



Fulbright US Student Program

Application for Institutional Review and Support

INTERNAL APPLICATION DEADLINE: AUGUST 12, 2026

As a currently enrolled student or recent alum of BU, you will submit (technically “lock for campus review”) your full application in the Fulbright application platform over the summer. As we move through our internal campus review/support/feedback process, we will pair you with a member of our Fulbright campus committee (of BU Fulbright Scholars/Faculty) and unlock your application for continued editing leading up to the national Fulbright deadline in October.

- ✓ By July 1, we invite you to indicate your intent to apply by emailing bufellow@bu.edu with a brief message including your name, class year, school, major, summer contact info, and tentative Fulbright plans: country, ETA or research/study (and tentative field/topic). This is simply to open up the channels of communication and to ensure that we're prepared to offer you as much guidance as possible as you develop your Fulbright application. **Our campus review process is one of support, and the more time you invest, the more support we can offer you.** You can establish your official Fulbright application account at <https://apply.iie.org/fulbrightusstudent>. When you identify as a Boston University student/alum in the application portal, we'll gain access to your application materials. **For essay draft review and feedback in the spring and summer months, email your materials as Word/Google docs to berg@bu.edu or bufellow@bu.edu.**
- ✓ **Carefully consider the Fulbright application guidance and adhere to the proper formats:** <https://us.fulbrightonline.org/applicants/application-components>
- ✓ **Unofficial transcripts** are accepted for Fulbright upload. If you studied abroad on an external program, you will also need those transcripts.
- ✓ Concerning the **language evaluation**: For programs where language skills are required, you **must** submit both a Language Self Evaluation and a Foreign Language Evaluation Form, which is completed by a professional language teacher. Submission of both forms is mandatory, even if you have advanced skills or native speaker ability. We can discuss this if you have any questions. For programs where language skills are recommended but not required, if you possess some language skills you should submit both a Language Self Evaluation and a Foreign Language Evaluation Form. It will be advantageous to have your language ability documented, even though it is not required. We can help facilitate the language evaluations.
- ✓ **Affiliations**: A majority of Fulbrighters undertaking study/research awards will affiliate with faculty at local universities, although in some countries it is possible to affiliate with other types of organizations, such as research institutes, NGOs, or government ministries. Affiliation requirements vary by country, so before starting the application you should note the specific requirements for the proposed host country. <https://us.fulbrightonline.org/applicants/application-components/academic>
- ✓ **Lock your application for campus review** by the BU August deadline: Recommendations, language evaluations, and affiliation letters (as required) are helpful to see in the early stages, but we understand if additional time is needed beyond the campus deadline to secure these materials. We do, however, need to see rec letters in advance of the October deadline. <https://us.fulbrightonline.org/applicants/application-components>

Questions? Please contact Jeff Berg, Director of National & International Scholarships and Fulbright Program Advisor (FPA) for Boston University: berg@bu.edu.



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Fulbright Program Overview

<http://us.fulbrightonline.org/>

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program is the largest U.S. exchange program offering opportunities for students and young professionals to undertake international graduate study, independent research, and English teaching worldwide. The program operates in more than 140 countries.

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program provides grants for individually designed research projects, formal graduate degree programs, or for English Teaching Assistantships. A candidate will submit a Statement of Grant Purpose defining activities to take place during one academic year in a participating country outside the U.S.

During their grants, Fulbrighters will meet, work, live with and learn from the people of the host country, sharing daily experiences. The program facilitates cultural exchange through direct interaction on an individual basis in the classroom, field, home, and in routine tasks, allowing the grantee to gain an appreciation of others' viewpoints and beliefs, the way they do things, and the way they think. Through engagement in the community, the individual will interact with their hosts on a one-to-one basis in an atmosphere of openness, academic integrity, and intellectual freedom, thereby promoting mutual understanding.

Consult the specific country summaries for additional details: <http://us.fulbrightonline.org/countries/regions>.

Basic Eligibility for Application through BU:

- U.S. citizen
- BU student (graduating senior or graduate student) or recent alumn
- Undergraduate degree by the beginning of the Fulbright award
- Language skills necessary to complete the proposed project (as required)
- Good health to carry out project
- Enrolled students must apply through the BU institutional process.

Fulbright selection is made on the basis of:

- Quality and feasibility of the proposal
- Academic or professional record
- Personal qualifications (maturity, adaptability, communication skills, ambassadorial qualities)
- Language qualifications (as specified by country and as needed by project)
- Extent to which the candidate/project will help to advance the Fulbright mission of promoting mutual understanding among nations through engagement in the host community
- Ability of the "affiliation" abroad to arrange and confirm supervision, if necessary

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See below for an overview of the main application narratives. Fulbright applications also include three recommendations, a language evaluation, unofficial transcript(s), and affiliation letters (for independent research/arts only). Review all guidelines and requirements at <https://us.fulbrightonline.org/applicants>.

Short Answer Personal Statements

Applicants must respond to the below prompts which address the mission of the Fulbright Program:

Flexibility & Adaptability (2,000 character limit): Please explain how you will adapt to working and living in a new environment in the host country.

Community Engagement (2,000 character limit): How will you integrate within and engage with your host community?

Impact of Fulbright Award (1,000 character limit): Describe your career and/or educational plans after completing a Fulbright grant. How will your Fulbright experience help you reach these future goals? How will you share your Fulbright experience with your community upon your return from the grant?

Statements of Grant Purpose

English Teaching Assistantship

This **3,000 character narrative** outlines why you are interested in teaching English to non-native speakers as well as why you have chosen to apply to a particular country. You should describe clearly what you will be able to bring to the classroom in the host country, as well as explain any ideas you have on how to reach students coming from a different pedagogical tradition. The proposal should indicate a clear commitment to and description of how you will engage with the host country community. Format: Single spaced, 12 point Times New Roman, 1 inch margins. <https://us.fulbrightonline.org/applicants/application-components/eta>

Academic/Research Grant

This **6,000 character narrative** outlines the Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How of what you are proposing. If you are pursuing a research project, developing a strong, feasible and compelling project is the most important aspect of a successful Fulbright application. Familiarize yourself with the program summary for your host country in order to verify the type of grant you can propose. Depending on the country, applicants may also propose to complete a graduate degree program. In this case, applicants should focus on demonstrating the reasons for pursuing the proposed program at a particular institution in the host country. Whether you are applying for a research project or a degree program, the proposal should indicate a clear commitment to the host country community and a description of how you will engage with it.

<https://us.fulbrightonline.org/applicants/application-components/academic>

Creative & Performing Arts Grant

This **6,000 character narrative** outlines the Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How of what you are proposing for your Fulbright year. Arts grants are for practitioners in your discipline to further your craft, not observers. For studying the craft of a country or its cultural elements, apply for an Academic Study/Research award. Developing a strong, feasible and compelling project is the most important aspect of a successful Fulbright application. The first step is to familiarize yourself with the program summary for the host country. The program design will vary somewhat depending upon the country and the field of study. The proposal should indicate a clear commitment to and description of how you will engage with the host country community. Format: single spaced, 12 point Times New Roman, 1 inch margins. <https://us.fulbrightonline.org/applicants/application-components/arts>

We strongly advise you to contact us in the spring/early summer to discuss your ideas, questions, concerns and proposals. We are happy to review drafts, provide feedback, and address the application process (including the campus review) in greater detail. We hope to hear from you!

Boston University | 100 Baystate Road, 5th Floor | Boston, MA 02215 bufellow@bu.edu