

Fulbright Fellowship Guide

Fellowships Advising and Study Abroad
Center for Student Services, RM. 319
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Fulbright fellowship: <https://www.fulbrightprogram.org/>

Timeline & Eligibility

- The **Fulbright U.S. Student Program** for the 2026–27 academic year opens in **early April 2025** and the national application deadline is **Tuesday, October 7, 2025 at 5 PM EDT**
- For U.S. Scholar, Arts, Public Health, and Teaching programs, application windows vary: typically opening in **February** and closing between **September–October 2025**, depending on the award
- **U.S. citizens**, undergraduate or graduate, are eligible. Non-U.S. citizens apply via Fulbright Commissions in their home country

Getting Started—Step-by-Step

1. **Confirm your eligibility**
 - a. U.S. citizens must hold or obtain a bachelor's degree by the grant start.
 - b. No Ph.D. in hand for Student grants. Scholar-track candidates should have seven years or more experience
2. **Determine how you apply**
 - a. If you're enrolled at a U.S. college/university, apply through your campus **Fulbright Program Adviser (FPA)**.
 - b. If not enrolled, apply **At-Large** via the online portal
3. **Choose your award type**
 - a. Student/Senior Artist: Study/Research or English Teaching Assistantships (ETAs)
 - b. Fogarty Fellowships for public/global health projects
 - c. Scholar-level programs for faculty and professionals
4. **Explore countries & awards**
 - a. Use the Fulbright online **Award Search** to identify countries offering your field of interest and check their specific eligibility or language requirements
5. **Prepare application materials**
 - a. Key components: transcripts, recommendation letters, project proposal (Statement of Grant Purpose), CV, language scores if required, and potentially a letter of invitation (for Scholar awards)

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Tips to Build a Competitive Application

Project Proposal & Purpose

- Develop a **specific, feasible, well-timed project plan** with clear methodology, local affiliation, and meaningful host-country connection
- Highlight how your project aligns with **Fulbright's mission**—promoting mutual understanding and cultural exchange

Qualifications & Academic Preparation

- Showcase **strong academic record**, relevant training, research or field experience, and language preparation if required.

Community Impact and Fulbright Mission

- Emphasize your **leadership potential**, flexibility, and how you will engage with local communities abroad—this is a core selection factor.

Seek Feedback at Multiple Levels

- Work closely with your **FPA** (if applying via an institution) to get detailed draft feedback and prepare for a campus interview.
- Attend Fulbright **webinars, office hours**, and reach out to alumni who've studied in your chosen country for insider advice.

Selection Process Overview

- After the national October deadline, IIE conducts a **technical review** to confirm eligibility and completeness.
- **National Screening Committees**, composed of U.S. faculty, evaluate applications in November–December.
- Recommended semi-finalists are forwarded to **host country Fulbright Commissions**, with final offers dependent on funding, research clearance, visas, and medical clearance

Additional Practical Advice from Candidates

- Apply **to the country and specific award you're interested in**—Fulbright does not assign you to a country
- Research awards are more competitive for **master's or Ph.D.-level applicants**, and feasibility within your grant duration is important for recommendation

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Summary Checklist

- Check **eligibility** and select the correct award type
- Connect with your **Fulbright Program Adviser** or plan for At-Large route
- Use **Award Search** to zero in on target country and field
- Craft a **focused, feasible proposal** with measurable goals and host-country engagement
- Highlight your **academic strengths, leadership, and global mindset**
- Gather well-qualified **recommendations**
- Utilize Fulbright **webinars, office hours, and alumni insights**
- Observe **institutional deadlines** (campus) and the hard national deadline in October