



Introduction to the Fulbright Program

Grants for graduate studies in the United States



What we do

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▸ Fulbright Program

- Administer scholarships for Belgian and Luxembourgish citizens to study, conduct research and/or lecture in the U.S. (graduate and post-academic level)
- Administer the Fulbright Schuman Program for European citizens with research proposals focusing on the EU-US transatlantic agenda

www.fulbright.be

www.fulbrightschuman.eu

▸ EducationUSA

- Promote U.S. higher education
- Provide accurate and unbiased information about study opportunities in

www.educationusa.be

Commission for Educational Exchange
between the United States, Belgium and Luxembourg



Why the United States

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- ▶ More than **4000 colleges** and **1000 universities** that offer programs at the undergraduate and graduate level!
- ▶ **High quality** institutions
- ▶ **Diversity** of options
- ▶ **Flexibility** of study paths and programs
- ▶ Outside of the classroom...
 - Broaden horizons by **travelling** around the fifty states
 - **Improve English** by making friends with Americans
 - **Internationalize resume** through study, research or internships

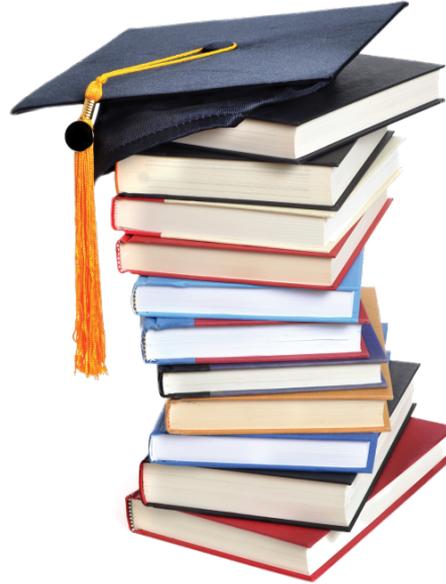


5 Steps to U.S. Study

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- ▶ Research your options
- ▶ Finance your studies
- ▶ Complete your application
- ▶ Apply for your student visa
- ▶ Prepare for your departure

www.educationusa.be



Types of institutions

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PUBLIC UNIVERSITY

- Receive funding from state governments
- Lower tuition rates (especially for in-state students)
- May be larger, with more degree offerings
- End result: bachelor's, master's or PhD degree

PRIVATE UNIVERSITY

- Funded by tuition and private contributions
- Higher tuition rates
- May be smaller, with a more specialized academic focus
- End result: bachelor's, master's or PhD degree

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Public institution that provides an alternative to a four-year college
- Range in size, tends to attract students from local community
- End result: associate's degree
- 2+2 pathway

- **College or university Undergraduate ('undergrad) refers to study for a bachelor's degree**
- **Graduate ('grad school') refers to study for a master's or doctoral degree**



Higher education [structure](#)

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Graduate: Master's and Doctoral Degrees

Dental School DDS (4 years)	Medical School MD (4 years)					PhD (5 years)
		Law School JD (3 years)				
			MBA (2 years)	MA (2 years)	MS (2 years)	

Undergraduate: Bachelor's Degree

College/University (final 2 years Bachelor's Degree)		College/University (4 years Bachelor's Degree)
Community College (2 years Associate's Degree)		



Academic and Social Life

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- ▶ Be prepared to share your opinion in class, professors value **student participation**
- ▶ Expect professors to assign **more assignments** throughout the semester in addition to a midterm and final
- ▶ Students and professors typically have **friendlier relationships** compared to Europe
- ▶ **Sporting events** are a common social outing, especially if your university has an American football team
- ▶ **Parties** are common weekend events, especially on larger campuses with fraternities and sororities
- ▶ Universities have plenty of **clubs** and **organizations** to get involved in, there's something for everyone



Calculating your **expenses**

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▶ **Tuition and fees**

- Cost varies depending on institution (e.g., higher fees at private universities without state funding)
 - No correlation with quality of university
 - Non-degree program often means no tuition but university may charge other fees!
- ▶ Don't forget to account for **living expenses** (e.g., rent, transportation, books), which can vary greatly!



Financing your studies

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- Students usually finance their studies using some combination of the following:
 - Scholarships (based on merit)
 - Financial aid (based on demonstrated need)
 - Student employment
 - Loans
 - Personal and family funds





The Fulbright Program

An overview



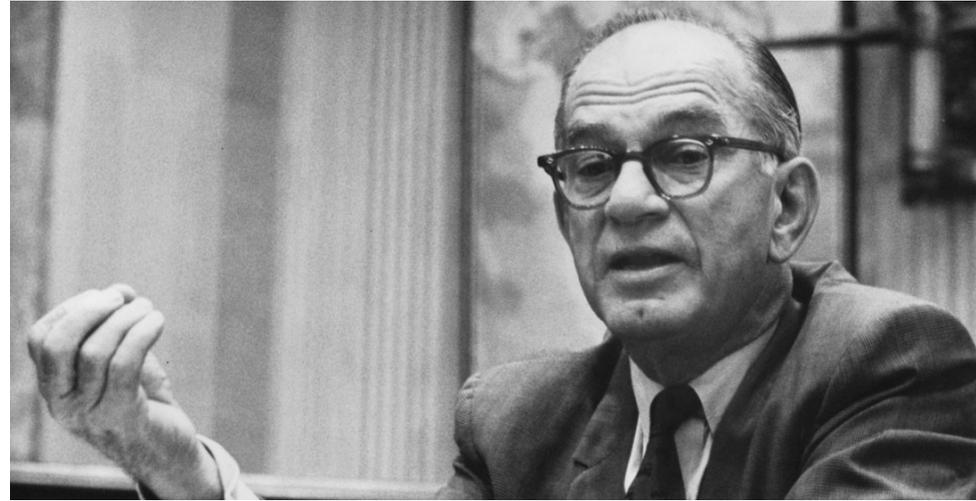
Fulbright Program history

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Flagship international educational exchange program of the U.S. Department of State

- ▶ **1945:** proposal by **Senator J. William Fulbright** for a program with the intention to *'increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and people of other countries' by sending American students and academics to other countries and by bringing foreign students and academics to the United States'*
- ▶ **1946:** Fulbright Program signed into law by **President Harry Truman**
- ▶ **1948:** First exchanges between the U.S. and Belgium
- ▶ **1990:** U.S. and European Union created a pilot program focused on US-EU affairs to be administered out of Brussels (Fulbright Schuman Program)

J. William Fulbright (1905-1995)
- Former United States Senator



Fulbright Program *today*

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- ▶ Led by the United States government in partnership with **more than 160 countries** worldwide, Fulbright offers programs for passionate and accomplished students, scholars, artists, teachers, and professionals of all backgrounds
- ▶ Distinguished by its **global impact** → more than **370.000** Fulbright grantees ... including over 4000 Fulbright Belgium alumni!
- ▶ Fulbright's diverse and **dynamic network** of scholars, alumni and global partners fosters mutual understanding between the United States and partner nations, shares knowledge across communities, and improves lives around the world
- ▶ **Fulbright Commission in Brussels** administers program for Belgian, Luxembourgish and European citizens (via Schuman)



“As a Fulbrighter, you become part of an enormous international group of remarkable people and all of a sudden, the entire world is within your reach.”



Fulbright grants

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Graduate Studies and (Pre)Doctoral Research <i>Students</i>	Post-Doctoral Research and Lecturing <i>Scholars</i>	Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program (FLTA) <i>Young teachers</i>
Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSI) <i>Secondary school teachers Undergraduate students</i>	University of Missouri Journalism Award <i>Professional journalists</i>	Partner Awards <i>Students and scholars</i>



Graduate Studies and (Pre)Doctoral Research (students)

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- ▶ Grants for Belgian and Luxembourgish students to support graduate studies or doctoral research at an accredited U.S. university
- ▶ Grant for min. 4 months and max. 9 months
- ▶ Stipend of up to \$2000 per month
- ▶ This includes:
 - Pursuing a master's degree
 - Pursuing a doctoral degree (PhD)
 - Conducting research before or as part of an ongoing doctoral degree (PhD)
- ▶ Grantees travel to the United States as part of the **Fulbright Foreign Student Program**

Examples:

- *Pursuing a complimentary master's program*
- *Conducting research for a semester as part of an ongoing PhD program in Belgium*



Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program (FLTA)

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- ▶ Intended for recent graduates or young teachers with a background in languages, education, literature, or related fields
- ▶ Teach native language (**Dutch, French or German**) for one academic year at a U.S. college or university
- ▶ Successful candidates are placed in U.S. institutions, where they can receive housing, meals, a monthly stipend and the possibility of following a few courses in addition to their teaching duties
- ▶ Grantees travel to the United States as part of the **Fulbright FLTA Program**

Former Foreign Language Teaching Assistant

“Aside from this unique teaching experience, as a Fulbright FLTA, I was given the opportunity to take courses at my host university. A teaching methodology class helped me learn the ropes of teaching in this new environment, and collaborating with my peers. The other new TAs in the department taught me things about teaching that will surely impact on my classroom practice for years to come.”



Grant benefits

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STUDENTS	SCHOLARS
Scholarship of up to \$2000/month <i>max. 18,000 USD</i>	Scholarship of up to \$3000/month <i>max. 27,000 USD</i>
J-1 visa sponsorship	
Pre-departure orientation in Brussels	
\$1000 travel stipend	
Sickness and accident benefits	
In-country programming (e.g. orientations, seminars, local advisor)	
Prestigious title and access to alumni network	



Eligibility requirements

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- Belgian or Luxembourgish citizenship
- Minimum of a bachelor's degree
- Demonstrated proficiency in English
- Academic excellence or outstanding personal or professional background
- Admission or affiliation with an accredited U.S. university or non-profit research institution
- Remember that applying for a Fulbright grant and to a U.S. institution is a **seperate but simultaneous process!**
- **... and submit a complete application online by December 1 at noon!**

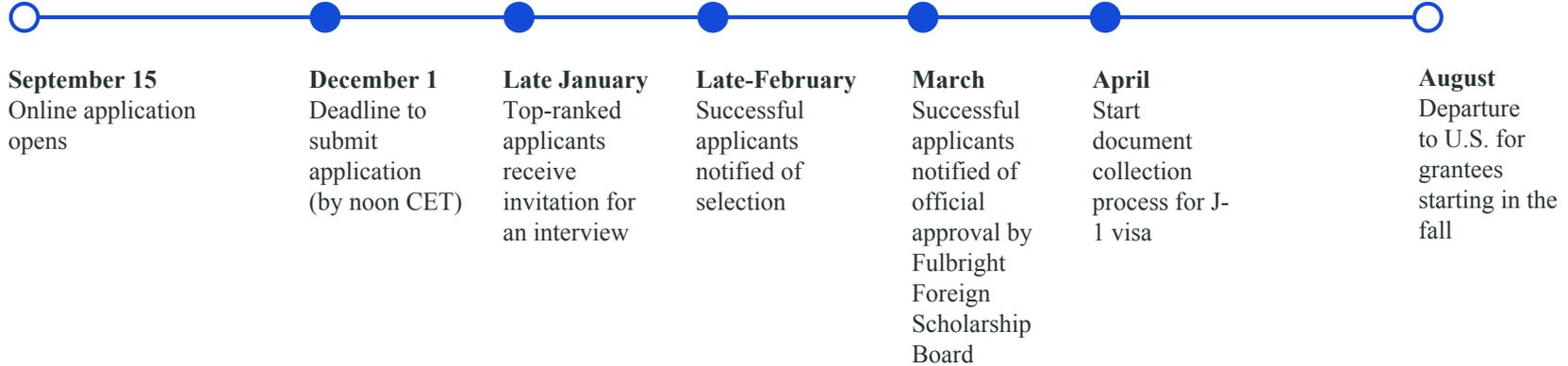


Some grants have other or additional requirements. Make sure to check our website for specific requirements per grant



Application timeline

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All applications are evaluated by our Selections Committee which is composed of Belgian, Luxembourgish and American academia, professionals, government officials, and Fulbright alumni from various fields.



Application components

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STUDENTS	SCHOLARS
Online application	
'Americanized' resume/CV	
Diploma and transcripts from most recent degree	
Three letters of recommendation	
Study or Research Objectives Essay (<i>1 page</i>) Personal Statement Essay (<i>1 page</i>)	Project Statement (<i>3-5 pages</i>) Bibliography of References (<i>1-3 pages</i>)
Letter of admission or affiliation (degree-seeking students can provide admission letter as late as April while student researchers are encouraged to provide affiliation letter by December 1)	Letter of affiliation (by December 1)



Helpful hints on applying

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WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A FULBRIGHTER?

- Remember that the Fulbright Program is all about promoting mutual understanding through **cultural diplomacy**! The most competitive applicants demonstrate **ambassadorial qualities** and a **genuine interest in educational exchange**
- Articulate a **clear, creative, and feasible plan** for your time in the U.S. and explain why this is the right time to go!
- When it comes to a host institution, **fit is more important than prestige**
- ... and finally, we are looking for candidates with **strong motivations** who want to realize their personal and professional goals and ultimately return to their home country to share their knowledge and experiences



Contact us!

**Commission for Educational Exchange
between the United States, Belgium and
Luxembourg**

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