

Creating Mutual Understanding

NEED

To promote dialogue and understanding between the U.S. and the world.

SOLUTIONS

Sending promising American leaders abroad and bringing the most talented international citizens to the U.S., the Fulbright Program makes U.S. diplomacy a person-to-person effort, one student, one scholar at a time.

The Fulbright Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), is a uniquely effective form of public diplomacy that enables participants from every cultural, ethnic, and economic background to create ties of understanding and respect between the United States and other countries.

Flexible and Dynamic

The Fulbright programs for U.S. and foreign students and scholars, together with the Humphrey Fellowships, form a family of specialized bi-national exchanges that comprise the U.S. Department of State's Fulbright Program. Over the last 60 years, the Fulbright Program has become our nation's flagship program of educational exchange, currently making grants to nearly 6,000 students and scholars from across the U.S. and more than 150 countries each year.

Over 1,200 U.S. students, a diverse array of rising leaders in all fields from nearly 300 universities, received Fulbright grants to study, teach or conduct research overseas, while Fulbright grants supported 2,600 foreign students on U.S. campuses.

Approximately 1,300 U.S. scholars and 780 foreign scholars received Fulbright grants to lecture, conduct research, or do a combination of both. These exceptional scholars took part in the many opportunities offered by the Fulbright Scholar Program, including the traditional U.S. and Visiting Scholar

Programs, the New Century Scholars Program, the Scholars-in-Residence Program, and the shorter-term Senior Specialists and Visiting Specialists Programs.

Working in partnership with ECA, Fulbright Commissions, and U.S. Embassies around the world, IIE's Council for the International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) and IIE's Student Exchanges department have implemented new program components to adapt the program quickly to meet the priorities of a dynamic and rapidly changing world. In 2005, IIE and CIES assisted ECA in launching targeted new initiatives in critical countries such as Pakistan, Turkey, Indonesia and Brazil, expanding efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, and maintaining strong ongoing programs in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Western Hemisphere.

Communicating Across Borders

Two Fulbright student programs focus on bridging language barriers around the globe by introducing native speakers into the classrooms. The Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Program was at the forefront of language instruction this year. More than 200 FLTAs were awarded grants to teach their 19 native languages at 136 colleges and universities in 43 states. Meanwhile, the Fulbright English Teaching Assistants Program, which sends American college graduates on teaching assignments abroad, expanded to enable nearly 300 American students to teach in 18 countries.

Strengthening U.S.-Muslim World Ties

To expand American understanding of Islamic societies and cultures, the Fulbright Visiting Specialists Program: Direct Access to the Muslim World brings specialists from countries with significant Muslim populations to U.S. colleges and universities. These specialists engage their host institutions and local communities through presentations and classes, providing a direct and personal introduction to Islamic societies and cultures.

Through the Islamic Civilization Initiative, American students study Islamic theology, history, and culture in countries with significant Muslim communities. These awards emphasize language study—enabling Americans to interact more closely with local communities and to research more effectively in critical areas.

Fulbright Students from Iraq, the Philippines, Latvia, Nigeria, Spain, Laos, Vietnam, and South Africa gathered at IIE's New York headquarters to discuss the challenges of leadership outlined in A Time for Heroes with its author, Institute Trustee Robert L. Dilenschneider (not shown).

www.fulbrightonline.org



The Fulbright Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), is the U.S. government's premier international exchange program.

IMPACT

Fulbright fellowships have enabled some 275,000 students, scholars, and professionals to study, research, and teach worldwide.



Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants from Nigeria Olugbenga Adebola—University of Memphis; Umar Ahmed—Indiana University

The FLTA Program enables young English teachers from overseas to refine their teaching skills and broaden their knowledge of American society while strengthening foreign language instruction on U.S. campuses. While teaching Hausa in Memphis, Olugbenga also led an African drama troupe, served as the host M.C. at African Night, and spoke at local churches. “Apart from the fact that the average American thinks of my continent as a place where we still have elephant- or rhino-drawn taxis, I found a genuine curiosity, among the people I met, to know more about my country and culture.”

Fulbright Visiting Scholar from Jordan Samer Abu Libdeh—Executive Director, Interaction Forum for Development

With his research at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy and on Capitol Hill, freelance reporter Samer Abu Libdeh plans to develop projects fostering the Arab-Israeli peace process as well as provide analysis on public policy opinions in Jordan and the Arab world. During International Education Week, the Fulbright Scholar, who has a Congressional Fellowship sponsored by Fulbright and the American Political Science Association, expanded on his efforts in promoting democracy and human rights awareness in Jordan by speaking with journalism students at T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria, Virginia. “Young journalists, be they Americans or non-Americans, should be exposed to different news-making processes in other parts of the world, especially the Middle East.”



Fulbright U.S. Student to Mexico: U.S.-Mexico Business Relations Kari Filerman—MBA Student, Pepperdine University

“The Fulbright Binational Business Grant has allowed me to understand the complex economic environment connecting the United States with our very important neighbor to the south,” says Kari Filerman, who is specializing in cross-border mergers and acquisitions as an analyst at Grupo Financiero Banorte, Mexico’s fifth-largest financial institution. In addition to studying Mexican companies, Kari joins other U.S. and Mexican students in traveling through Mexico and learning about the country’s cultural heritage.

Fulbright U.S. Scholar to Botswana Lisa Lopez Levers—Assistant Professor of Education, Duquesne University

In addition to teaching graduate courses in Botswana, Professor Levers worked with towns and villages to develop community-based services for children affected by HIV/AIDS, especially for the over 120,000 children who have been orphaned, to help them deal with trauma, loss, and bereavement. “The sooner we intervene with children at risk, the greater the possibility becomes that we might prevent serious problems later in life. If I can assist in preventing such damage, pain, and suffering, then I feel that I may have contributed something.”

