



Temple has been a
top Fulbright producer
five times!



Fulbright US Student Program

Scholar Development and Fellowships Advising

Barbara Gorka, Director

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All photos in this presentation are of Temple Fulbright recipients



The Fulbright Program

Program Goal

This is at the heart of the Fulbright. Strong applicants are able to weave the idea of cultural exchange into as many aspects of their Fulbright as possible

Our mission is to foster mutual understanding between nations, advance knowledge across communities, and improve lives around the world

History and Administration

- ➡ Created in 1946 by U.S. Congress
- ➡ Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)
- ➡ U.S. Student Program administered in the U.S. by IIE
- ➡ Administered overseas by bi-national Commissions and U.S. Embassies



The Fulbright U.S. Student Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government and administered by the Institute of International Education.



Fulbright U.S. Student Eligibility

Open
to:

- Graduating seniors
- Recent graduates
- Graduate students
- Early career professionals, including creative and performing artists/musicians

"Recent graduates" usually means within about 5-7 years of graduating

Basic Eligibility

- U.S. citizen by the application deadline]
- Bachelor's degree or equivalent by start of grant
- No doctorate at the time of application
- Country-specific requirements

Notice that there is no GPA requirement. The range for our recent recipients is 3.4-4.0





Program Award Types

You can apply for only one country and one program per cycle. The number of awards varies from year to year but tends to be in this range.

1,800+
Awards

140+
Countries Worldwide

A. Study/Research Grant

Independent research, study (graduate degree grant), or arts projects abroad



800+

Awards



6-12

Months



~140

Countries

★ [List of countries](#) that offer the graduate degree route

B. English Teaching Assistantship (ETA)

Help teach English and U.S. culture in the classroom



1,000+

Awards



8-10

Months



~75

Countries

★ Check out these [regional ETA grids](#) for a quick overview of your options

There are 3 common paths for study/research grants:

- 1) An original research or arts project
- 2) A graduate degree grant
- 3) A combination of research and courses taken as a non-degree student

Art applicants follow one of these paths



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Award Benefits



Timothy, India Research

Pre-Grant & In-Country

- ✦ Round-trip airfare
- ✦ Monthly stipend*
- ✦ Accident and sickness benefits
- ✦ Other **possible** benefits*
 - Support for dependents
 - Research allowance
 - Tuition
 - Language lessons
 - Enhancement activities
 - Disability-related accommodations

** Varies depending on grant and host country.*

Post-Grant

- ✦ The Fulbright network of alumni
- ✦ State Department's alumni website
- ✦ Eligible for 12 months of noncompetitive eligibility (NCE) hiring status within the federal government
- ✦ Lifetime Fulbright email address
- ✦ Fulbright Association





Question Break 1

Approximately how many Fulbright US Student Program awards are offered in a typical cycle?

How many countries can you apply to in one cycle?

How many times has Temple appeared on the Fulbright Top Producing Institutions list?

What's the GPA requirement for eligibility?





Question Break 1, Responses

Approximately how many Fulbright US Student Program awards are offered in a typical cycle?

+/-1,800

How many countries can you apply to in one cycle? ONE

How many times has Temple appeared on the Fulbright Top Producing Institutions list? FIVE

What's the GPA requirement for eligibility? NO GPA requirement





Factors in Selection

- ▶ Quality and feasibility of the proposal
- ▶ Academic or professional record
- ▶ Personal qualifications
- ▶ Language preparation
- ▶ Preference factors as established by Foreign Fulbright Scholarship Board
- ▶ Extent to which the candidate and the project will help to advance the Fulbright Program goals
- ▶ Requirements of the program in individual countries

Do you have sufficient experience to do what you're proposing? **For the ETA**, what sort of teaching/tutoring experience do you have? **For research and study**, what past coursework and research experiences prepare you for your Fulbright project? Finally, even if language is not required, do you have a plan to learn it before and during your Fulbright?



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Maggie, Nigeria Research



Other Considerations

- How does the Fulbright fit in as a critical component of your academic and career trajectory, both leading up to AND after the Fulbright?
- Why (country)? In other words, why do you need to have this experience in Spain, Poland, Macau, or (fill in the blank)?
- Community engagement. How will you fulfill the Fulbright mission of increased cultural understanding through exchange?

Connect the dots of your life (particularly your academic and career trajectory). How have these experiences prepared and motivated you for the Fulbright? How will you build on the Fulbright after you return to the US?

Strive for a multi-pronged rationale. Reflect deeply on your coursework, the placement (for ETAs), other connections to the country (like study abroad, family heritage, etc), your research itself, and (for grad degrees) the nature of the grad program.

All Fulbright applicants—regardless of the type of grant—must present their ideas for how they're going to engage with their host community outside of their research, studies, or teaching. Keep it simple!



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Rachel, Spain ETA



Application Components

1. Basic Personal Data & Program Information

- Includes an Abstract

2. Essays

- Statement of Grant Purpose
 - Research/Study (6,000 characters with spaces *max*)
 - English Teaching Assistantship (3,000 characters *max*)
- Series of short essays
 - Flexibility and Adaptability, Community Engagement, Impact of Fulbright

3. Reports / References

- Foreign Language Evaluation
- Three (3) References
- Campus Committee Evaluation

Three letters (or forms, for the ETA) are required. They are typically academic in nature for research/study grants, and a combination for ETAs (at least one should be from someone who has seen you teach/tutor)

4. Transcripts

5. Other

- **Research/Study/Arts: Affiliation Letter(s)**
- **Arts: Supplementary Materials**



Elizabeth Rose, Poland Arts (Printmaking)

Research and Arts students must find a mentor at a host institution abroad (usually at a university). Grad degree applicants are encouraged to look for a faculty member in their proposed program who could serve as an advisor. The mentor/advisor then prepares an "affiliation letter." This is not as daunting as it might seem! Come to a workshop or meet with us to discuss.



The Power
of International
Education

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us.fulbrightonline.org

Temple University Application Timeline, Part I

- **Early April 2026:** Fulbright competition anticipated opening for 2027-2028 academic year. Create an account in the [Fulbright application portal](#). This is a recommended (not required) deadline.
- **May and June 2026:** Brainstorm and **begin to write**. Attend a Temple Fulbright Workshop. Have a draft? Meet with Fellowships Advising to review. Speak to letter writers. For Research/Study/Arts students, start exploring possible mentors abroad. Do some cyber sleuthing and communicate with past/current recipients. These are strong recommendations, not requirements.
- **June 15, 2026:** Draft 1 Target. Submit a draft of your Statement of Grant Purpose for review by Fellowships Advising. This is a recommended (not required) deadline. **As soon as you have drafted your Statement of Grant Purpose, you become eligible to be matched with a campus or alumni Fulbright mentor.**
- **June 30, 2026:** Upload “unofficial official” transcripts to the Fulbright application portal. This is a recommended (not required) deadline.
- **July to early August 2026:** Draft 2 Target. Continue to submit drafts of your Statement of Grant Purpose (and Personal Statement, if you have it). This is a recommended (not required) deadline.

Temple University Application Timeline, Part II

- **August 6, 2026:** Final date to be matched with a Fulbright mentor (a Temple Fulbright alum, staff member or faculty member who will provide feedback on your essays)
- **September 6, 2026:** Official campus deadline for Temple applicants (students and alumni). The application, including all supporting documents, must be in the Fulbright on-line application system. Be sure to give your references this deadline, not the national deadline. Must also complete the Temple Waiver. This is a required deadline.
- **September/October 2026:** Campus Conversations. The campus committee will evaluate your application based on a review of your materials and a 20-minute conversation (interview). The committee completes a campus evaluation, which is submitted with your application. You will be able to revise your Fulbright application as much as you would like after your interview, up until the national deadline.
- **October 6, 2026:** National Deadline

Note that most competitive applicants have written **5-8 drafts by the national deadline**. My target draft dates above should be seen as a minimum; strive to prepare more.



Question Break 2

When do we recommend that you begin to draft your essays?

When is the required campus deadline?

When is the national deadline?

When are letters of recommendation due and how many do you need?

How many total drafts do competitive candidates typically prepare before the national deadline?





Question Break 2, Responses

When do we recommend that you begin to draft your essays? May or June

When is the required campus deadline? September 6, 2026

When is the national deadline? October 6, 2026

When are letters of recommendation due and how many do you need? The campus deadline in September. We need three letters (or forms, for the ETA).

How many total drafts do competitive candidates typically prepare before the national deadline?
5-8



Tips to Become More Competitive, Part I

- **Language.** If you haven't already done so, start studying the primary language of your proposed host country, even if language proficiency isn't required.
 - Self-study
 - Temple courses
 - Local college courses near your hometown in the summer
 - Online courses/tutoring (much better than apps like Babbel or Duolingo; I studied German through Lingoda, for example)
- **Teaching and Tutoring Experience (for ETA applicants in particular)**
 - Writing Center (tutors and conversation partners) or other [Student Success Center employment](#)
 - [Diamond Peer Teachers Program](#)
 - [Resnick Academic Support Center](#) tutoring
 - [Mighty Writers](#)
 - Volunteer to teach/assist ESL classes at local organizations like:
 - [Nationalities Service Center](#)
 - [Garces Foundation English for Restaurant Workers](#)
 - [Free Library of Philadelphia](#) ESL Conversation Practice

Student Success Center applications are usually due in early to mid-April for the following academic year. They hire both undergrads and PhD students.

Most of these organizations offer in-person and virtual options. You can gain experience in the virtual classroom, which still counts.

Tips to Become More Competitive, Part II

- **Teaching and Tutoring Experience (for ETA applicants in particular), continued**
 - Here are a few additional online teaching or tutoring opportunities that ETA applicants can explore from any location:
 - Google “Free ESL classes” in X county/city, then reach out. For example, “Free ESL classes in Montgomery County, PA.” Most organizations (non-profits, churches, etc.) that offer FREE courses always need volunteers or interns.
 - [Italki.com](https://www.talki.com/) (we have had an ETA applicant or two who volunteered through Italki).
 - [Here's a list of language-exchange websites](#) (so it's not for employment, but at least this could be a way to gain some experience working with someone who's trying to learn English)
 - [Here's a list of volunteer ESL opportunities online](#)



Dan with his students in Italy, ETA

Tips to Become More Competitive, Part III

- **Connect with past/current recipients**
 - They often have insight into the local Fulbright Commission's priorities
 - They can give you an idea of what a Fulbright is like in that country
- **Gain broad knowledge of your proposed host country**
 - Explore the culture beyond aspects that relate to your project
 - Read about US and world news through your proposed country's media
 - For research/study/arts: Review the scholarship/research (or arts) being done in that country related to your Fulbright project
- **For Research/Study: Gain research experience**
 - For undergraduates: See "Undergraduate Research and Teaching" on our [Find a Fellowship](#) page)
 - Need to write a senior capstone/thesis or any paper for a class? Focus on an issue taking place in your proposed host country.
- **Start early! Don't wait until August to start to write.**
 - Expect to write multiple drafts
 - Seek input from faculty, Fellowships Advising, Writing Center
 - Participate in one of our Fulbright Workshops in late spring/early summer



Marlise, Germany Research

— Tips from Past Applicants

- “Create a schedule and stick to it! Do a little work each week and you’ll feel much better once it’s time to submit and you haven’t had to cram.”
- “Attend the info-sessions, communicate with your (prospective) advisor (abroad), do your due diligence and research your intended host country to stay updated on current events as they relate to your academic and career goals.”
- “Start early!” (***probably the most common piece of advice we hear***)
- “Get that first draft out the way, the hardest part is starting. Once you start, you get in flow and clarity comes as time goes on.”
- “My advice would be to not put too much pressure on your first draft being good. My strategy was to just essentially brain dump anything onto the page that came to mind and work with what I thought was a good idea.”
- “Do an intake assessment of the strengths of your career + academic experience before starting to draft applications, so that you have a clear idea of where to highlight and where you might need development.”
- “Write as many drafts as possible!”
- “Work with other candidates— it makes the process more enjoyable and beneficial to have others to share the experience with and bounce ideas off of.”



Jada, Mauritius Research

Search for Alternatives to the Fulbright on our Find a Fellowship page

Sections include:

- For Study in the UK
- Other International Opportunities
- For Current Graduate Students
- English Teaching Abroad
- And more

Have a Plan B!

**Which fellowship fits you best?
Browse the full list on our
Find a Fellowship page!**



Scholar Development and Fellowships Advising

Next Steps

- **Take our [Fulbright Interest Survey](#)** to indicate your interest and to show that you have reviewed these slides or attended a session
- **Brainstorm your Fulbright plans** with us one-on-one. [Schedule an advising](#) appointment through Handshake.
- Use the [Fulbright Award Search](#) feature to narrow down your options.
- Consider who you will ask for letters of reference.
- Research alternatives to the Fulbright on our [Find a Fellowship](#) page
- Take advantage of the resources on [the Fulbright program website](#). Here you can find [application tips](#), [statistics](#), [factors in selection](#), [directory of past grantees](#), as well as other useful information.



Final Questions and Follow-up

- **If you are an alum without a Temple email address**, write to Barbara.Gorka@temple.edu and request instructions on how to maintain your Handshake access (needed to request an appointment)
- **Here are a few of our newsletters and Temple articles that profile our Fulbright recipients:**
 - [Temple Is a Top Fulbright Producer for Fifth Time](#)
 - [11 Temple Students Receive the Fulbright](#)
 - [March 2025 Newsletter](#) (Section on “Experience Fulbright” highlighting current Fulbrighters)
 - [May 2024 Newsletter \(Year in Review\)](#)
 - [February 2024 Newsletter](#) (Section on “Experience Fulbright” highlighting current Fulbrighters)
- **General questions**
 - feladv@temple.edu or barbara.gorka@temple.edu
- **One-on-one Advising** (in person and on Zoom)
 - Schedule [online](#) through Handshake Appointments
- [Fellowships e-newsletter](#)
- [LinkedIn Fellowships Advising Group](#)
- [Fellowships Advising on Instagram](#)

We post announcements of our Fulbright recipients on Instagram, so follow us to learn more about who's doing what. Most of these posts occur from late March through early May.



Kacie Hoagland, Spain ETA

