



The Fulbright Program in Brief

The flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government, widely known as the Fulbright Program, is designed to “increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.” With this goal as a starting point, the Fulbright Program has provided more than 273,000 participants—chosen for their leadership potential—with the opportunity to observe each others’ political, economic, educational and cultural institutions, to exchange ideas and to embark on joint ventures of importance to the general welfare of the world.

Program History

The Fulbright Program was established in 1946 under legislation introduced by then Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas. The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State.

Approximately 273,500 “Fulbrighters,” 102,900 from the United States and 170,600 from other countries, have participated in the Program since its inception sixty years ago. The Fulbright Program awards approximately 6,000 new grants annually.

Currently, the Fulbright Program operates in over 150 countries worldwide.

Program Funding

The primary source of funding for the Fulbright Program is an annual appropriation made by the United States Congress to the Department of State. Participating governments and host institutions in foreign countries and in the United States also contribute financially through cost-sharing and indirect support, such as salary supplements, tuition waivers and university housing.

The Congressional appropriation for the Fulbright Program in fiscal year 2005 was \$155.3 million. Foreign governments, through binational commissions or foundations abroad, contributed an additional \$42.6 million directly to the Program.

Program Administration

The Fulbright Program is administered the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State under policy guidelines established by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (FSB) and in cooperation with a number of private organizations.

The **Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs** is responsible for the U.S. government's overseas educational, cultural and informational programs.

The **J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board**, composed of 12 educational and public leaders appointed by the President of the United States, formulates policies for the administration of the Program, establishes criteria for the selection of candidates and approves candidates nominated for awards.

Binational commissions and foundations abroad propose the annual country programs, which establish the numbers and categories of grants based on input from local institutions. In a country without a commission or foundation, the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy develops and supervises the Fulbright Program. Currently, 50 commissions are active, 45 of which are funded jointly by the United States and the respective government. Each commission or foundation has a board, which is composed of an equal number of Americans and citizens of the participating nation.

Some Fulbright programs are administered directly by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Others are administered with the assistance of **cooperating agencies**. (Contact addresses and telephone numbers for each cooperating agency are provided on page four of this fact sheet.) Foreign citizens interested in the Fulbright Program should contact the Fulbright Commission or Foundation in their home country or, where no commission exists, the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy.

Fulbright Grant Categories

The term "Fulbright Program" encompasses a variety of exchange programs, including both individual and institutional grants.

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program offers fellowships to U.S. recent bachelor's graduates, master's and doctoral students, young professionals and artists for study and research abroad. In academic year 2006-2007, more than 1,200 Americans are studying abroad with either full or partial support from the Fulbright Program.

The Fulbright English Teaching Assistantships Program (ETA), an element of the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, is designed to improve foreign students' English language abilities and knowledge of the United States. Participants are placed outside of capital cities in over 20 countries and are fully integrated into the host community, increasing their own language skills and knowledge of the host country. English Teaching Assistants may also pursue individual study/research plans in addition to their teaching responsibilities.

The Fulbright Islamic Civilization Initiative, an element of the U.S. Student Program, funds research and study in any country where there is a significant Muslim population. Projects receiving funding under this initiative are specially selected for their potential to enhance Americans' knowledge of Islam and Islamic culture.

The Fulbright Foreign Student Program offers fellowships to foreign graduate students for study and research in the United States. Approximately 1,000 new awards are awarded to foreign graduate students for support at U.S. universities, and some 1,000 renewal awards are also made annually.

The Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program (FLTA), a component of the Fulbright Foreign Student Program, provides young teachers of English as a Foreign Language the opportunity to refine their teaching skills and broaden their knowledge of American cultures and customs while strengthening the instruction of foreign languages at colleges and universities in the United States.

The International Fulbright Science and Technology Award, a component of the Fulbright Foreign Student Program, is for doctoral study at prestigious U.S. institutions in science, technology, or engineering for up to 25 outstanding foreign students.

The Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program sends approximately 1,100 American scholars and professionals per year to more than 130 countries, where they lecture and/or conduct research in a wide variety of academic and professional fields. In academic year 2006-2007, these fields include agriculture, business, journalism, and technology education among others.

The Fulbright Senior Specialists Program, a short-term complement to the traditional Fulbright Scholar Program, awards grants for a period of two-to-six weeks. Fulbright Senior Specialist activities are designed to provide U.S. scholars and professionals opportunities to collaborate with professional counterparts at non-U.S. institutions of higher education, on curriculum and faculty development, institutional assessment and planning, and a variety of other activities.

The Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program awards grants to foreign scholars to lecture and/or conduct postdoctoral research at U.S. institutions for an academic year or term. More than 700 scholars come to the United States each year under this program.

The Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence Program (SIR) enables U.S. colleges and universities to bring scholars and professionals from abroad to campuses for a semester or an academic year, primarily to teach undergraduate courses. SIR grantees also assist in developing curricula and serve as a resource for faculty, students and the community. Priority is given to colleges and universities that traditionally are less involved in international exchange programs and/or are minority serving institutions, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges and Universities, small liberal arts colleges and community colleges. Approximately 50 grants are awarded annually.

The Fulbright Visiting Specialists Program: Direct Access to the Muslim World, a component of the Visiting Scholar Program, awards short-term grants for three-to-six weeks to Fulbright Program Alumni and other scholars from the Middle East, South Asia and selected countries in East Asia, Africa, and Europe to help U.S. higher education institutions and communities enrich their understanding of Islamic civilization and culture, and social, political and economic developments in the Muslim world. Fulbright Visiting Specialists, who are matched with U.S. applicant institutions, lecture or teach short courses, assist with program and curriculum development, interact with students and participate in public outreach programs with community groups, local schools, and civic organizations.

The New Century Scholars Program is a forum for international, interdisciplinary collaboration among the world's outstanding research scholars and professionals. Annually, the Fulbright Program assembles approximately 30 leading minds to collaborate on issues of global significance. The research focus for academic year 2005-2006, "*Higher Education in the 21st Century: Global Challenge and National Response*," encourages comparative work that examines the central role of institutions of higher education in addressing the challenges of the 21st century in such areas as knowledge development, leadership training, and research and analysis to solve problems.

The Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program involves one-on-one exchanges of approximately 500 administrators and teachers from K-12 schools, community colleges, and four-year institutions. A small number of one-way assignments are also made. The program operates between the United States and more than 30 countries worldwide.

The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program brings outstanding mid-career professionals from countries in various stages of development to the United States for a year of professional development and academic work at the graduate level. Grants are awarded in various social and public policy fields. Nearly 3,400 fellows from approximately 140 countries have participated in the program since its inception in 1978. During the 2005-2006 academic year, there are 161 Humphrey Fellows in the United States from 82 countries.

A portion of the Fulbright Program, funded at approximately \$13 million annually, is Congressionally appropriated to **the United States Department of Education for the Fulbright-Hays Program**. These grants are awarded to individual American K-14 teachers and administrators, pre-doctoral students and post-doctoral faculty, as well as to U.S. institutions and organizations. Funding supports research and training efforts overseas, which focus on non-western foreign languages and world area studies.

The U.S. Fulbright Association is a private, non-profit organization started by U.S. alumni of the Fulbright Program in 1977. It is one of approximately 70 national Fulbright Alumni associations worldwide. The U.S. Fulbright Association is committed to fostering international awareness and understanding through advocating increased worldwide support for Fulbright exchanges; enriching the Fulbright experience; and facilitating lifelong interaction among alumni and current participants. Currently the membership includes nearly 10,000 alumni and friends of the Fulbright Program. Membership is open to former Fulbright grantees, as well as those who support the ideals of the Fulbright Program, but were not grantees themselves. For additional information, contact the Fulbright Association at 202-347-5543. The U.S. Fulbright Association's website is <http://www.fulbright.org>.

FULBRIGHT PROGRAM(S)

U.S. Student Program
Foreign Student Program (general information only)

Foreign students from the Middle East and North Africa

U.S. Scholar Program
Visiting Scholar Program
Scholar-in-Residence Program
Visiting Specialists Program
Senior Specialists Program
New Century Scholars Program
Junior Faculty from Central and Latin America

Teacher Exchange Program

Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowships Program

Fulbright Programs focusing on foreign language and area studies

POINT OF CONTACT

Institute of International Education (IIE)
809 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017-3580
Telephone: 212-883-8200
Website: www.iie.org; www.us.fulbrightonline.org

America-Mideast Educational and Training Services, Inc.
(AMIDEAST)
1730 M Street, NW, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20036
Telephone: 202-776-9600
Website: www.amideast.org

Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES)
3007 Tilden Street, NW, Suite 5L
Washington, DC 20008-3009
Telephone: 202-686-4000
Website: www.cies.org

LASPAU: Academic and Professional Program for the Americas
25 Mount Auburn Street
Cambridge, MA 02138-6095
Telephone: 617-495-5255
Website: www.laspau.harvard.edu

Graduate School, USDA
600 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 320
Washington, D.C. 20024-2520
Telephone: 202-314-3520
Website: www.fulbrightexchanges.org

United States Department of State
Humphrey Fellowships & Institutional Linkages
Branch
301 Fourth Street, SW, Room 349, SA-44
Washington, D.C. 20547
Telephone: 202-453-8891
Web: www.exchanges.state.gov/education/hhh

United States Department of Education
International Education Programs Service
1990 K Street, NW, 6th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20006-8521
Telephone: 202-502-7700
Web: www.ed.gov/HEP/iegps

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