

The Fulbright Foreign Student Program: FACT SHEET

1. Fulbright Program

- 1.1. Mandate
- 1.2. Mission
- 1.3. Components

2. Foreign Student Program

- 2.1. Overview
- 2.2. Quick Facts
- 2.3. Administration Overseas
- 2.4. Administration in the United States
- 2.5. Funding

3. Foreign Student Grants

- 3.1. Eligibility
- 3.2. Selection
- 3.3. Placement
- 3.4. Awards

4. Enrichment Activities

- 4.1. Orientation and English-Language Programs
- 4.2. Fulbright Enrichment Seminars
- 4.3. Professional Enhancement Grants
- 4.4. Additional Activities

5. Foreign Student Program Graduates

6. Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program

7. Further Information

1. FULBRIGHT PROGRAM

1.1. Mandate

The Fulbright Program was established in 1946 through an act of Congress, spearheaded by Senator J. William Fulbright, in order to demonstrate U.S. commitment to democratic values worldwide. It is sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State under policy guidelines established by the presidentially appointed J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. Financial support is provided by an annual appropriation from Congress to the State Department and by participating governments, as well as by host institutions in the United States and abroad.

1.2. Mission

The Fulbright Program is America's flagship international exchange initiative. Its mission, as envisioned by Fulbright himself, is three-fold:

- To promote mutual understanding through a commitment to the free flow of ideas and people across national boundaries.
- To expand, through this understanding, the boundaries of human wisdom, empathy and perception.
- Through cooperation in constructive activities among people of different nations, to create true and lasting world peace.

The Fulbright Program operates in 144 countries and awards some 4,500 new grants each year toward these objectives. Thanks to executive agreements between the United States and foreign governments, some 51 binational Fulbright Commissions have been founded to help fund and administer the Program overseas and conduct other educational exchanges. In countries without Fulbright Commissions, U.S. Embassies assume these responsibilities. A number of private, cooperating organizations assist with Program administration in the United States.

1.3. Components

The Fulbright Program includes four primary components:

- The U.S. Student Program, which provides annual funding for approximately 1,000 American students to study or conduct research abroad;
- The Foreign Student Program, which enables more than 2,000 foreign students to study or conduct research at U.S. universities each year; and
- The Scholar Program, which provides more than 1,700 grants annually to American and foreign senior scholars for advanced study at educational institutions worldwide.
- The Fulbright Teacher and Administrator Exchange Program, which provides a one-to-one exchange of approximately 500 U.S. and foreign teachers or administrators each year, primarily at the secondary school level.

- In addition, the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program, a Fulbright activity, brings 150 mid-career professionals to the U.S. from over 80 countries for one-year of academic and professional work at the graduate level.

Over the past 56 years, these components of the Fulbright Program, together with a number of allied programs and institutes, have provided some 234,000 students, scholars and professionals around the globe with the opportunity to observe each others' political, economic and cultural institutions, exchange ideas, and embark on joint ventures of importance to the welfare of humanity. Approximately 88,000 grants have been awarded to U.S. citizens, and 146,000 grants to nationals of other countries.

2. FOREIGN STUDENT PROGRAM

2.1. Overview

A mainstay of America's public-diplomacy efforts, the Fulbright Foreign Student Program promotes U.S. engagement with the citizens of other countries who will have a role and influence in the future of their societies. Many foreign Fulbright grantees are young professionals who will return to take positions of leadership in their home countries. Recipients from developing nations, in particular, frequently return to play major roles in institution building, often working at universities or in government service.

2.2. Quick Facts

- The Foreign Student Program brings more than 1,400 foreign students from 144 countries to U.S. universities each year.
- In 2002, some 2,218 foreign students were offered new or renewed Fulbright grants for study at U.S. universities.
- The most popular fields of study are business administration, law, economics, engineering, the liberal arts, and international relations.
- Winners of the 2003 awards come from around the world: Europe (43 percent), Asia (26 percent), Central and South America (25 percent), and Africa (6 percent).
- Germany, Mexico, Spain, Chile, and India top the list of 2003 award winners.
- Countries recently added to the Fulbright Program include Afghanistan, Andorra, Bhutan, Bosnia Herzegovina, Brunei, and Iraq.
- The 2003 student selections in Afghanistan were the first made there in 24 years.
- Iraq is sending a cohort of students to the United States in February 2004, following revival of the Iraqi Fulbright program in October 2003.

- Foreign students apply for Fulbright grants through the binational Fulbright Commissions or the U.S. Embassies in their home countries.
- A foreign student is initially sponsored for one year, but awards may be renewed for up to three years or even longer.
- The U.S. Department of State and other U.S. organizations provide 83 percent of the funding for the Foreign Student Program; foreign governments and contributors supply the remainder.
- U.S. colleges and universities contribute more than \$7 million in financial assistance to first-year Fulbright foreign students.
- In 2003, the average tuition award given by U.S. universities to Fulbright foreign student grantees was \$12,487.

2.3. Administration Overseas

For more than half a century, binational Fulbright Commissions (or Foundations), established under bilateral agreements signed by the U.S. Government, have administered the Fulbright Program overseas. Each Commission or Foundation has a board composed of equal numbers of American citizens and citizens of the host country, and each has an Executive Director. Among the 144 countries participating in the Fulbright Program, some 51 have binational Commissions:

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium and Luxembourg, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovak Republic, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, The Netherlands, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and Uruguay.

The Fulbright Program also operates in 93 other countries where, for various historical and political reasons, a binational Commission has not been established:

Albania, Angola, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Kenya, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Rwanda, Senegal, Singapore, Slovenia, Swaziland, Tanzania, The Philippines, Togo, Trinidad & Tobago, Uganda, Venezuela, Vietnam, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

In these countries, the Program is developed and supervised by U.S. Embassy staff under the direction of the Public Affairs Officer. In every partner country, however, the Commission or Embassy carries out the recruitment and selection of Fulbright foreign students in accordance with that country's particular priorities and preferences.

2.4. Administration in the United States

Three private, non-profit agencies administer the Fulbright Foreign Student Program in the United States under contracts to the U.S. Department of State:

- The Institute of International Education (IIE), headquartered at United Nations Plaza in New York City;
- LASPAU (formerly the Latin American Scholarship Program of American Universities), affiliated with Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, with responsibility for Latin America and the Caribbean; and
- AMIDEAST (America-Mideast Educational and Training Services), headquartered in Washington, DC, with responsibility for the Middle East and North Africa.

In conjunction with the latter two agencies, IIE provides academic placement for Fulbright grantees studying in the United States, arranges a wide variety of enrichment activities for the grantees, and supervises them throughout their grant periods. The staff of IIE's regional centers in Chicago, Denver, Houston, and San Francisco also work with foreign grantees throughout their stay in America, providing such benefits as academic supervision and consultations on issues ranging from visa status, grant renewals, and insurance to personal adjustments and international travel arrangements.

In addition, IIE ensures Fulbright Foreign Student Program compliance with the USA Patriot Act of 2001, which mandates the collection of electronic data from universities and other approved educational institutions about foreign students who are studying in the United States. This requirement is met through IIE participation in the nationwide Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS).

2.5. Funding

Funding for the Fulbright Foreign Student Program is provided by the U.S. Department of State (53 percent), U.S. direct financial and in-kind support (25 percent), foreign governments (11 percent), foreign private contributions (6 percent), and the U.S. Department of Education (5 percent).

U.S. colleges and universities contribute more than \$7 million in financial assistance to first-year foreign Fulbrighters through tuition awards, scholarships, and other financial-aid options. Renewals of these awards through multi-year degree programs can up to quadruple the value of the initial grant. The generosity of the American higher-education community greatly increases the number of students that can be supported through the

Fulbright Program, and demonstrates academia's recognition of the value of Fulbright exchanges.

Corporations and others in the private sector also lend significant support to the Fulbright Program. Throughout the years, companies such as Citicorp, Coca-Cola, and Texaco have partnered with IIE to provide supplemental awards to Fulbright candidates.

Additional funds have come from U.S. and international foundations, as well as IIE endowments that assist Fulbrighters from specific world regions. IIE's development of cost-sharing resources overseas has generated millions of dollars of support from banks, foundations, businesses, and local Chambers of Commerce. The U.S. Department of State encourages such private contributions in support of the Fulbright Program's goals.

3. FOREIGN STUDENT GRANTS

3.1. Eligibility

Fulbright foreign student awards are open to any individual who fulfills the basic citizenship, academic, and other requirements of the program in each country, without regard to race, religion, gender, geographic location, or financial need. Application procedures for Fulbright graduate study in the United States vary from country to country.

3.2. Selection

Most overseas Fulbright offices have a long-established and efficient process for reviewing, evaluating, scoring, and ranking qualified grant candidates. The Fulbright selection process for partner-country grantees is a rigorous, multi-level process involving assessment by both U.S. and partner-country panels. For example, interviews are always undertaken by a binational committee.

In addition to academic excellence, the Fulbright Foreign Student Program seeks to identify those with international awareness and leadership potential, who will be the best equipped to promote mutual understanding between the United States and the partner country. Upon receipt of recommendations for nominees, final award approval is given by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

3.3. Placement

Placement within a strong U.S. academic program is critical to the success of the Fulbright foreign-student experience. IIE facilitates the placement of about two-thirds of each new student cohort. The remainder are either self-placed, or assisted in placement by LASPAU, AMIDEAST, or the Fulbright offices in their home country.

IIE has unrivaled experience in placing foreign students in U.S. institutions of higher education, and is dedicated to matching each student with the best possible academic program. Upon receipt of student applications, IIE staff conducts extensive research on appropriate academic programs, taking into consideration each student's study objectives and academic goals, student competitiveness, specific priorities established within the home country, and the goals and objectives of the Fulbright Program as a whole.

IIE's placement specialists work with the full range of U.S. colleges and universities, applying to a variety of institutions for admission and financial aid on behalf of each student. During this application phase, IIE strives to introduce Fulbright foreign students to the breadth of U.S. higher-education opportunities, and works to ensure a balance in the types and locations (e.g., private/public, rural/urban) of the institutions chosen. As a result, Fulbright foreign students achieve a university acceptance rate that is far higher than the norm among university applicants.

3.4. Awards

There is a wide range in the U.S. dollar value of awards paid to Fulbright foreign graduate students. For many countries, a Fulbright award consists of an up-front cash payment ranging from \$10,000 to \$17,000, for the first year of study only. Many other countries have a "full-grant" policy, where the Commission or the Embassy pays the balance of costs for the candidate, which can range up to \$40,000 or more. Grants can be renewed for up to three years of funding.

4. ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

The State Department provides substantial support to Fulbright grantees through IIE and other cooperating agencies to ensure that grantees achieve the Program's objectives. This support takes the form of orientation and English-language programs, Fulbright Enrichment Seminars, Professional Enhancement Grants, and other enrichment activities.

4.1. Orientation and English-Language Programs

Before beginning formal U.S. academic study, Fulbrighters from other countries are offered orientation and English-language programs designed to provide entering students with acculturation to the academic and social environment of the United States. This is especially important in such fields as law and economics, for which the demands of U.S. graduate training are intense. These programs, organized and facilitated by IIE, are held at designated university campuses from coast to coast. Students are assigned to them in a way that ensures distribution of talent across the country. In 2003, some 40 percent of Fulbright foreign students participated in such pre-academic training.

4.2. Fulbright Enrichment Seminars

The Fulbright Enrichment Seminars for first-year fellows are key features of the Fulbright experience. Funded by the State Department and supported by other U.S. partners, the seminars the majority of grantees in each incoming 1,400-student cohort.

The 3- to 4-day seminars, held off-campus in seven U.S. cities over a 3-month period, focus on critical issues relevant to American society that also resonate with issues of global concern. Approximately 180 students from all world areas, representing the broadest possible range of fields and affiliations, participate in each Enrichment Seminar, where they have an opportunity to interact with U.S. leaders and engage in discussions reflecting a variety of perspectives on the issues at hand. Recently returned U.S. Fulbrighters participate as well, serving as peer mentors to their colleagues from abroad.

4.3. Professional Enhancement Grants

The State Department also supports a small number of Professional Enhancement Grants. These are available to Fulbright foreign students after they have completed one semester of study, and are intended to foster their professional development by giving them funding to participate in a professional conference or event, or undertake travel or research pertinent to their field of study.

4.4. Additional Activities

Additional enrichment seminars and other opportunities are organized throughout the year with the assistance of the IIE regional centers. As an example, IIE worked with the American Management Association (AMA) to offer cost-fee tuition at AMA professional seminars across the United States. Fifty-four Fulbright foreign grantees took advantage of this opportunity in 2003.

In 2003, IIE undertook a major new enrichment activity in cooperation with the United Nations Foundation. Nineteen Fulbright foreign grantees completing their academic programs at U.S. universities were selected for 6-month internships at UN departments in New York, Nairobi, Bangkok, and Geneva.

IIE also engages a range of volunteers, as well as staff, working in New York City and regional locations to enhance the experience of Fulbright foreign students and scholars through free cultural programs, primary and secondary school-visit programs, host family stays, and social and professional activities involving both Fulbrighters and Americans from all walks of life. For instance, IIE's Cultural Affairs Desk in New York City annually distributes 6,000 tickets to theatrical and musical performances and art exhibitions to Fulbrighters resident in, or traveling through, the city.

5. FOREIGN STUDENT PROGRAM GRADUATES

Many alumni of the Fulbright Foreign Student Program have assumed leadership roles in fields as diverse as economics, diplomacy, music, business, science, law, and academia. Notable alumni achievements in the year 2002 alone include the following:

Fernando Berguido of Panama (University of California, 1987) serves as President and founding member of Panama's Transparency International. He was appointed by the President of the Republic of Panama to a national "Commission of Truth" to investigate the disappearance and execution of people during Panama's military dictatorship and was selected to be the moderator for the first Presidential debates to be held after the period of military dictatorship for the 1994 Presidential election.

Dr. Hans Blix of Sweden (Columbia University School of Law, 1954) served as Chief Weapons Inspector for the United Nations Monitoring, Verification, and Inspection Commission. He was the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency from 1981 to 1997. Dr. Blix began his career at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Costa Cacoyiannis of Cyprus (Lawrence University, 1992) collaborated with Kerry Kennedy Cuomo and the film director Michael Cacoyiannis for the Amnesty International production of *Voices Beyond the Dark*. Cacoyiannis has won a number of major international competitions for film scoring. From 1994 to 1998, he was the musical director of Diastatis, one of Cyprus' contemporary ballet/theater companies.

Patricia Cardoso of Colombia (UCLA, 1987) won the 2002 Audience Award for Best Dramatic Film at the Sundance Film Festival for her movie, *Real Women Have Curves*. She also won first prize in the drama category at the 23rd Annual Student Academy Award Competition in 1996.

Sir Kenneth Keith of New Zealand (Harvard Law School, 1965) has served as a Judge of Appeal in New Zealand since 1996. He also serves in Samoa, the Cook Islands, Niue, and Fiji. He previously sat on the Privy Council in London and is an international arbitrator.

Asher Koriat of Israel (University of California at Berkeley, 1965) received the 2002 Israeli Prize, the highest civilian award in Israel. Also that year, he was elected to the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities. Koriat is Professor of Psychology, as well as Director of the Institute of Information Processing and Decision-Making, at the University of Haifa.

Dr. Masatoshi Koshiha of Japan (University of Rochester, 1953) was named one of three 2002 Nobel Prize Laureates in Physics. Dr. Koshiha is Professor *Emeritus* at the University of Tokyo. He is noted for his accomplishments in cosmic-ray and high-energy physics.

Dr. Franklin Larey (South African Fulbright Student at the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, 1986) was appointed Director of the University of Cape Town's South African College of Music, becoming the first Black director in the school's 92-year history. Larey is considered one of the leading classical pianists in South Africa, and in 2002 was in the United States on a Fulbright Scholar grant.

Dr. Victoria Onu of Nigeria (Florida International University, 1997) is a senior lecturer at Nigeria's Department of Educational Foundations. While on her Fulbright grant, she undertook a study of the gifted child, and her research findings guided her compassionate venture to help the economically disadvantaged gifted children of Nigeria. In 1999, she co-founded the Shalom Academy, a co-educational secondary school for gifted and talented students in a region of the country where children cannot normally afford to attend school.

Ricardo Rueda Pereira of Nicaragua (Fulbright Student, 1987) has coordinated a partnership between the University of Missouri and his home institution, the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Nicaragua-Leon. This partnership led to the discovery of 125 new examples of tropical flora (all of which will be tested for their medicinal qualities) to be added to the Meso-American Botanic Register.

Dr. Chakravarath Ranagarajan of India (University of Pennsylvania, 1960) currently serves as Chairman of the Twelfth Finance Commission of the Government of India. He has also served as the governor of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and the Reserve Bank of India. His awards include the Madras Management Association's Businessman of the Year and the 2002 Wharton Alumni Award.

Leif Segerstam of Finland (The Juilliard School of Music, 1963) is the Chief Conductor of the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra. He was recently appointed the conductor of a concert commemorating the 50th anniversary of Finland's Fulbright Alumni Association.

Dr. Pablo Valenzuela of Chile (Northwestern University, 1969) received the 2002 National Award in Applied Science and Technology for his lifelong dedication to the advancement of science for the benefit of human health. His achievements include the development of the vaccine for hepatitis B. Under Dr. Valenzuela's direction, scientist cloned and sequenced the HIV genome and discovered the virus for hepatitis C. He currently teaches and leads research at the University of Chile.

Barbara Weitgruber of Austria (University of Illinois at Chicago, 1986) was appointed Director General for Scientific Research and International Science Affairs at the Austrian Ministry of Education, Science, and Culture—he first woman to be appointed to this position. She has served on the Board of the Austria-American Educational Commission since 1998.

Other notable alumni of the Fulbright Foreign Student Program include the following:

- Andreas Becholsheim of Germany: Senior Vice President and General Manager, Cisco Systems; Co-Founder, Sun Microsystems
- Carl August Fleischhauer of Germany: judge, International Court of Justice
- Kul Chandra Gautam of Nepal: Deputy Director, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

- Riccardo Giacconi of Italy: Nobel Laureate, Physics
- Tomeo Kambayashi of Japan: Chairman, NTT Data Corporation
- Salma Khan of Bangladesh: Divisional Chief (women's affairs), Ministry of Planning
- Alan MacDiarmid of New Zealand: Nobel Laureate, Chemistry
- Carlo Rubbia of Italy: Nobel Laureate, Physics
- Min Weifang of China: Executive Vice President, Beijing University
- Baroness Shirley Williams of the United Kingdom: Member of Parliament, House of Lords

6. FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING ASSISTANT PROGRAM

The Fulbright Foreign Student Program is complemented by the Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Program, which incorporates a new Strategic Language Initiative.

The FLTA program provides an opportunity for young foreign teachers to refine their teaching skills, increase their English language proficiency, and extend their knowledge of the cultures and customs of the United States while strengthening the instruction of foreign languages at U.S. colleges and universities. The FLTA program is funded by the U.S. Department of State and administered by IIE.

Fulbright FLTA Fellows are young teachers or graduate students from around the world who are selected by Fulbright Commissions or the Public Affairs Section of U.S. embassies through merit-based competitions in their countries. Applicants must be fluent in English, should possess a university degree at the beginning of the program, and must be between 21 and 29 years old at the time of application.

FLTA applicants must demonstrate maturity, dependability, integrity, and professionalism. They are also expected to demonstrate leadership skills, the ability to motivate language learners, and an interest in representing their societies in American communities. During the academic year, FLTA Fellows are invited to participate in special Fulbright workshops and the Fulbright Enrichment Seminars.

In 2002, IIE launched a Strategic Language Initiative intended both to foster the study of the languages and cultures of the Islamic world in the United States, and to provide young teachers of English from designated countries with a deeper knowledge of the United States and enhance their ability to teach American language and culture in their

home countries. FLTA Fellows are now teaching Arabic, Bengali, Bahasa Indonesian, Hindi, Persian, Swahili, Turkish, and Uzbek at a wide range of U.S. colleges and universities. Some 60 teaching assistants from Islamic countries began their Fulbright programs in August 2003. IIE estimates that up to 100 FLTA Fellows in strategic languages can be placed in the next academic year.

7. FURTHER INFORMATION

For additional information about the Fulbright Foreign Student Program generally, contact:

Institute of International Education
809 United Nations Plaza
New York, New York 10017-3580
Telephone: 212-883-8200
Online: www.iie.org/fulbright

For additional information concerning the operation of the Fulbright Foreign Student Program in Latin America and the Caribbean, contact:

LASPAU
25 Mt. Auburn Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138
Telephone: 617-495-5255
Online: www.laspau.harvard.edu

For additional information concerning the operation of the Fulbright Foreign Student Program in the Middle East and North Africa, contact:

AMIDEAST
Suite 1100
1730 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
Telephone: 202-776-9600
Online: www.amideast.org

Information about all aspects of the Fulbright Program may also be obtained from the U.S. Department of State:

Office of Academic and Exchange Programs
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
U. S. Department of State, SA-44
Room 234
301 4th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20547
Telephone: 202-619-4360

Fax: 202-401-5914

Online: exchanges.state.gov/education/fulbright.