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FULBRIGHT STUDENT PROGRAM  
EXTERNAL RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:  
Leslie Anderson  
Institute of International Education  
202-326-7704  
landerson@iie.org

**FULBRIGHT STUDENT PROGRAM GROOMS NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS  
IN AMERICA AND ABROAD**

WASHINGTON (2003) – For more than 56 years, the U.S. Government-sponsored Fulbright Student Program has prepared the next generation of diplomats, businesspeople, scientists, artists and academics in the U.S. and abroad for leadership in a truly global environment.

Fulbright student grants aim to increase mutual understanding among nations through educational and cultural exchange while serving as a catalyst for long-term leadership development. Designed to give recent graduates, postgraduate candidates, and developing professionals and artists opportunities for international experience, cultural immersion and personal enrichment, the Fulbright Program encourages grantees to open pathways of international communication and cooperation with the citizens of their host countries.

The **U.S. Student Program** equips future American leaders with the skills they need to thrive in an increasingly global environment by providing funding for one academic year of career-launching study or research abroad, usually to be conducted after graduation from an accredited university. (Applicants lacking a degree but with extensive professional study and/or experience in fields in which they wish to pursue a project may also be considered.) Applicants undergo a rigorous merit-based selection process based on the applicant's academic or professional record, language preparation, the feasibility of the proposed study project and personal qualifications.

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Fulbright Student Program  
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Successful U.S. applicants utilize their grants to undertake self-designed programs in disciplines ranging from social sciences, business, communication and performing arts to physical sciences, engineering and education. The U.S. Student Program awards approximately 1000 grants annually and currently operates in over 140 countries worldwide.

The **Foreign Student Program** provides funding for approximately 1400 foreign students from 140 countries to study at U.S. campuses each year. Foreign students interested in applying for a Fulbright grant must be nominated by the official binational Fulbright Commissions or binational panels established at U.S. embassies in their home countries. Successful candidates are then selected for participation by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Financial support is provided by an annual appropriation from Congress to the Department of State and by participating governments and by host institutions in the United States and abroad. The presidentially appointed J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board formulates policy guidelines and makes the final selection of all grantees.

The Institute of International Education administers and coordinates the activities relevant to the U.S. Student Program, including an annual competition for the scholarships.

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