

FULBRIGHT U.S. STUDENT PROGRAM APPLICATION INFORMATION FOR 2019–20 GRANT YEAR

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*This information sheet applies to Princeton University **undergraduate and alumni** applicants. Princeton University graduate students follow a different internal application deadline and endorsement process.*

Princeton University undergraduate applicants for Fulbright Grants must undergo an institutional review process that begins three weeks prior to the Fulbright program national deadline. Princeton can provide an institutional endorsement only if you submit your complete application via the Fulbright Embark Application website by the **campus deadline of Tuesday, September 18, 2018, at 1:00 PM**. Missing or late materials will adversely affect your application. After Princeton Fulbright committee members review your application, we may request changes to strengthen your final application. *You must be easily available by email during the second half of September until the Tuesday, October 9, national deadline, after which no additional changes or additions will be possible.*

1. Please review the Fulbright website (<http://us.fulbrightonline.org/applicants>) so you are completely familiar with the eligibility requirements and the application procedure. The “Application Tips” and “Application Checklists” sections, accessible from the Fulbright link, are very helpful. The “Statistics” button at the top right of each page can give you a good sense of competitiveness in previous application cycles for any given program or country—information that might help you decide between two countries.
2. In any application cycle, eligible applicants may apply for only ONE type of Fulbright award:
 - a) A **Study/Research Grant** provides a stipend to undertake a project that is often related to research or creative work you’ve done as an undergraduate—such as an extension of your senior thesis or other intellectual interests. Within that proposal, applicants often arrange to take a local university course (without enrolling for credit or a degree), as well. (Such courses might involve language, literature, public health, or another topic appropriate to the host country and your project.) Increasingly, Fulbright awards are being used by students to gain more clinical or applied experience. So, for example, a pre-med student might apply to work in a public health clinic while simultaneously performing research. STEM students often find a lab abroad to join, where they assist with ongoing research projects. *Developing a strong, feasible, and compelling project is the most important aspect of a successful Fulbright Study/Research Grant application.*
 - b) An **English Teaching Assistantship (ETA)**, available in about 70 countries, is designed to work well for recent college graduates. You will teach in a school for 20–30 hours per week and may have a secondary project. You are assigned to a school and generally cannot apply to be placed in a specific location within the country; the level of instruction (elementary, high school, or university) is specified in the country profile. You do not need formal education training or teaching experience: mentoring, tutoring, or related experiences are sufficient. In much of Europe and in South and Central America, knowledge of the major language (e.g., French, German, Spanish) is often required. In Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Poland, South Africa, South Korea, Taiwan, and other countries, you can be competitive with English only.
 - c) Under the broader category of Study/Research Grant, you’ll also find a limited number of **tuition-funded, one-year graduate or professional degree programs**. Several countries offer degrees at particular schools in almost any field; other countries and institutions offer specific degrees that may vary from year to year. Aside from these, if the country description mentions a degree but does not specify that the degree is funded, it probably is *not* funded. Check with Dr. Gump to discuss specific degree programs.

Note another special opportunity for select countries (Egypt, China, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Morocco, and Russia only): the **Critical Language Enhancement Award**. Finally, the Fulbright–National Geographic Digital Storytelling Fellowship is a special, fiercely competitive award that is typically awarded to applicants with a year or more of fulltime professional experience.

3. The Institute of International Education hosts regularly scheduled online Fulbright **webinars** for which you can register; see <http://us.fulbrightonline.org/information-sessions>. You are strongly urged to participate in one of these sessions at least six weeks before Princeton’s institutional deadline.
4. The United Kingdom is a far more competitive pool than any other country. With nearly 900 applicants vying for just 40 or so awards, excellent candidates with 3.8 and higher GPAs are often not selected. **Unless it is essential that you study in the UK, give serious consideration to other countries.** If you do apply for a Fulbright Grant to the UK, you must make a strong case that you cannot undertake the research or program you are proposing in the USA or elsewhere.

5. For most Study/Research Grant applications, you will need a special letter from a faculty member or administrator *at a university or research institution in the host country* stating that they are willing to provide you with an **institutional affiliation** during your stay. For most applicants, securing this important letter requires some research and correspondence with scholars and researchers in your chosen country. You need to begin this process as early in the summer as possible. When you ask for the letter, make it clear that Fulbright would provide you with a stipend, so you are requesting in-kind resources such as library privileges, office space, access to archives or field sites, and the like.
6. If you are applying to conduct research on a Study/Research Grant (as opposed to taking coursework alone), you will need to develop a very specific but concise proposal about what you are planning to accomplish and how you will achieve your goals. You will need to convince the selection panel that you have the maturity, skills, and adaptability to achieve your goals. Be realistic in setting your goals for the year. The committee also needs to be convinced that you will serve as an excellent citizen ambassador representing the USA and your home state. If your research involves interviewing average citizens or other work with human subjects, you will need to obtain Institutional Review Board approval from Princeton. (Ask your faculty mentors about this step.)
7. Unless you are applying for a project in an English-speaking country, you must complete at least a foreign language self-evaluation as part of the Embark application. If you *have no ability* in the target language, you will outline the steps you will take to learn the language before your Fulbright grant would begin. If you *have ability* in the target language, you must ask a language instructor to complete a language evaluation on your behalf. Ask Dr. Gump if you need help identifying a language evaluator. *You do not need to complete language evaluations for any languages you speak that are not used in the host country.*
8. Consider your audiences. Your application will be reviewed by up to three committees: (1) a university committee of faculty members, including those who have received Fulbright grants; (2) the US-based Fulbright Selection Committee, composed of those who work at the Institute of International Education and scholars with disciplinary or regional specialization germane to your application; and, if you pass the second review, (3) a Fulbright committee in the country in which you are planning to study. The final committee is perhaps the most general. Its members will be looking for proposals that mesh well with their concerns and for applicants who will be excellent cultural ambassadors on behalf of their country. Throughout your application, you must therefore be diplomatic in your tone and word choice and how you address issues that might be politically or culturally sensitive.
9. Having lived or studied in a particular country for an extensive period can actually be a disadvantage in applying for a Fulbright. If you have, for example, lived in Mexico for a year, your chances of being selected for Costa Rica or Belize might be higher than for Mexico, since you will probably have the appropriate level of Spanish fluency. *Fewer than six months in the host country, participation in a study abroad program of up to a year, or living in a country as a child will usually not have an adverse effect.*
10. Fulbright announces new programs and initiatives on their website throughout the year, so make sure to check country profiles periodically to see if anything has changed (even after you've decided on a country).
11. Request that your letter writers address their letters to "Members of the Selection Committee, Fulbright U.S. Student Program." They then upload their letters onto the Fulbright site with access granted through an automated email when you enter their email addresses into the application system. *Important:* ETA recommenders complete online forms; they do not write full-blown letters.
12. You cannot defer a Fulbright grant. Many US graduate and professional schools *will* allow you to defer admission if you are awarded a Fulbright. (But make sure to determine whether your funding package will still be available, and make sure to get that deferral in writing.) Some employers also deferred start dates.
13. Applicants who are selected for the second round will be informed by the end of January. A few countries (including Mexico, Russia, the UK) schedule phone or Skype interviews for recommended candidates in the winter. Country decisions are announced (by email to you) anywhere from mid-March through June.
14. The Fulbright application is completely online. You can begin an application any time after the system opens in April (and can save and return to your application as often as you need). Letters of recommendation will need to be uploaded directly; hard copies of institutional affiliation letters and transcripts will need to be scanned and saved as .pdfs and uploaded by you.

If you have questions or would like to be added to the Fulbright email list, please contact Dr. Gump in the Office of International Programs at gump@princeton.edu or (609) 258-5759.