

# EVALUATION SUMMARY



## Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Office of Policy and Evaluation

### U.S. Fulbright Student Program Outcome Assessment

*The purpose of the evaluation was to assess and document the outcomes and impact of the U.S. Fulbright Student Program and the Program's effectiveness in achieving its legislative goal of fostering mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.*

#### Key Findings

- **Serving the National Interest and Promoting Mutual Understanding**
  - 99% of U.S. Fulbright Student Program alumni respondents believe the program promotes mutual understanding between Americans and people of other countries and international cooperation for educational and cultural advancement.
  - 97% agreed that the program assists in the development of "friendly, sympathetic, and peaceful relations between the United States and the other countries of the world," which is one of the legislative goals.
  - 81% felt the program enhanced their ability to explain U.S. values/policies to people of other countries.
  - 75% felt they were able to assume a responsible role on behalf of the United States in an international setting.
- **Contributing to Leadership Development**
  - Respondents indicated that the program had a positive effect on their: self-reliance and self-confidence (92%); ability to work closely with people different from them (89%); ability to lead others (71%); and willingness to lead others (70%).
- **Educational, Professional and Cultural Learning**
  - 100% of respondents felt their Fulbright experience led to a deeper understanding of the host country, and 93% reported gaining a deeper understanding of American society and culture after seeing it through the eyes of host country citizens.
- **Linkages, Ties, and Institutional Change**
  - 97% maintained contact with individuals they met during their program, and 73% continued to collaborate with host country colleagues. Alumni overwhelmingly promote the Fulbright "legacy" and ideal by encouraging their friends and colleagues to participate in international exchange programs (96%), and to apply for a Fulbright grant (95%).
- **Program Satisfaction**
  - Nearly all respondents reported that: the Fulbright experience was valuable to them (99%); they are proud to have been a Fulbright Student (99%); and they were satisfied with the Fulbright experience (98%).
  - 93% felt that the program was a life-changing experience.
  - 63% believe they would not have studied in their host country without the U.S. Fulbright Student Program.

**Project Information:** SRI International (SRI), of Arlington, Virginia conducted the study. From July 2004 to September 2004, the SRI team surveyed a random sample of 1,723 U.S. Fulbright Student Program alumni who participated in the program between 1980 and 2000. From this group, 1,087 alumni completed the survey online or by hard copy, resulting in a 63% response rate.

**Program Information:** The Fulbright Educational Exchange Program is designed to increase mutual understanding between Americans and the people of other countries. It has provided more than 300,000 participants from United States and around the world with the opportunity to teach, conduct research, study, live and work abroad. The U.S. Fulbright Student Program, one of several Fulbright programs, awards approximately 1,150 student grants each year through a merit-based, open competition for one academic year of study or research abroad. Additional program information can be found at <http://exchanges.state.gov>.

**Contact Information:** For more information regarding this evaluation, or to request a copy of the 53-page report, please contact the Office of Policy and Evaluation at (202) 632-6325, by email at [ECAevaluation@state.gov](mailto:ECAevaluation@state.gov) or by mail at State Annex 5, 2200 C Street NW, Washington, DC 22301.

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