Princeton University has an institutional review process that occurs two weeks prior to the Fulbright program deadline. **The campus deadline is September 30, 2015 at 1:00 pm.** In order for the Princeton committee members to review and provide an institutional endorsement of the Fulbright applications, your application needs to be complete and you need to “submit” it online so we can print it for review. Missing or late materials will adversely affect you in this process. After the Princeton advisor reviews the applications, we will request changes from each applicant so that they can strengthen their final application. You must be easily available by e-mail from early October to the October 13th deadline, when you can no longer access your application. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE DAY OF THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT BECAUSE THE APPLICATION SYSTEM WILL BE OVERLOADED AND YOU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO LOG IN.**

1. Please review the Fulbright website so you are completely familiar with the application procedure ([http://us.fulbrightonline.org/applicants](http://us.fulbrightonline.org/applicants)). The “Application Tips” and “Application Checklists” sections, accessible from this link, are very helpful. The “Statistics” button at the top right of each page can give you a good sense of how many applications there were in the previous year for any given program or country. That information might help you decide between two countries.

2. There are three major types of Fulbright awards for U.S. Students:
   a) **An academic research grant.** This 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, students often arrange to take a local university course (without enrolling for credit or a degree) as well. This might be a language course, a literature course, or a course in public health. 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 and work on a research topic at the same time. Someone interested in development issues might work at an NGO prior to returning to the U.S. for a master’s degree. Developing a strong, feasible and compelling project is the most important aspect of a successful Fulbright application.

   b) A second option is the **English Teaching Assistant (ETA)** program, which is designed to work well for recent college graduates. This opportunity is available in about 70 countries. You would teach in a school for twenty hours per week and have a secondary project. You are assigned to a school and cannot apply to be placed in a specific location within the country. Whether that is at the elementary, high school, or university level is specified in the country specifics. You would not need formal education training or teaching experience—mentoring, tutoring, or related experiences are sufficient. In Europe, some knowledge of the major language (e.g. French, Spanish) is often expected. In Korea, Indonesia, and other countries, you can be competitive with English only.

   c) A third option is a limited number of tuition-funded, one year graduate or professional degree programs under the broader category of **research/study grant.** The U.K. and France offer many degrees by special arrangement with the U.S., Mexico, and Spain offer MBA or policy degrees, and the Netherlands offers a finance degree. Aside from these, if the country description mentions a degree, but does not specify that the degree is funded, it probably is not. Do not assume that a degree is funded. Check with Hanna Lee to discuss specific degree programs.

   There are also a limited number of additional awards, such as the **MTVu** award for world music and the Fulbright National Geographic Digital Storytelling Fellowship. These grants have a spring deadline.

3. There are regularly scheduled information sessions at the IIE office in Manhattan, as well as webinars for which you can register. You are strongly urged to participate in one of these sessions at least six weeks before Princeton’s institutional deadline.

4. The U.K. is a far more competitive pool than any other country. Over 800 applicants vie for 40 or so awards. Excellent candidates with 3.8 and higher GPA’s are often not selected. **Unless it is essential that you study in the U.K., give serious consideration to other countries.** If you do apply, you must make a strong case that you cannot undertake the research or program you are proposing in the U.S. or elsewhere.
5. For most programs (aside from ETA or language-based programs), you will need a letter from a faculty member or administrator at a university or research institution stating that they are willing to provide you with an institutional affiliation during your stay. For many applicants, this requires some research and correspondence with scholars and researchers in their 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 would be requesting in-kind resources such as library privileges and office space.

6. If you are applying for a Fulbright research project (as opposed to a teaching or an MBA program), 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 U.S. If your research involves interviewing average citizens or using similar methodologies, you will need to obtain Institutional Review Board approval from Princeton. Ask your faculty mentors about this.

7. Unless you are applying for a project in an English-speaking country (e.g., the U.K., Ireland, Canada, Australia) you must complete a language proficiency form, even if you do not yet know the language. If the latter is the case, you must outline the steps you will take to learn the language, but you do not need a faculty member to sign it. If the form is not submitted, your application will be considered incomplete.

8. Consider your audience. Your application will be reviewed by three committees: a) a university committee of faculty members, including those who have received Fulbright grants; b) The Fulbright Selection Committee in the United States, comprised of those who work at the International Institute of Education, and scholars with a specialization in the country or region in which you wish to study, or the discipline in which your project falls; c) If you are “recommended” (selected as a finalist), your application will be forwarded to committee members in the country to which you are planning to study. This will be a more general committee. 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. You must 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. Less than six months, participation in a study abroad program of a year or less, or living in a country as a child will not have an adverse effect.

10. Request that your letter writers address their letters to: Members of the Selection Committee, Fulbright Program for U.S. Students. They then upload their letters onto the Fulbright site with access granted through an automated e-mail when you enter their e-mail addresses into the application system. We have information on requesting letters that we will provide you during your appointment.

11. You cannot defer a Fulbright. Many U.S. graduate schools and professional schools will allow you to defer admission if you are awarded a Fulbright. But determine whether your funding package will still be available and get that deferral in writing.

12. Fulbright announces new programs and initiatives throughout the year. These are announced on the website. Those who are selected for the second round will be informed in mid-late January. Country decisions are announced (by e-mail to you) anywhere from mid-March through June. A few countries (including Russia, the UK) schedule phone interviews for recommended candidates in the winter.

13. The Fulbright application is now completely online. Letters of recommendation will need to be uploaded directly, hard copies of institutional affiliation letters and transcripts will need to be scanned into .pdf and then uploaded.

If you have questions or would like to be added to the Fulbright email list, please contact Hanna Lee in the Office of International Programs at fellow@princeton.edu or 609-258-5759