

Opening Minds to the World

The Fulbright Educational Exchange Program

The Fulbright Educational Exchange Program is administered by the Institute of International Education on behalf of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Embassies and Fulbright Commissions abroad. Fulbright, which has an unparalleled global reputation for excellence, draws students, faculty and professionals from some 140 countries to the U.S. and sends their U.S. counterparts overseas.

The Fulbright Student Program is a long-term investment, assuring that competitively selected students from around the world — many destined to become the leaders of their countries — have the opportunity to benefit from the U.S. education system. Fulbright ensures that mutual understanding becomes part of the life experience of the scholarship recipients who combine education and career enhancement with the sense of values and responsibilities serious leadership requires. The program also broadens cultural horizons and opens the participants' minds to the world, enabling them to think globally. U.S. student applicants for the program are selected through an open, merit based competition from the broadest pool of candidates possible. Those selected to participate in the Fulbright U.S. Student Program pursue graduate studies or conduct independent or collaborative research in countries throughout the world, bringing an international component back to the institutions where they work and communities in which they reside.

Through the Fulbright Program, approximately 900 students from the U.S. are sent abroad each year, while some 1,300 foreign students come to U.S. campuses.

IIE's academic networks enable it to arrange appropriate university placement, negotiate and administer cost sharing, including tuition abatement, and provide effective supervision of program participants. Through its nationwide network of offices, IIE also develops and conducts a variety of activities to enhance the Fulbright experience for both students and scholars. These include leadership convocations and round-table discussions, enrichment seminars and a variety of cultural activities.

The Institute responded quickly to new opportunities for U.S. students and young professionals under Fulbright sponsorship as the Department of State created new programs in Ukraine and China for U.S. Fellows. The group of Fulbright students to Ukraine joined their faculty colleagues and a contingent of Fulbrighters to Russia and Eastern Europe in Washington for orientation prior to their departure to Kiev. In the past year, IIE has provided on the ground support to the Fulbright Program in Ukraine and Russia through new cooperative agreements, which IIE won in open competition. Like the assistance IIE has provided to new Fulbright activities in Vietnam and China, our work in Russia and Ukraine is designed to assist these developing Fulbright Programs with basic administrative, management and financial services as they work to become self sufficient in challenging transitional environments.

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For Fulbright students coming from abroad, IIE arranges appropriate university placement, negotiates and administers cost sharing, and provides effective supervision. It also conducts a variety of activities to enhance the Fulbright experience.



The Fulbright Scholar Program, administered by the Institute's Council for International Exchange of Scholars, brings some 800 academics and professionals from abroad each year to U.S. campuses and, acting through peer review panels, selects approximately 800 U.S. scholars to teach and conduct research overseas.

In April of this year, IIE launched the Fulbright Alumni Initiatives Awards Program which offers grants to former U.S. senior scholar Fulbrighters to support projects that continue work and partnerships initiated while they were abroad. IIE has established a Fulbright Legacy Fund with a \$2.5 million endowment to provide enrichment activities that add value to the Fulbright experience. The C.V. Starr Foundation has also generously committed \$1 million to the fund. Proceeds from that fund, plus additional monies contributed by the U.S. Department of State, support the Alumni Initiatives Awards.

Among the 24 projects supported by the program this year is the development of a course in international contracting law which will be jointly offered by the University of Washington and the University of Tokyo Law Schools. Another is a global medicine initiative that will link the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School with the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences and various government-run primary care sites in India. Other initiatives involve distance learning, conservation policy, business and e-commerce course development, and public health training.

BRONWEN FORBAY IS A FULBRIGHT STUDENT FROM DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA, STUDYING CLASSICAL VOICE AT THE MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC. IN NOMINATING HER FOR THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM, ONE OF HER INSTRUCTORS NOTED THAT "BRONWEN HAD OUTGROWN THE TRAINING AVAILABLE IN AFRICA" AND NEEDED THE EXPOSURE THAT FULBRIGHT WOULD OFFER TO REALIZE HER FULL POTENTIAL.

FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR DR. RACHEL HUNTER IN HER LABORATORY IN BANGKOK THAILAND, WHERE SHE IS PURSUING HER STUDIES AND RESEARCH.



SUPRANEE JONGDEEPAISARL IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST WITH THAILAND'S MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT, WHERE SHE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR REGULATING AND MONITORING HAZARDOUS WASTE. SHE HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH THE UNITED STATES ASIA ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP (US-AEP) AND IIE'S ENVIRONMENTAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM SINCE 1996, RECEIVING TRAINING ON EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND CHEMICAL TRACKING AND SOIL REMEDIATION. SHE RECENTLY ATTENDED A COURSE ON RISK ASSESSMENT CONDUCTED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY IN ATLANTA. THE TRAINING INCLUDES CLASSROOM PRESENTATIONS, HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE, SITE VISITS AND INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH PRACTITIONERS.