



FULBRIGHT

U.S. Student Program Information Sheet

For UC Santa Barbara Affiliates

2025-26 Award Cycle

APPLICATION TIMELINE & IMPORTANT DATES

Application Open
Tuesday, April 2, 2024

Fulbright Information Sessions
Monday, May 20, 2024 | 1pm PST | [Register Here](#)
Tuesday, June 18, 2024 | 1pm PST | [Register Here](#)

Individual Advising Appointments
See Application Process section for more information
April through August 2024

UCSB Campus Deadline
Current graduate students only
Wednesday, August 21, 2024

Campus Interviews
Current graduate students only
September 2-12, 2024

National Deadline
Tuesday, October 8, 2024, 2pm Pacific (5pm Eastern)

ABOUT THE FULBRIGHT U.S. STUDENT PROGRAM

Fulbright is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. The **Fulbright U.S. Student Program** is open to students who have earned a Bachelor's degree but not yet earned a doctorate. Applicants must be citizens or nationals of the United States at the time of application; permanent residents are not eligible. (See the website for more information on [eligibility](#).)

The **Fulbright U.S. Student Program** provides grants for individually designed study/research projects or for English Teaching Assistant Programs to take place during one academic year in a participating country outside the U.S. During their grants, Fulbrighters meet, work, live with, and learn from the people of the host country, sharing daily experiences. Through engagement in the community, the individual will interact with their hosts on a one-to-one basis in an atmosphere of openness, academic integrity, and intellectual freedom, thereby promoting mutual understanding. Grant lengths and dates vary by country, so it's important to check the [country profile page](#) for more details.

Applicants to the U.S. Student Program include:

- **Recent graduates** (graduating seniors and recent bachelor's-degree recipients who have some undergraduate preparation and/or direct work or internship experience related to the project)
- **Master's and doctoral candidates** (graduate-level candidates who demonstrate the capacity for independent study or research, together with a general knowledge of the history, culture, and current events of the countries to which they are applying)
- **Young professionals** (including writers, creative and performing artists, journalists, and those in law, business, and other professional fields who have up to 5 years of professional study and/or experience in the field in which they are applying will be considered)

[Click here](#) for more information about eligibility, selection criteria, award benefits, and more.

TYPES OF AWARDS

There are two main types of awards in the Fulbright U.S. Student Program:

Open Study/Research Awards

The Fulbright Study/Research Award is the traditional award opportunity where a candidate designs a proposal for a specific country

English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Awards

The Fulbright English Teaching Assistant programs place grantees in schools overseas to supplement local English language instruction and to provide a native speaker presence in the classrooms

*Please note that the **Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship Program** is administered separately from the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. The Fulbright-Hays competition typically occurs in the winter/spring and the application components and process is quite different from the U.S. Student Program. Check the program website for more information.*

There are also a number of special programs as well:

- Fulbright-National Geographic Storytelling Fellowship
- Critical Language Enhancement Award
- Fulbright-Fogarty Fellowships in Public Health
- Additional country-specific awards with variable criteria

[Click here](#) to learn more about types of awards.

APPLICATION COMPONENTS

There are several core application components for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, with a few differences between types of awards. In addition to completing all required fields, be sure to use all of the space provided to your advantage in order to strengthen the viability of your application. It is also important to not simply reuse material that will appear elsewhere in your application.

1. **Biographical Data** (personal, professional, academic, occupational, extracurricular, etc.)
2. **Program Information** (a summary section covering the basic who, what, when, where, why and how of your project)
3. **Statement of Grant Purpose** (2 pages long for study/research and creative/performing arts grants; 1 page long for ETA grants)
4. **Personal Statement** (1 page long for all applicants)
5. **Affiliation Letter** (for study/research and creative/performing arts applicants only, must be from an educational institution or other sponsoring entity in the host country)
6. **Foreign Language Forms** (variable requirements by country)
7. **Letters of Recommendation** (3 total)
8. **Transcripts** (from all institutions where you received a degree or took any coursework for credit)
9. **Supplementary Materials** (for creative/performing arts applicants only)

For more detailed information and guidance on the application components, visit the [Fulbright website](#).

APPLICATION PROCESS

Depending on the type of award being applied for and the status of the applicant, there are different application processes and resources. **However, ALL applicants should do the following:**

- Students should review the relevant information on the Fulbright website carefully, including information about [application components](#) and the [country profile page](#)
- Students are strongly encouraged to begin their applications early, as it can be time-consuming to secure all of the necessary components and compose a strong application
- Students should sign up to attend one of the two Fulbright Information Sessions for UCSB students (see first page for more info and to register)
- Students are encouraged to attend [webinars](#) that are hosted by the Fulbright commission that cover topics such as a general overview of the program, application tips, information on specific world regions, and interviews with Fulbright alumni
- Students should arrange to have an individual advising appointment with a campus Fulbright advisor by emailing a [Fulbright Program Advisor](#).

See below for more information on specific processes.

For Current UCSB Graduate Students

- Graduate student applicants must submit a complete application, including all letters of recommendation and letter of affiliation, via the [online Fulbright application portal](#) by the **campus deadline of Wednesday, August 21, 2024** (note: it is the responsibility of the applicant to communicate the importance of this deadline to all of their letter writers)

IMPORTANT: Different from years past, students should simply lock their applications in the portal when they are ready for the campus committee to review them. DO NOT CLICK SUBMIT BEFORE YOU ARE READY TO SUBMIT YOUR FINAL APPLICATION AS THIS ACTION CANNOT BE UNDONE.

- Graduate student applicants must participate in the **campus interview process**, which is tentatively scheduled for **September 2-12, 2024** (students will be notified of the exact date and time of their interview slot after the campus deadline)
- **The purpose of the campus deadline and campus interview process is two-fold:** to allow the applicant to get in-depth feedback on their application to ensure it is in line with the goals of the Fulbright program, and to ensure that the campus review committee (comprised of knowledgeable UCSB faculty and staff) has the necessary information to submit the mandatory Campus Committee

APPLICATION PROCESS (CONT.)

For UCSB Undergraduates, Recent Alumni, and ETA Applicants

- Current undergraduates, recent alumni, and applicants to the English Teaching Assistant (ETA) programs are **NOT** required to submit materials by the campus deadline and do not participate in the campus interview process
- For general questions regarding the application process, you can schedule an advising appointment with emailing a [Fulbright Program Advisor](#).
- For support in reviewing application materials, contact [Nick Alward-Saxon](#) (Executive Assistant to the Dean of Undergraduate Education) or the [Campus Learning Assistance Services Writing Lab](#)

TIPS & RESOURCES FOR ALL APPLICANTS



Know the Fulbright mission. Fulbright is a cultural exchange and ambassadorship program, so this should be highlighted in your application. For Study/Research applicants, this means that your project proposal should be framed in a way that highlights the benefits to the host country, not just to building a body of academic knowledge. Also bear in mind that this is not a dissertation grant; there is a separate program for that called the [Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship Program](#).



Research the specifics of the grant you are applying to. It is of the utmost importance that you familiarize yourself with all of the information on the [profile page](#) for the country you are planning to apply to. Every country is different, and there can often be substantial variability in the terms of the grant. Make sure you read all of the country-specific information carefully, as well as ALL of the instructions on the application itself, so that you don't miss any crucial details that could disqualify you.

TIPS & RESOURCES FOR ALL APPLICANTS



Understand what a successful proposal looks like. The [application components section](#) on the Fulbright website has lots of great information and tips to help you understand what they are looking for in an application. Because the length of the Fulbright essays is so short (2-3 pages in total, depending on the type of grant), make sure that you use every space on the application to your advantage and do not repeat material you have used elsewhere. It is also advantageous to consult [previous successful applications from UCSB](#) to get a sense of what has worked well for applicants in the past.

For Study/Research applicants, it can be useful to structure your 2-page Statement of Grant Purpose in the following way:

- ½ page framing the cultural/societal problem your project seeks to address
- ½ page outlining your project methodology
- ½ page detailing the intended goals, outcomes, and results of your project
- ½ page tying your project back to the initial problem statement from the beginning



Know your audience. Your application will be formally reviewed by at least two different groups of people: the Fulbright National Screening Committee (which is composed of faculty at U.S. institutions) and the Fulbright Commission in the host country to which you are applying (which can be comprised of any combination of scholars, diplomats, and other government officials). It is thus important to write for an educated but non-specialist audience, as your application will be read primarily by people who are not in your discipline.

Other Useful Resources

- **[Statistics:](#)**
Find out how many people apply for awards and how many awards are issued for different countries in the three most recent award cycles
- **[Grantee Directory:](#)**
Search for Fulbright alum who have held awards to countries of interest (note: while Fulbright does not publish contact information for Fulbright alum, if you are interested in finding ways to reach out to alum, most are open to connecting and happy to help answer questions about their experience with Fulbright)
- **[Fulbright Webinars:](#)**
The Fulbright Program offers regular webinars throughout the application season that can provide in-depth information and advice on different parts of the process
- **[Alumni Ambassadors:](#)**
Want to connect with a Fulbright alumni? Check out the award profiles of Alumni Ambassadors, who are selected annually, to read their bios, learn about their experience with Fulbright, and to get in touch with them (their email addresses are listed)
- **[Award Search:](#)**
Find out which awards might be a good fit for you by using search filters such as world region, foreign language proficiency, and accepted degree levels