



The Fulbright Program in Brief

The [Fulbright Program](#) is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. The Fulbright Program has provided approximately 294,000 participants—chosen for their academic merit and leadership potential — with the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research, exchange ideas and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns.

Program History

The Fulbright Program was established in 1946 under legislation introduced by the late Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas. The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's [Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs](#).

Approximately 294,000 “Fulbrighters,” 111,000 from the United States and 183,000 from other countries, have participated in the Program since its inception more than sixty years ago. The Fulbright Program awards approximately 7,500 new grants annually.

Currently, the Fulbright Program operates in over 155 countries worldwide.

Program Funding

The primary source of funding for the Fulbright Program is an annual appropriation made by the U.S. Congress to the U.S. Department of State. Participating governments and host institutions, corporations and foundations in foreign countries and in the United States also provide direct and indirect support.

The Congressional appropriation for the Fulbright Program in fiscal year 2009 was \$234.9 million. Foreign governments, through binational commissions or foundations abroad, contributed approximately \$60 million directly to the Program in fiscal year 2008.

Program Administration

The **Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs** administers the Program under policy guidelines established by the [J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board \(FSB\)](#) with the assistance of [binational commissions and foundations](#) in 50 countries, [U.S. embassies](#) in more than 100 other countries and cooperating agencies in the United States.

The **J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board**, composed of 12 educational and public leaders appointed by the President of the United States, formulates policies for the administration of the Program, establishes criteria for the selection of candidates and selects candidates nominated for awards.

Binational commissions and foundations develop priorities for the program, including the numbers and categories of grants. In a country without a commission or foundation, the **Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy** develops and supervises the Fulbright Program. Currently, 50 commissions are active, most of which are funded jointly by the United States and the respective government. Each commission or foundation has a board, composed of Americans and citizens of the participating nation.

Fulbright programs are administered with the assistance of **cooperating agencies**. (Contact addresses and telephone numbers for each cooperating agency are provided on page four of this fact sheet.) Foreign citizens interested in the Fulbright Program should contact the Fulbright Commission or Foundation in their home country or, where no commission exists, the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy.

Fulbright Grant Categories

The term "Fulbright Program" encompasses a variety of exchange programs. For further information, please visit <http://fulbright.state.gov/>.

The **Fulbright U.S. Student Program** offers fellowships for U.S. graduating college seniors, graduate students, young professionals and artists to study abroad for one academic year. In academic year 2008-2009, more than 1,500 Americans are studying abroad with support from the Fulbright Program.

The **Fulbright English Teaching Assistantships (ETA) Program**, an element of the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, places U.S. students as English teaching assistants in schools or universities overseas, thus improving foreign students' English language abilities and knowledge of the United States while enhancing the U.S. student's own language skills and knowledge of the host country. ETAs may also pursue individual study/research plans in addition to their teaching responsibilities.

The **Fulbright Foreign Student Program** enables graduate students, young professionals and artists from abroad to research and study in the United States for one year or longer. Approximately 1,700 new awards are awarded to foreign graduate students for study at U.S. universities, and some 1,350 renewal awards are also made annually.

The **Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Program**, a component of the Fulbright Foreign Student Program, provides young teachers of English as a Foreign Language the opportunity to refine their teaching skills and broaden their knowledge of American society and culture while strengthening the instruction of foreign languages at colleges and universities in the United States.

The **International Fulbright Science and Technology Award**, a component of the Fulbright Foreign Student Program supports doctoral study at prestigious U.S. institutions in science, technology, engineering or related fields for approximately 40 outstanding foreign students annually.

The **Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program** sends approximately 1,100 American scholars and professionals annually to approximately 125 countries, where they lecture and/or conduct research in a wide variety of academic and professional fields.

The **Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program** provides grants to approximately 850 foreign scholars from over 95 countries to lecture and/or conduct postdoctoral research at U.S. institutions for an academic semester to an academic year.

The **Fulbright Specialists Program**, an element of the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program, sends U.S. faculty and professionals to serve as expert consultants on curriculum, faculty development, institutional planning and related subjects at overseas academic institutions for a period of 2 to 6 weeks.

The **Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence (SIR) Program** enables U.S. colleges and universities to host foreign academics to lecture on a wide range of subject fields for a semester or academic year. Preference is given to institutions developing an international agenda and/or serving a minority audience, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges, small liberal arts colleges and community colleges. Approximately 50 grants are awarded annually.

The **Fulbright New Century Scholars** global program brings together a group of approximately 30 outstanding research scholars and professionals each year, from the U.S. and participating countries around the world, who are selected through an open competition to conduct multi-disciplinary research on a global theme.

The **Fulbright Classroom Teacher Exchange Program** is a direct one-to-one exchange of approximately 120 teachers from primary and secondary schools. The program operates between the United States and ten countries worldwide.

The new **Distinguished Fulbright Awards in Teaching Program** sends U.S. teachers abroad and brings international teachers to the U.S. for a semester to pursue individual projects, conduct research, and lead master classes or seminars. The program is currently open to teachers from Argentina, India, Israel, Finland, South Africa and the United States.

The **Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program** brings outstanding mid-career professionals from developing and emerging countries to the United States for a year of professional development and non-degree academic study at the graduate level. Grants are awarded in public policy and social science-related fields. Nearly 4,150 fellows from approximately 156 countries have participated in the program since its inception in 1978. During the 2008-2009 academic year there are 154 Humphrey Fellows from 86 countries in the United States.

A portion of the Fulbright Program, funded at approximately \$12.6 million in fiscal year 2008, is a Congressional appropriation to the **United States Department of Education** for the **Fulbright-Hays Program**. These grants are awarded to individual U.S. K-14 pre-teachers, teachers and administrators, pre-doctoral students and post-doctoral faculty, as well as to U.S. institutions and organizations. Funding supports research and training efforts overseas, which focus on non-western foreign languages and area studies.

The **U.S. Fulbright Association** is a private, non-profit organization started in 1977 by U.S. alumni of the Fulbright Program. It is one of approximately 70 national Fulbright alumni associations worldwide. For additional information, contact the Fulbright Association at 202-347-5543. The U.S. Fulbright Association's website is <http://www.fulbright.org>.

FULBRIGHT PROGRAM(S)

U.S. Department of State (General info about all programs)

J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board

U.S. Student Program
Foreign Student Program (general information only)

Foreign students from the Middle East and North Africa

Junior Faculty from Central and Latin America

U.S. Scholar Program
Visiting Scholar Program

Teacher Exchange Program

Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowships Program

Fulbright-Hays Programs

Last updated 3/30/2009

POINT OF CONTACT

<http://fulbright.state.gov>

<http://fulbright.state.gov/root/resources-for/fsb>

Institute of International Education (IIE)
809 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017-3580
Telephone: 212-883-8200
Website: www.iie.org; www.us.fulbrightonline.org;
www.foreign.fulbrightonline.org; www.flta.fulbrightonline.org

America-Mideast Educational and Training Services, Inc.
(AMIDEAST)
1730 M Street, NW, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20036
Telephone: 202-776-9600
Website: www.amideast.org

LASPAU: Academic and Professional Program for the Americas
25 Mount Auburn Street
Cambridge, MA 02138-6095
Telephone: 617-495-5255
Website: www.laspau.harvard.edu

Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES)
3007 Tilden Street, NW, Suite 5L
Washington, DC 20008-3009
Telephone: 202-686-4000
Website: www.cies.org

Academy for Educational Development (AED)
1825 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20009-5721
Tel: 202-884-8649
Fax: 202-884-8407
Website: www.fulbrightteacherexchange.org

[Institute of International Education](http://www.fulbrightteacherexchange.org)
Humphrey Fellowship Program
1400 K Street, NW, Suite 650
Washington, DC 20005
Tel: (202) 326-7701
Website: www.humphreyfellowship.org

United States Department of Education
International Education Programs Service
1990 K Street, NW, 6th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20006-8521
Telephone: 202-502-7700
Web: www.ed.gov/HEP/iegps