# 2016-17 U.S. Student Fulbright Program Europe/Eurasia Grant Administration

"The essence of intercultural education is the acquisition of empathy—the ability to see the world as others see it, and to allow for the possibility that others may see something that we have failed to see."

- Senator J. William Fulbright in The Price of Empire

## Fulbright Program Background

POP QUIZ: What year was the Fulbright Act signed by President Truman?



# Fulbright Program Background

- On August 1, 1946 the Fulbright Act was signed by President Truman.
- Program Objective (as written into the authorizing legislation):
  - To enable the government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries...and thus to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic, and peaceful relations between the United States and other countries of the world."
- ✤ Key concepts:
  - 1. Mutual Understanding
  - 2. Cultural Exchange
  - 3. Civic Involvement



Senator J. William Fulbright

# **Program Administration**

Presidentially appointed J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (FFSB)

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)

Administered by Institute of International Education (IIE)

Host country support provided by U.S. Embassy (a.k.a. the "Post")



# **Fulbright Award Benefits**



2010 Fulbright ETA to Montenegro, Dustin Gee

- One-time base allowance:
  - Round-trip international flight/transportation
  - Settling-in expenses, baggage allowance, etc.
- Monthly stipend to cover living costs, accommodation and incidentals
- Research allowance
- Language allowance (dependent on country)
- ✤ Accident & Sickness Coverage
- ✤ Fulbright ASSIST

### Health Benefits

Accident & Sickness (ASPE) coverage valid only while in host country and only during grant term.

- Full details of coverage on the Fulbright website under *Current Grantees*
- ASPE is administered by Seven Corners
- Benefits paid on reimbursement basis
- No ID card... Grantee ID number used for claims with Seven Corners. Go to Seven Corners website to print information.



#### Seven Corners/ASPE Health Benefits

#### **Available Services**

- Medical referrals for doctors and hospitals
- Medical and prescription claims
- Medical evacuations
- Assistance with questions on ASPE coverage and medical bills

Questions regarding ASPE benefits should addressed to Seven Corners.

# Fulbright Assist 24/7 Support

A benefit for all grantees in the Fulbright U.S. Student Program while on grants in their host countries Administered by the ANVIL Group

# Online and phone assistance available for the following urgent situations:

- Mental health crisis support
- Sexual assault response
- Violent Crime response
- Providing advice to grantees when they feel at risk or vulnerable

#### **Non-Urgent Case Services:**

- Medical advice (provided by licensed intensive care nurses)
- Travel health information
- Personal security advice

#### **Required Documents**

- Fulbright Medical History and Examination Form
- Official (hard copy) transcript verifying conferral of Bachelor's degree
- Proof of Citizenship
- Signed Grant Authorization Document & Grant Terms and Conditions (ETA Supplement – Terms and Conditions)
- Grant Payment Deposit Information & Authorization Form + Voided Check
- Host Country Contact & Affiliation Information Form
- Approved Fly America compliant itinerary (e-ticket receipt/confirmation)

# Submit all required documents to IIE at least FOUR WEEKS prior to departure.

## Travel Arrangements

- Travel itineraries must comply with Fly America Act/Open Skies Agreement
- Must be approved by IIE Program Manager prior to purchase
- Round-trip or two one-way tickets
- Travel allowance is fixed amount included in first stipend payment (as part of the base allowance)



2010 Fulbright Student to Czech Republic, Jesse Sadowsky

### **Grant Payments**

- All grant payments are made via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), paid in U.S. dollars, and deposited into a U.S. bank/credit union.
- Grant amounts are based on time spent in-country (generally 9 or 10 months). Any change to your grant length may effect your grant amount.
- No payments will be made until all required documents have been submitted.
- First grant payment cannot be made more than 4 weeks prior to grant start.
- Remember, adequate time is required to process EFT payments.



# Grant Payment Schedule

PAYMENT 1 When? Before your grant start date Includes:

- Base allowance (incl. Travel)
- Research allowance
- Monthly stipend for months 1,2,3

PAYMENT 2 When? 3<sup>rd</sup> month of your grant Includes: - Monthly stipend for months 4, 5 & 6 PAYMENT 3 When? 6<sup>th</sup> month of your grant Includes: - Monthly stipend for months 7 & 8 **PAYMENT 4** When? When your Final Report & return flight itinerary is submitted to IIE. **Includes:** 

 Month 9 of your stipend

#### **Banking Tips:**

- Contact your bank and credit card companies and inform them that you will be living in your host country.
- Shop around banks offer a wide variety of terms for overseas financial transactions so make sure that you ask about fees involved, e.g. are there fees for overseas ATM withdrawals?
- Plan ahead for large payments because ATMs have daily withdrawal limits.

#### **Pre-Departure Tips**

- Familiarize yourself with information on the U.S. Department of State pre-departure resources website
- Read the "Current Fulbrighters" section of the Fulbright website
- Connect with alumni and your host institution
- ✤ Valid U.S. passport (6 months past grant end date)
- Communicate arrival information to U.S. Embassy
- Determine health care/medical needs (e.g. medications)
- ✤ Send loan deferment forms to IIE
- Send "Thank You" letters to your U.S. Congress person and U.S. Senators

# Host Country Arrival

- Check in with U.S. Embassy upon arrival/ follow guidance that Embassy has provided to you
- Register host country contact information with the State Department: <u>https://step.state.gov/step/</u>
- Attend in-country orientation or security briefing hosted by the Embassy
- Meet with affiliation/adviser
- ✤ Find housing
- ✤ Be prepared to adapt!



2011 Fulbright Student to Slovak Republic, Christiana Caro

## Fulbright Grant Terms

- Pursue a specific Study/Research Project or English Teaching Assistantship
- Grant length is 9 or 10 months depending on country and health benefits coverage aligns with these dates
- Report outside funding to IIE to ensure no duplication of funds
- Paid employment during grant term not permitted your full time commitment is required for your grant
- All Fulbrighters must complete Mid-Term and Final Reports online

#### Approval required for changes in:

- Affiliation
- Methodology
- Topic or focus of project
- In-country/Out-of-country travel
- Early departure
- Remaining abroad after your grant end date



# During Fulbright Grant

✤ Maintain contact with Embassy <u>and</u> IIE:

- Grant progress, issues and changes
- Changes in address / phone / email
- Emergencies and health/safety issues
- Inform embassy of any in-country travel away from home area
- Obtain Embassy/IIE approval for out of country travel
- Community Engagement
- Social Media: Fulbrighters are expected to maintain a standard of conduct in keeping with the spirit and intent of the program.
- Identify yourself as a Fulbright grantee when publishing articles, papers, or books, or when giving presentations.
- Share Fulbright articles/photos/videos and your Fulbright experience with us at IIE!

#### **Out-of-Country Leave**

- Your Fulbright grant requires a full-time commitment
- Up to 14 days of out-of-country leave approved by US Embassy, host institution, and IIE
- ✤ Leave days include travel days and weekends/public holidays
- ✤ Leave cannot be taken at end of grant term
- Obtain all approvals before booking travel, even in the case of emergencies

Do not leave the host country without written permission from the U.S. Embassy and IIE Program Manager. This would be a violation of the Terms and Conditions of the award and is grounds for grant revocation.

### Final Thoughts

Adhere to Grant Terms and Conditions

- Carry out Fulbright project full-time as written in the application
- Remain in-country for the duration of the grant period
- Submit Mid-term and Final Reports
- Act as cultural ambassadors
- ✤ Be in touch!



2011 Fulbright Student to Serbia, Stefana Simic

# Fulbright US Student Website

#### Visit Current Fulbrighters section of the website: www.us.fulbrightonline.org



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# Questions?

