

FULBRIGHT U.S. STUDENT PROGRAM GRANTS

First Steps to Getting Your Fulbright

Congratulations on considering a Fulbright! This is an amazing opportunity to work and study abroad. It will give you an inspiring international perspective which will enrich your life both personally, intellectually, and professionally. The Fulbright is one of the most generous and idealistic international outreach programs of the United States government.

STEP 1

Go to <https://us.fulbrightonline.org/fulbright-us-student-program> and create an on-line account for yourself.

STEP 2

Decide which grant type you're interested in. You can only apply to one grant!

Study/Research Awards: Applicants propose their own independent study/research projects or, in some countries, can propose to enroll in a graduate program. Arts applicants, go to the [Creative & Performing Arts Fields of Study](#) section for information about available fields.

English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Awards: Programs that place grantees in schools overseas to supplement local English language instruction and to provide a native speaker presence in the classrooms. Go to the [English Teaching Assistant Award](#) section to see which countries offer this type of grant. You don't have to be an education major or have teaching experience to apply for an ETA and TU has seen the greatest success with ETA applications.

Special Programs

Fulbright-National Geographic Digital Storytelling Fellowships: Offered for proposals to undertake an in-depth examination of a globally relevant issue or issues in one country, or in multiple countries, comparing and contrasting how that issue is experienced from one country to another. Please proceed to the [Fulbright-National Geographic Digital Storytelling Fellowship](#) section for additional program details.

STEP 3

Consider carefully in which one country you most want to study or teach. You cannot apply for more than one country, and your proposal cannot require travel to multiple countries. Figures are available on the website for which countries are the most competitive. In some cases, your interests may be suited to several potential host countries, and you may want to make a strategic choice about which one of them might give you the best chance of being accepted. However, we strongly encourage you to apply for whatever country most inspires you, even if it extremely competitive. Towson University students have won Fulbrights for Spain, France, the United Kingdom, Japan, and other very competitive countries. Go for it!

STEP 4

Research the individual country listing on the Fulbright site for the country to which you will apply. Each country may change its preferences or requirements from year to year. Not all academic or artistic fields are supported every year. Make sure that this is the right country and the right year for your individual interests.

STEP 5

Look at the country's language requirements. Many host countries require only English, and/or will help you learn their language. Others prefer a high level of linguistic ability, which you will have to demonstrate during the application process. Some host countries may be satisfied if an applicant is making a good-faith effort to learn some of their language at the time of application.

STEP 6

Choose three people who know you well enough to write detailed, carefully-tailored letters of recommendation in support of your application. At least one should probably be a faculty member with whom you have studied a subject relevant to your research proposal. The letters will also have to speak of your personal qualities of diplomacy, initiative, enthusiasm, and character. Contact these three people now, tell them about your exciting proposal, ask if they would be willing to write a strong and substantive letter for you, and if so, let them know that you will be asking them to provide it by early Fall.

STEP 7

In consultation with the Towson University Fulbright Adviser, select a faculty member with whom to brainstorm your project and start drafting your personal statement and research proposal. Successful applications hinge on these two short narratives, which usually require multiple rewrites. Plan on meeting or being in contact with your faculty mentor several times between May and September. As your two drafts are approaching their final form, it would be helpful to your recommenders (Step 6) to receive copies; this will allow them to write the best, most detailed letter possible.

STEP 8

If appropriate, start to make inquiries to academics, community stakeholders, or artists in the host country, and ask if they would be willing to meet with you or work with you during your grant year. Having contacts in the host country will increase the appearance of feasibility in your proposal. Some countries, however, prefer to put you directly in touch with such local resources.

You're On Your Way!

By this point, you will be well on your way to applying for your Fulbright. Other questions will arise during the process. Always remember that your designated TU Fulbright Campus Advisor and any other faculty and staff members at Towson would be delighted to assist you along the way. Don't be shy about asking for assistance, information, suggestions, or cheerleading!