WILLIAMS COLLEGE OFFICE OF FELLOWSHIPS

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THE FULBRIGHT U.S. STUDENT PROGRAM
(http://us.fulbrightonline.org)

We encourage all applicants to visit this website for detailed information about the program. Please keep in mind that each participating country may have different selection criteria and/or program start dates. To apply, register on the website, then contact the Williams Office of Fellowships.

Lynn Chick, Fellowships Coordinator and Katerina (Katya) King, Director of Fellowships, are the Williams College Fulbright Program Advisers (FPAs).

TYPE: Nomination by Williams College is required. Williams may nominate an unlimited number of candidates for the Fulbright grant. Apply as a senior or alum.

PURPOSE: The Institute of International Education (IIE) administers the Fulbright grants and other grants for graduate study abroad provided by foreign governments, universities, and private donors. The purpose of the awards is to increase mutual understanding between the people of the U.S. and other countries through the exchange of persons, knowledge, and skills. Awards are generally given for study, research, or teaching abroad for one academic year, though some travel grants are also offered. More than 150 countries participate in the program. The U.S. Student Program is designed to give recent B.S./B.A. graduates, masters and doctoral candidates, and young professionals, artists and musicians, opportunities for personal development and international experience. Most grantees plan their own programs, which may include university coursework, independent library or field research, professional training in the arts and other fields, assistant English-teaching, or a combination of these or other projects. The majority of awards are for study/research, but opportunities are also available to teach English, in elementary and secondary schools worldwide.

ELIGIBILITY: Refer to the website for exceptions and ineligibility factors. Basic eligibility requirements are:

• U.S. citizenship at the time of application. Permanent residents are not eligible. There are no age restrictions.
• A bachelor's degree earned before the date of the grant. Applicants who have not earned a B.A. degree or the equivalent, but who have extensive professional study and/or experience in fields in which they wish to pursue a project, may be considered.
• Institutional nomination is required for current seniors. Alumni may apply directly, but are encouraged to seek assistance from the Williams College Fulbright Program Adviser.

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• In the creative and performing arts, four years of professional study and/or experience are expected.

• **Proficiency in the written and spoken language** of the host country sufficient to carry out the proposed study. This is especially important for projects in the social sciences and the humanities.

• **Good health.** Grantees will be required to submit a satisfactory Medical Certificate of Health from a physician.

**AWARDS:** Stipends range from travel grants to full grants; awards are generally for one academic year. Special program opportunities also include Fulbright Business Grants, Fulbright Critical Language Enhancement Awards, English Teaching Assistantships, Fulbright Journalism Grants, other Fulbright Country-Specific Awards, and the mtvU Awards (4 awards available for projects around an aspect of international contemporary or popular music as a cultural force for expression) for details see http://fulbright.state.gov/grants/fulbright-mtvu-fellowship. Limitations on subjects for study/research vary from country to country, as does the level of competition, so it is essential that you thoroughly review the program guide listing grants for the country of your choice. Candidates may apply for one country only, and will be considered for all IIE-administered awards to that country for which they are eligible. (In exceptional cases, in some regions, applicants may propose to work in more than one country; see program guide or website for details.) As many as 1,500 awards are given each year; certain numbers and types of awards are designated for each participating country or region. Note that the website lists statistics on the previous year's competition (including number of applications received and number of awards given, by country or region). Consider whether you could develop a solid project in one of the less competitive regions. In most regions other than Europe, candidates may be able to apply to countries not listed in the program guide; consult with the Fulbright Program Adviser. Note that a renewed commitment to provide more opportunities for younger students means that more grants will be available to graduating seniors; graduating seniors thus may apply to any country listed in the program guide even if the country summary states that applications from more advanced graduate students are required or preferred. (Graduating seniors comprise about 50% of the applicant pool, and about 40% of award recipients.)

**PREVIOUS FULBRIGHT GRANTEES FROM WILLIAMS:** Since the year 2000, over ninety Williams College students and alumni have won awards in the Fulbright competition. There have been winners each consecutive year since 1992. For the 2014-15 grant year Williams students have been awarded study grants to Ireland, Jamaica, Spain and Japan. Nine students have won grants to teach in Turkey, Brazil, Taiwan, Germany and South Korea. Other past successful projects include the study of children's stigma towards mental illness in Tanzania, minority communities in rural China, postwar Spanish theater in Spain, journalism in Jordan, monitoring drug resistant HIV in South Africa, Women's mental health in Chile, Paramo fragmentation in Bolivia, Islamic science and the modern Arab world in Kuwait, and investigation of biological research and science education in Russia. See the annual reports, U.N. Fulbright Fellows: Directory of Students, for lists of all winners (name, year of graduation, project proposal, country of study, home institution); these guides are available on the Fulbright website at http://us.fulbrightonline.org/application-tips/academic

**APPLICATION PROCESS:** Williams College is required to forward to IIE every complete application. The Fulbright program is competitive; therefore, we encourage you to assess your strengths and weaknesses against the criteria for the award before deciding to apply. Your academic advisor and other faculty who know you and your work well can help you determine whether you would be a strong candidate for this award. We ask that you work with a faculty mentor who can

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provide you with advice and critique. You will also receive feedback on your application from the Fellowships Committee following your interview. You are urged to follow the Committee’s advice as you complete the final version of your application.

**SELECTION CRITERIA:** Selection is based on: the academic and/or professional record of the applicant; the feasibility of the proposed study/research/teaching assistantship; the need for the project to be undertaken in the country of choice; language preparation (if applicable); the extent to which the candidate and the project will help to advance the program aim of promoting mutual understanding among nations; and personal qualifications. Applicants should clearly describe why it is necessary for them to pursue their project in the country to which they are applying, rather than in the U.S. Students applying to study in a non-English-speaking country generally will need at least two years of college-level instruction in the language; see the Fulbright program guide for exceptions. Preference is given to candidates who have received the majority of their higher education in the U.S. (junior-year or other short-term study or residence abroad does not count against the applicant) and to candidates who have not resided in the country to which they are applying for more than six months.

**NOMINATION PROCESS AND DEADLINES:**

**Applications due Monday, September 15.** Applicants will bring three paper copies of their application to the Fellowships Office, Hopkins Hall before 4:00pm. This application should include all transcripts, which applicants will upload to their on-line application before printing the PDF document.

**Letters of recommendation, letters of affiliation, and language evaluations are due online by September 22.** Note that there is an information sheet on the fellowships pages of Glow, which you can give to your recommenders. Letters of recommendation supporting a research grant will be in letter format and should specifically address the feasibility of the project, as well as the candidate’s attributes. The recommendation for an ETA candidate is a form. There is also a link with information for recommenders on the Fulbright website.

The FPA will arrange for campus interviews of all Fulbright applicants beginning as soon as possible after September 17. Alumni applicants may be interviewed by telephone. **Applicants must submit their application online no later than October 14.** Upon completing the interviews and final revisions, the FPA will forward applications electronically to the IIE.

**NOTE THESE SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Application forms and instructions are available at http://us.fulbrightonline.org/applynow_application_instructions.html
- We recommend that you do not enter the name and contact information for your recommender/language evaluator until you have personally met with each to ask them to support your application and discussed your application with them in detail.
- It is imperative that your recommenders comment on your project in their letters. Give each of your recommenders a draft of your proposal.
- You will have time to revise the drafts of your project proposal and personal statement before the national deadline, but it is to your advantage to present your best possible draft to the Fellowships Office by the campus deadline (September 15).
- The personal statement and the project proposal will be uploaded to your online application. You will prepare these documents as separate PDF or word documents before uploading them. We urge you to limit yourself to the stated page limits. National screening committees may be asked to read as many as 100 applications, so be concise.

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• It is in your best interest to have a mentor in your field of study to guide you and give you critical feedback on your application. Please let us know who your mentor is and how we can contact him/her.

October 1 – October 10. The Committee on Fellowships interviews candidates. You will sign up for your 15-minute interview on GLOW. Please be prompt for your interview.
• Please note—IIE requests that the campus committee rate (not rank) candidates according to a provided set of criteria. Find the campus evaluation template here:
  • http://us.fulbrightonline.org/campus-committee-evaluation-instructions
  • Following your interview, please:
  • Await notification of your endorsement status.
  • Make revisions based on feedback from the campus committee.

On or before Tuesday, October 14, 4:00pm
Save a final PDF copy of your application to keep for yourself. Submit your application electronically before 4pm. You cannot make changes to the application after this point.

By Tuesday, October 14. The Fellowships Office submits all completed applications electronically to IIE.

January 30, 2015
Applicants will receive email notification indicating whether they are recommended for a grant. If you are recommended for a grant you must submit official copies of all transcripts included in your on-line application. Awards are formally announced in the spring.

Please note that it is your responsibility to ensure that each portion of the application, including letters of recommendation, is received by the appropriate deadline. If you will be requesting transcripts from other institutions or letters of recommendation or letters of affiliation from outside the College (particularly outside the US), please do so immediately, as these materials can take several weeks to reach you. If you anticipate a problem meeting a particular deadline or have any questions concerning your application, please contact the Fulbright Program Adviser, Katerina P. King at (413-597-3017).

TIPS:

START EARLY!!!
The application cycle for the 2015-16 U.S. Fulbright student competition opens on May 1, 2014. The deadline for applications to be received electronically by IIE is October 16. Applications submitted to IIE become the property of IIE. Your Fulbright Program Advisor is responsible for submitting all applications electronically to IIE.

You should begin an application as early as possible, but ideally:

• At least 2 months prior to the campus deadline for full research and study grants or grants in the creative and performing arts

• At least 6 weeks prior to the campus deadline for teaching assistantships or travel grants.

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