



**FULBRIGHT**

Scholar Program

# Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program: Global Hidden Gems in 2025-26

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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.



# Today's Presentation

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- Program Overview
- Why Fulbright?
- Eligibility
- Global Hidden Gems:  
Opportunities around the World
- Creating a Competitive Application
- Questions





## MISSION

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- 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

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- 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:

**900**

U.S. scholars and administrators

**900**

Visiting scholars

**2,200**

U.S. students

**4,000**

foreign students

**400**

language teaching assistants





**Fulbright U.S. Scholar Awards give opportunities to U.S. citizens to teach, research, carry out professional projects, and participate in seminars around the world.**

## Why Fulbright?

### **Fulbright is transformational.**

- Foster sustainable partnerships
- Expand your publishing network and gain new teaching perspectives
- Serve as a cultural ambassador
- Gain the professional recognition as being identified as a Fulbright Scholar
- Join a vibrant and supportive alumni network!





# Why Fulbright?



## Fulbright is family-friendly.

- Approximately **60%** of our awards provide **dependent support**
- Many Fulbright dependents go on to have international careers







# Why Fulbright?

## Fulbright is supportive.

- **70% of applicants** engage with IIE staff
- **Continued support** while in country from IIE and host country staff
- Access to Fulbright **scholar liaisons** and **alumni** as resources





# Eligibility for U.S. Scholar Program

- **U.S. citizenship**
- **Degree and experience**, as required by award:
  - Ph.D. or other terminal degree
  - MA and higher education teaching or professional experience
  - Professional and/or artistic experience with substantial accomplishments
  - Teaching experience as required
- **Fulbright U.S. Scholar alums are eligible**; two year waiting period between end of your last Fulbright U.S. Scholar award and next application





# What can a Fulbright U.S. Scholar do? Start by finding your award!

Over 400 individual awards in more than 100 countries to **teach, research**, teach AND conduct research (listed as **teaching/research**), carry out a **professional project** or attend a **seminar**:

[fulbrightscholars.org/awards/search](https://fulbrightscholars.org/awards/search)

Select **\*one award\*** that suits your profile as a scholar, your project and your goals – and apply!





# Fulbright U.S. Scholar Awards

**Award Types** that support research, teaching, and/or professional projects:

- Postdoctoral Awards
- Scholar Awards
- Distinguished Scholar Awards

Awards vary from **2-12 months**



Over 60 countries allow for the **Flex option**, which lets you divide a longer grant into two to three visits over up to two years, depending on the award.





# Fulbright U.S. Scholar Awards – FPPF and IEA

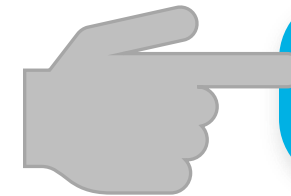
- **Fulbright Public Policy Fellowship (FPPF):** Early and mid-career public policy professionals serve in foreign government ministries or institutions
- **Fulbright International Education Administrator (IEA) Awards:** Higher education administrators participate in seminars to learn about a country's higher education system and context.





# Selecting the Right Award

- **Match** country interest, expertise, career profile, and proposal to the award description
- Most awards are for one country, but there also some **regional and global awards** – check your options!
- **Language ability** (if applicable)
- **Discipline preferences**, when specified
- **Project relevance** to the host country and/or institution
- **Benefits** to you and your community



Teaching

Research

Teaching/  
Research

Professional  
Project

**Remember:** *you can only apply for **ONE AWARD** per application cycle*



# Global Hidden Gems: Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program 2025-26 Competition



The Fulbright U.S. Student 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.





# Hidden Gems: opportunity is waiting for you around the world!



- Of over 400 awards available for the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program in 2025-26, some simply don't garner 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.
- Looking for a country or award that we don't mention? Remember that this is just a fraction of what's available!







# Europe and Eurasia

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- **Cyprus:** [All Disciplines](#)
- **Finland:** [Fulbright-Alto University Distinguished Scholar Award](#)
- **Iceland:** [Fulbright Iceland-National Science Foundation Nordic Award in Arctic Security](#)
- **Italy:** [Fulbright Early Career Research Lectureship at the Department of Industrial Engineering at the University of Trento](#)
- **Kosovo:** [Sharing Lessons from Kosovo's Post-War Mental Health Experiences](#)
- **Sweden:** [Fulbright-Lund University Distinguished Scholar Award in Public International Law](#)





# Europe and Eurasia

- **Austria:** [Applied Sciences Graz](#)
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina:** [All Disciplines](#)
- **France:** [Eastern France \(Grand Est\)](#)
- **Malta:** [All Disciplines](#)
- **Montenegro:** [All Disciplines](#)
- **United Kingdom:** [Lancaster University Science and Technology](#)





# Europe and Eurasia

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- **Czech Republic:** [Fulbright-Masaryk Award \(NGO Management\)](#)
- **Georgia:** [Opportunities in STEM](#)
- There are 17 awards in **Hungary**
- **Ireland:** [Astronomy and Astrophysics](#)
- **Poland:** Partner awards
- All Disciplines Awards in [Armenia](#), [Azerbaijan](#), and the [Slovak Republic](#)





# East Asia and Pacific

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- **Australia:** Distinguished Chairs and Postdoctoral Scholarships
- **Japan:** Study of the United States
- **Mongolia:** All Disciplines
- **Philippines:** U.S.-Philippine Relations
- **Korea:** U.S.-Korea Presidential STEM Initiative
- **Taiwan:** Political Science and International Relations





# Western Hemisphere

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- **Canada:** [Research Chairs in Indigenous Studies](#)
- **Canada-Mexico:** [Carlos Rico North American Studies](#)
- **Chile:** [Distinguished Scholar Multiple Disciplines](#)
- **Guyana:** [STEM/Agriculture/Strategic Security](#)
- **Suriname:** [All Disciplines](#)
- **Uruguay:** [Agriculture; All Disciplines](#)





# Sub-Saharan Africa

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- **Cabo Verde:** All Disciplines
- **Guinea:** All Disciplines
- **Eswatini:** All Disciplines
- **Madagascar:** All Disciplines
- **Mozambique:** All Disciplines
- **Zambia:** Journalism and Broadcasting





# Middle East and North Africa

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- **Bahrain:** Teacher Education
- **Gulf Countries:** Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates
- **Jordan:** All Disciplines
- **Tunisia:** All Disciplines
- **TEFL/Applied Linguistics** in Algeria and Jordan





# South and Central Asia

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- **India:**
  - Fulbright-Nehru Distinguished Scholar Award
  - Fulbright-Kalam Climate Fellowship
  - Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Award
- **Nepal:** All Disciplines (Teaching/Research or Research)
- All Disciplines Awards: **Kyrgyz Republic** and **Bangladesh**
- Multiple Disciplines awards in **Tajikistan** and **Uzbekistan**







# Application Components

## Requirements:

- ✓ Application Form
- ✓ Project Statement
- ✓ Curriculum Vitae or Resume
- ✓ 2 Letters of Recommendation
- ✓ Language Proficiency Report *(if required)*
- ✓ Letter of Invitation *(if required)*

## Supplemental Materials:

- ✓ Course outlines or syllabi *(for teaching)*
- ✓ Reference list *(for research)*
- ✓ Portfolio submissions *(for artists, architects, and journalists)*





# Tips for a strong application:



Before you start, **read your award's 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, office hours and application guidance on our website.



# Application Cycle

The 2025-26 Fulbright U.S. Scholar Competition  
Deadline: September 16, 2024 @ 5 PM ET

FEBRUARY	Competition Opens
<b>SEPTEMBER 16 @ 5 PM ET</b>	Application Deadline
SEPTEMBER	Program staff conducts technical reviews for completeness
OCTOBER – NOVEMBER	U.S. peer review
NOVEMBER – JANUARY	Applicants notified of status. Recommended applications are sent to host countries and to the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.
JANUARY – JUNE	Final decisions are made
JUNE – ONWARD	Participants prepare for departure



# Stay Connected with Fulbright

**EMAIL** [scholars@iie.org](mailto:scholars@iie.org)

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**VISIT** [fulbrightscholars.org](http://fulbrightscholars.org) to learn more about the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program

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**REFER** [your colleagues](#)

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