Fulbright US Student Program Tips

The tips mentioned below are for easy reference. In case of conflicting information, always refer to the Fulbright US Student Program site.

In addition to these pages, we highly recommend that you read through the application process on the Fulbright US webpage.

If you haven’t already, please check out the Recommended Fulbright Application Schedule.

Choosing a Host Country and Program
Please consider the following when choosing the country and program

Host Country
- You must have a compelling reason to choose your host country
- For those who plan to apply for the Study/Research program, decide on how significant the country will be for the research/study
- The country should have some sort of impact on the program chosen and vice versa
- What draws you to the host country? Culture? Language? Family history? Etc.?
  - You must have a strong knowledge on the country
- Please note that choosing a country that you have visited for more than 6 months in your life will give you a strong disadvantage

Program (Research, Study or ETA)
- Choose a program that fits your qualifications, interests, and future goals
- Do not choose a program because it may seem “easier.” The Fulbright is a competitive grant and not one program is harder to receive than another

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Independent Research</th>
<th>Independent Study</th>
<th>English Teaching Assistant (ETA)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You choose what type of research you would like to pursue</td>
<td>There are open study awards as well as collaborations with different institutions and Fulbright</td>
<td>The ETA allows awardees to teach English and the US culture more evidently</td>
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<tr>
<td>Make sure the research is feasible with the amount of time you will be abroad</td>
<td>Check the specific country for more information on the study grant</td>
<td>What is the reason you want to teach English to this particular group of people?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How does your research correlate with your host country?</td>
<td>You will need to apply for both the Fulbright and the institution</td>
<td>What are your experiences that make you a viable ETA candidate?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Writing your Statements

*Write, Revise, Re-write, and repeat*

**Personal Statement**
- Paint a holistic picture of who you are
- Discuss about your past, present and future
- Write about your personal background and how it brought you to be where you are right now
- How will the Fulbright help you reach your future professional/academic goals
- Emphasize on any cultural and study abroad experiences that you have had and how that has helped shape you and motivated you to apply for the Fulbright US
- You can find more tips on the Fulbright Website under the application components tabs

**Statement of Grant Proposal**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study/Research</th>
<th>ETA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The who, what, where, when, why, and how of your proposal</td>
<td>Why do you want to teach English to non-native speakers?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clearly state your project/proposal</td>
<td>What made you choose the host country?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explain the details of the proposal</td>
<td>What experiences have you had teaching?</td>
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<tr>
<td>There must be a familiarity with the program or research project</td>
<td>What methods have you developed from your experiences?</td>
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<tr>
<td>How is the proposed program/research relevant to the host country?</td>
<td>How can your teaching methods reach students from different cultures?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Give a general research timeline</td>
<td>Cultural engagement with locals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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**Letters and Evaluations**

*Letters of Recommendation, Affiliation Letters, and Language Evaluations*

**Letters of Recommendation**
- Ask early! It is recommended to ask your recommenders at least 4 weeks in advance
- Send them your statements so they can incorporate them into the letters
- The letters should include your capabilities as well as the relevance/significance of your project
- Find someone that can speak best to your abilities
- Give your recommenders the campus deadline and send reminders along the way

**Affiliation Letters**
- Most affiliations can be from a variety of places including institutions, NGO, museums, archives, etc.
  - However, check with your host country and program to see if there are any specific affiliation requirements
- Contact previous Fulbright awardees/ Fulbright Alums to see how they went about looking for an affiliations
  - This is a great place to start
  - Some may even be able to help you and connect you to an affiliation
- Attend different workshops and sessions where the keynote speaker is in the related field as your research or host country
  - Try and connect with the speaker afterwards and that can lead to an affiliate abroad
- Reach out to your advisor or professors who know about your research or work
  - They may be able to connect you with their colleagues abroad
• Cold Emailing
  o This may seem a little daunting but a lot can come out of it
  o Do some research and find certain institutions or organizations that may be a resource for your research and contact them directly
    ▪ Be sure to keep the email concise and express your research interests through the Fulbright
    ▪ You can always attach your personal statement and grant proposal if the organization would like to know a little more about your research topic
  o When requesting, please take a look at what needs to be included in the affiliation letter

Language Evaluations
• Language evaluations vary by country
  o There are 3 possible requirements:
    ▪ Not required
    ▪ Recommended
    ▪ Required
  o There are 3 levels for the evaluation:
    ▪ Novice
    ▪ Intermediate
    ▪ Advance
• Please check the host country and program for the language proficiency requirements
• Those that are recommended should take the opportunity to turn in the evaluation if they know the language
• Evaluators must be a teacher of the said language

Transcripts
Obtain an UNOFFICIAL transcript
• Download an unofficial transcript from every institution in which you received credit in order to receive your degree
  o This includes any credit received from community college that was transferred over to UCLA
  o Study abroad programs in collaboration with UCLA (i.e. UCEAP) will not need a separate transcript from the abroad host institution
    ▪ If you have any concerns, please contact your Fulbright Program Advisor

Sample Statements
UCLA Graduate Division’s Fellowships and Financial Services have folders of Fulbright sample statements and affiliation letters from previous awardees.

Location: 1228 Murphy Hall
Hours: Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm
General Email: uclafellowship@grad.ucla.edu
Main Line: 310.825.1025

Fulbright U.S. Student Program Contact:
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Fellowships and Financial Services
UCLA Graduate Division
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