

# FULBRIGHT PROGRAM FOR U.S. STUDENTS

## Tips for Hampshire College Applicants

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**Be aligned with the Fulbright goal, “...to increase *mutual understanding* between people of the U.S. and people of other countries through exchange.”**

- A Fulbright grantee is serving as an ambassador representing the U.S.
- Projects, study, arts, ETA are a means to get students engaged in a meaningful way; *and* they want people who can be successful at developing their project.

**Tip:**

- + Cultural exchange/being an ambassador must be apparent in your application!

### U.S. Student Program: Two Types of Grants

- **Study/Research Grant : Independent research, study, or arts project abroad**
  - 925 awards in about 140 countries; period of 8-10 months, depends on country.

**Tips:**

- + **As you develop your project, ask yourself:**
  - Is this project both compelling and feasible?
  - Does it require that I be in the host country for an academic year?
- + **Seek coursework support at university:** Many countries like to see an application where the student plans to engage in independent research and scaffolds it with classes at a university (usually non-degree seeking); recent graduates are having success with this as the coursework is seen as helping to ground and support your work.
- + **Politically sensitive project?** How your project is framed is very important.
  - Is your title politically sensitive to the government/people in that country?
  - They want to see academic legitimacy and critical thought.
  - Some countries have more leeway with sensitive topics than others.
- + **Arts Awards** are for artists to **improve their craft**. Anything else is an academic program.
  - Your project will also be judged on whether it is “ambitious enough.”
  - Arts must address why that country; might be a specific person, school, project, and/or culture.
  - Many countries like art applicants; artists seem to be very engaged with communities.

- **English Teaching Assistantship (ETA): Help teach English & U.S. culture in the classroom**

- 1100 awards in about 75 countries; for period of 8-10 months

**Tips:**

- + Applications should not be generic sounding as though one could teach anywhere; must focus on why one wants to teach in the host country.
- + Side project needs to be smaller so have energy and time for teaching.
- + Having a plan to learn the language demonstrates interest.
- + Ask recommenders to emphasize different aspects of application, including teaching ability and desire to teach and interact in that country.
- + Hampshire unique pedagogy might be worth mentioning, but be careful about how much space you spend on that as the ETA proposal is only one page.

## Application Components

1. Basic Personal Data
2. Essays
  - Statement of Grant Purpose
    - Research/Study: 2 pages
    - ETA: 1 page
  - Personal Statement: 1 page
3. Reports / References
  - Foreign Language Evaluation and Self Report
  - Three (3) References (letters for Research/Study, and reference forms for ETAs)
4. Transcripts **Tip**
  - ✚ If you're requesting transcripts or letters of recommendation and/or affiliation from outside the College (particularly from outside the U.S.), please do so early. These materials may take several weeks to arrive. Allow two weeks for your Hampshire transcript.
5. Other
  - Arts ONLY: Supplementary Form and Materials
  - Research/Study: Letter(s) of Affiliation

## Getting Started and Putting Together a Strong Application

- There is a lot of valuable information on the Fulbright website. Make sure you read and read again to make sure you're not missing something.

### Tips:

- ✚ Start your research on the Fulbright website. For a good idea of what you will need to qualify and be competitive, begin with the following sections:
  - About Fulbright
  - Program Overview
  - Country Summary (for the country you're considering)
- ✚ **Take very seriously any action "recommended" in the Country Summary**
- ✚ Pay special attention to the application components and the tips sections on the Fulbright website to get the most detailed advice on writing a Study/Research Proposal and the Personal Statement, (and all other components!). To be competitive, the essays have to be excellent.
- ✚ Consider printing what is essential to your application so you don't have to toggle through the many different places where there is essential information as you're writing your application.
- ✚ Start and open your Fulbright application on the IIE website.
  - Opening the application is NOT a commitment to apply!
  - You can go in and out of the application to add, delete, or modify as many times as you like before you submit in September and again in October.
- ✚ Be clear about why this country!
  - In your Statements (Grant Purpose and Personal), clearly describe why it is necessary to pursue your project in the country to which you are applying, and what will make you a strong U.S. Cultural Ambassador to that country.

- ✚ The Campus Fulbright Committee’s evaluation will be based on the materials you submit on September 15, plus your interview.
  - Committee members will evaluate your application materials, and then will make smaller additions and amendments based on your interview.
  - Committee members want to write the strongest evaluation possible for you. **Help them help you by submitting a complete application by the campus deadline!**
    - §§ The interview can go into more depth if the committee does not need to take time to ask about topics that would be addressed with a completed application.
    - §§ After the campus interview, you will have time to incorporate the Campus Committee’s feedback to revise your application before resubmitting everything for the final Fulbright deadline.

**Letters of Affiliation:** Be sure to read all the info on the Fulbright web site about affiliations For Study /Research only; ETAs DO NOT secure affiliations.

- Requirements vary by country; read the country requirements.
- Sometimes there will be a host country contact who will advise and/or mentor you; see what it says on the country’s Fulbright web page.
- Need a signed letter (on letterhead).
- If letter has not been received, explain status and whom you’ve been in contact with.

**Tips:**

- ✚ A request for affiliation needs to be focused, giving background about the applicant’s past work as well as proposed work.
- ✚ Look to scholars you are reading.
- ✚ Communicate with U.S. Scholars who have gone abroad.
- ✚ Communicate with foreign scholars now on a Fulbright in the US, and international students.
- ✚ What is hip in that discipline right now?
- ✚ Show care with your communication along with expressions of gratitude.
- ✚ Affiliations show that you’ve taken initiative, know about the country, etc.
- ✚ Expressed enthusiasm for your project is helpful.

**Language Skills:** There are **two** language forms – Form 7: Language Self-Evaluation **and** Form 8: Foreign Language Evaluation (FLE).

**Tips:**

- ✚ You’ll need to submit these if any of the following apply:
  - The Country Summary indicates that proficiency in the host country language is required.
  - Language proficiency is needed for the successful completion of the proposed project.
  - You have proficiency beyond the basic level of the host country language.
- ✚ Your application will be more competitive if you include info about learning the language on Form 7, even if your project does not require knowledge of the host country’s language; indicate your plans for obtaining a “hospitality” level of the language to accomplish Fulbright’s goal of cultural exchange.

**References:** You want strong reference letters (for study/research) and comments on the reference forms (for ETA's).

**Tips:**

- + Ask your references if they are able to provide a strong reference for you.
- + Ask people who can represent different aspects of you that will combine to strengthen your candidacy.
- + Be sure to give your reference writers ample time to write for you. We suggest you ask at least a month before the reference is due.
- + Show care with your communication along with expressions of gratitude.

**Need Fulbright assistance?**

- Use multiple avenues to get the advice and assistance you need.

**Tips:**

- + Talk with faculty in your field
  - Most successful Study/Research/Arts applicants work with faculty to conceptualize and write their proposal.
  - Reach out to faculty in your field of study who can provide specialized advice about your proposal, suggest affiliations, or critique your application.
- + Reach out to former grantees, and students with ties to the host country.
  - Contact [former Fulbright grantees](#) (link is on the Fulbright home page, upper right corner).
  - Hampshire International students from host country or students who have studied abroad in the host country may be able to be a resource for you.
  - <http://www.cies.org/fulbright-scholars>
- + Hampshire College Fulbright Program Advisor, Carin Rank
  - An FPA can provide insight into what Fulbright is looking for; feedback on grant purpose and personal statements; assistance with questions; and guidance throughout the application process.
  - Make an appointment at [corchamshire.checkappointments.com](http://corchamshire.checkappointments.com) or call at 413.559.5445.

**Connect and learn more:**

[Fulbright Website](http://us.fulbrightonline.org)

<http://us.fulbrightonline.org>

[Application Components](http://us.fulbrightonline.org/applicants/application-components)

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

[Application Tips](http://us.fulbrightonline.org/applicants/application-tips)

<http://us.fulbrightonline.org/applicants/application-tips>

[Fulbright Resources and Events](http://us.fulbrightonline.org/about/resources)

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

Tutorials, recorded webinars, videos, social media, and events

[Hampshire College General Fulbright Listserv](https://lists.hampshire.edu/mailman/listinfo/fulbright)

<https://lists.hampshire.edu/mailman/listinfo/fulbright>