p>Hello! India offers up to 50 placements for the All Disciplines Awards, additionally we have an upcoming India Office Hour. You can sign up here https://apply.iie.org/portal/office_hours</p>
<p>How does the invitation letter look? Does it include all the details (e.g., the course will be taught or a specific research topic, all ironed out), or is it broader, stating that the institution is committed to hosting me in general terms?</p>	<p>Hello! The Apply - Getting Started - Application Steps has full information about the invitation letter; https://fulbrightscholars.org/us-scholar-awards#InvitationLettermayberequired</p>
<p>Hi, I have not heard yet from this year's scholar award, is that weird? I want to apply but need to wait until I hear....any idea who i contact for Africa now?</p>	<p>Hello! Selection notices continue to go out. You will receive an email to check your application in the Slate portal. You may open an application now and decide not to submit if you learn that you are selected for a 2026-27 award. Good luck!</p>
<p>Are there any programs in Brasil that do not require a PhD?</p>	<p>Hello! Unfortunately, all awards in Brazil require a PhD unfortunately. But there's others award in West Hem that don't.</p>
<p>The Turkiye Senior Scholar award - pls expand on definition of "senior scholar" and what subjects are acceptable ?</p>	<p>Hello! Fulbright Distinguished Scholar Awards are open to scholars who have more than seven years of experience in their discipline or area of expertise, though some awards may further restrict eligibility. Mid-career, senior academics, and professionals may want to consider these awards. Distinguished Scholars are expected to actively engage host institutions in a spirit of promoting mutual understanding and sharing knowledge. https://fulbrightscholars.org/awards/search?field_</p>

	award_multi_country=All&field_award_type_list%5b8301%5d=8301&field_do_you_offer_additional_de=All
Hi. Is there a weblink to the global hidden gems listings with details on the opportunities?	Hello! Unfortunately not, but the PowerPoint will be shared with you.
I was advised that finding an award looking for a specific field is preferable to an "all discipline" award, since the competition is more narrow to people in your specific field? Your thoughts are appreciated.	Hello! This is good advice. Ideally you want to find an award that is looking for someone in your discipline or specific expertise.
Regarding the teaching awards, does one teach one of the existing courses in the curriculum of the host institution? Could one propose new, special-topic courses?	Hello! You may propose a course or teach an existing course; this is part of the conversation with a host
Can you send the seminar offerings link?	Hello! You can find those on our website: https://fulbrightscholars.org/awards/search?field_award_multi_country=All&field_award_type_list%5b8302%5d=8302&field_do_you_offer_additional_de=All
I noticed India is no longer listed on the IEA line up. Is that location still available?	Hello! The India IEA is not being offered this year.
Can you apply for both the IEA seminar and scholar awards in the same cycle?	Hello! No, only one award per cycle.
How can I find the Kosovo energy award? Looking at the awards by country, I don't see it mentioned.	Hello! You can find it here: https://fulbrightscholars.org/award/fulbright-scholar-energy-kosovo
I understood I can apply to only ONE award, right? or I can apply for several. I just want to make sure please	Hello! You can only apply to one award per cycle.
Are distinguished scholar awards more competitive?	Hello! We can't share numbers, but I would not say so. As noted, consider applying to the award more closely aligned to your background, interests and those listed on the award. If you're eligible for the distinguished scholar award, it can be a great option!
I am a full-time faculty member, but I run a center for public leadership. Would I qualify to apply for IEA?	Hello! You can double check at iea@iie.org but if you have some service % of work, you would likely be eligible. if you are 100% faculty/teaching, not eligible.
Is a US JD considering a terminal degree? Thank you!	Hello! Yes!
Do partners (husbands/wives) count as dependents or is that just children?	Hello! It's whoever you would put on your taxes.
Is it possible for dual-scholar couples to apply as a duo?	Hello! Sadly no. Only independently.
How many awardees will be selected for each IEA seminar? (e.g., senior leadership & student facing roles for Japan, Taiwan)	Hello! That information will be on the award details, under "up to participants"
If the country that I am interested was not mentioned in this seminar, does this mean that that the awards in that country can be competitive? I hope not...	Hello! This is just a fraction of hidden gems.

<p>Is the Fulbright Specialist program still available?</p>	<p>Hello! Yes, but they are a different program, administered by a different organization.</p>
<p>How many awards for each country?</p>	<p>Hello! There's 385 awards in 130 countries! You can search for awards here: https://fulbrightscholars.org/awards/search?field_award_multi_country=All&field_do_you_offer_additional_de=All</p>
<p>Can you speak to the Global Award?</p>	<p>Hello! We encourage you to email globalaward@iie.org or go to their office hours for more info.</p>
<p>When an award program includes teaching and research, does it mean that you are expected to do both, or can you choose?</p>	<p>Hello! It depends on the award and on the host! The award will tell you if they have a preference and the host may have a need for one or the other. It's up to you to come to a consensus with the host.</p>
<p>Glorimar mentioned professional projects being allowed in several locations, but no one else highlighted those. How common are the professional projects awards?</p>	<p>Hello! They are not as common, but we have multiple awards that do accept them. And you can find them here: https://fulbrightscholars.org/awards/search?field_award_multi_country=All&field_award_activity[8217]=8217&field_do_you_offer_additional_de=All</p>
<p>I am interested in seeing if the Fulbright office/Post can help find me find an affiliation for a professional project, specifically, with a gov't ministry. For example, Tunisia has the name of someone working at the US embassy that "can provide further support". Are the people listed in the additional comments the best person to reach out to about help finding an affiliation?</p>	<p>Hello! Yes. We heavily encourage you to reach out to them and they're always happy to help.</p>
<p>Is there any FB research and/or teaching opportunity for Environmental Economics?</p>	<p>Hello! Here is our awards on environmental science and economics: https://fulbrightscholars.org/awards/search?field_award_multi_country=All&discipline[]=8068&discipline[]=8071&field_do_you_offer_additional_de=All</p>
<p>Are Professor Emeritus eligible for Fulbright awards?</p>	<p>Hello! Yes!</p>
<p>What is the typical timeline after applications are submitted (i.e., when are decisions typically made)?</p>	<p>Hello! You can find our timeline on our website: https://fulbrightscholars.org/us-scholar-awards#timeline</p>
<p>Also, is there data you all release on the number of applicants and number awarded per country in the past years?</p>	<p>Hello! We do not release that data.</p>
<p>Thanks for this session. None of these would fall under the Fulbright Specialist Program? That is independent from all you discussed today?</p>	<p>Hello! The Specialist Program is a different program administered from another organization.</p>