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400 - U.S. STUDENTS

410 GENERAL PROVISIONS

411 Definitions and Classification

411.1 U.S. Students

U.S. students are defined as candidates for or recipients of grants to pursue academic study or research projects, often with internships, or to hold English teaching assistant positions that include a study, research or service component, at the post-baccalaureate level. Candidates may not hold a doctoral degree at the time of application.

411.2 Candidate

An applicant or potential applicant to the Fulbright program at any time before selection to the program.

411.3 Selected Candidate or Fulbright Finalist

A candidate who has been selected, but who has not signed and returned the grant document, is defined as a "selected candidate."

411.4 Grantee

A "grantee" is defined as a selected candidate who has signed the grant document (including all terms and conditions thereof) without qualification and has returned a signed copy to the corresponding cooperating agency.

411.5 Alumni

An alumnus/alumna of the Fulbright U.S. Student program will be considered any individual who is defined as a grantee (per 411.4 above), who has departed for his/her grant, and whose grant has not been subject to revocation (per 438 below).

420 SELECTION CRITERIA

421 Personal Factors

421.1 Citizenship

Candidates must be citizens or nationals of the United States of America. In some cases it may not be feasible for a dual national to participate in a Fulbright program in the country of his or her other nationality due to host country law or policy. Therefore it is incumbent upon candidates

to ascertain whether they have, or are eligible to have, their host countries' nationality and address any potential consequences thereof before they accept an award.

421.2 Nondiscrimination

Candidates will be considered without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation, marital status, status as a parent, protected genetic information, or sexual orientation.

421.3 Adaptability

Candidates should demonstrate the dynamism and flexibility necessary for active involvement in the host culture. The cooperating agency is authorized to assess whether the candidate shows promise of being able to adjust successfully to life in the host country. The Board strongly encourages personal interviews with candidates to determine these qualities.

421.4 Availability

Candidates are solely responsible for obtaining any necessary leave of absence or making other arrangements to enable them to accept the grant. The awarding of a grant does not constitute endorsement by the Board, the U.S. Department of State, or the cooperating agency of a leave of absence for the grantee.

421.5 Veterans

Candidates who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States will be given preference, provided their qualifications are approximately equivalent to those of other candidates.

421.6 Health

Applicants must be able to fulfill the conditions of the grant as determined in a medical examination to be conducted no more than twelve months in advance of the grant period.

422 Academic and Program Factors

422.1 Academic Excellence

Excellence of academic record in the United States and other qualifying educational or related professional experience will be significant factors in selection.

422.2 Nature of Project

Applications will be evaluated for purpose and feasibility. Proposals should reflect enduring concerns, emphasize basic subjects, demonstrate sound methodology, and avoid politicization of scholarly inquiry.

422.3 Educational Levels

Grants will be given to the best qualified students regardless of their level of study. Preference, however, will be given to candidates who, at the commencement of the grant period, will have recently received a baccalaureate degree. These candidates will not be restricted as to field of study nor will they be required to have formulated long-term specific educational or career goals beyond those necessary for a successful experience abroad.

Grants to degree candidates who are nominated before they receive the baccalaureate degree are contingent upon receipt of the degree.

Master's degree candidates, young professionals, and Ph.D. candidates will be expected to have fully developed programs of study or research that can be completed during the grant period.

Provided that the candidate's qualifications are approximately equivalent to those of other candidates, preference will be given to the candidate whose higher education was received primarily at colleges and universities in the United States.

422.4 Non-Academic Candidates

The Board encourages applications from candidates who are not presently in an academic program and who intend to pursue a career outside the academy. This includes candidates in artistic and professional fields, such as artists, musicians, writers, journalists, and other professionals. For these candidates, the following requirements apply:

- a. In the creative and performing arts, four years of professional study and/or experience are required;
- b. Candidates without a B.A. or equivalent degree, but with extensive years of professional study and/or experience in fields in which they wish to pursue a project, may be considered.

422.5 Host Country Considerations

- a. Candidates must be acceptable to the country in which they propose to pursue their study or research. Consideration will be given to any likely sensitivity in the host country to the candidate's proposed project.
- b. Candidates must meet the general language requirements considered necessary for study or research and for adjustment to life in the host country.
- c. Grants are usually for study or research in one country. A project which may involve more than one country must be approved by the Commission (or, in a non-Commission country, the post) in each country involved. One country will be designated for primary affiliation.

422.6 Change in Specific Project

The awarding of a grant does not necessarily imply approval of the grantee's project in the specific terms outlined in the application. Reasonable modifications of the project may be required, and the grantee is expected to accept such modifications as the Commission or post deems necessary or desirable in light of local conditions. A grantee who wishes to change his or her project must obtain prior approval from the Commission or post, which shall consult with the cooperating agency and/or Bureau before making a decision.

423 Placement Factors

423.1 Placement

- a. Candidates must be acceptable to the institution in which they propose to pursue their projects.
- b. Preference will be given to candidates seeking placement or affiliation with institutions that are part of the educational system of the host country.
- c. In view of the essentially educational character of the Fulbright Program, the majority of grantees will be affiliated with educational institutions. However, in the case of certain projects that can best be carried out without academic affiliation, Commissions and posts may recommend other appropriate placements for U.S. grantees, unless executive agreements specify to the contrary.
- d. To assure the effectiveness of placement, the Commission or post should maintain contact with U.S. student grantees, especially during the first two or three months of the grant.

423.2 U.S. Citizen-Sponsored Schools Abroad

Candidates may be placed at or affiliated with U.S. citizen-sponsored schools abroad if the faculty and student body of the school are primarily nationals of the host country, with courses and research opportunities primarily in non-U.S. subjects. (For a full statement of the Board's policy on this subject, see Section 212.5-3.)

423.3 Change of Placement

Grantees may not change their institutional placement without prior approval of the Commission or post.

424 Experience Abroad Factors

424.1 Previous Experience Abroad

- a. Preference will be given to candidates who have not had extensive recent experience abroad, especially in the country to which they are applying.

b. The demands of the field may require that this preference be set aside. Examples include difficulty of living and working conditions, required language fluency, the nature of the particular field study, and assignments for which recent relevant experience abroad may be an asset. Recommendation of candidates with extensive recent experience in the country to which they are applying should be made only in rare and compelling circumstances, accompanied by written justification documenting the demands of the field. Approval is at the discretion of the Board.

c. The preference for candidates without extensive previous in the country to which they are applying applies at each stage of competition.

d. Duty abroad in the Armed Forces of the United States is not considered experience abroad within the meaning of this section.

e. A candidate who has resided abroad for five or more consecutive years in the six-year period preceding the date of application is ineligible for a grant. For the purpose of this section, a candidate who has lived outside the United States for nine months or more during a calendar year is deemed to have resided abroad for that year.

425 Eligibility Factors

425.1 Members of Same Family

Members of the same family are eligible to receive grants concurrently when both have applied for grants and have been selected through the usual competition.

425.2 U.S. Government Employees

Except as provided in Section 426.2, federal employees who meet other qualifications are eligible for grants. It is the applicant's responsibility to negotiate the terms of leave with the employing agency.

425.3 Candidates in the Field of Religion

a. Students in the field of religion whose applications indicate that the primary objective is educational rather than pastoral or missionary (e.g., history of religion, comparative religion, development of religious thought, etc.) are eligible on the same basis as candidates in other recognized disciplines.

b. Religious workers, lay or ordained, are not eligible for consideration if their projects involve engaging in pastoral, missionary, or other professional religious activities.

425.4 Previous Fulbright Grants

As a general matter, preference for Fulbright student opportunities will be given to candidates who have not previously received a Fulbright student grant.

426 Ineligibility Factors

See Previous Experience Abroad (Section 424.1) and Previous Fulbright Grants (Section 425.4).

426.1 Concurrent Grants

No applicant may receive concurrently a grant from the Fulbright Student Program and a grant from the Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Program.

426.2 Persons Associated with Specific Agencies and Organizations, and Members of Their Families

The following persons are ineligible for grants during and for a period ending one year following the termination of such employment, association, or service:

- a. Employees of the U.S. Department of State or the U.S. Agency for International Development. This provision includes all employees, paid or unpaid (including part-time or temporary employees, consultants, externs, fellows and contract employees). This provision does not apply to interns;
- b. Employees of private and public agencies (excluding educational institutions) under contract to the U.S. Department of State to perform administrative or screening services on behalf of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs' exchange programs;
- c. Officers of an organization, in the United States or abroad, including members of boards of trustees or similar governing bodies, or individuals otherwise associated with the organization, wherein the organization and the individuals are responsible for nominating or selecting individuals for participation in any exchange program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs;
- d. Board members or staff of a Fulbright Commission;
- e. Members of the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board;
- f. Immediate families (spouses and dependent children) of individuals described in paragraphs a-e. This provision does not disqualify self-supporting children who live apart from their parents;
- g. For purposes of this section, the one-year period of ineligibility is calculated from the date of termination of employment, service, or association until the due date for submission of applications for programs under this chapter.

426.3 Persons Arrested for, Indicted for, Charged with, or Convicted of a Felony or a Misdemeanor; or Subject to Disciplinary Measures for Misconduct

A candidate who, at the time of application or nomination for selection, or at any subsequent time prior to becoming a grantee as defined in Section 438.1, has been convicted of commission of a felony or a misdemeanor (excluding minor traffic violations, juvenile convictions, or cases where the record has been sealed or expunged), must inform the cooperating agency, the Bureau, or the Board in writing of such fact. A candidate who at the time of application or nomination for selection, or at any subsequent time prior to becoming a grantee as defined in Section 438.1, has been arrested for, indicted for, or charged with a felony or a misdemeanor (excluding minor traffic violations, juvenile convictions, or cases where the record has been sealed or expunged), and the criminal matter has not been resolved, must inform the cooperating agency, the Bureau, or the Board in writing of such fact. A candidate who at the time of the application or nomination for selection, or at any subsequent time prior to becoming a grantee as defined in Section 438.1, has been subject to any disciplinary measure, resigned from a professional appointment, or entered into a settlement for, or in connection to, any misconduct, including but not limited to unethical practices, harassment, sexual harassment or abuse, must inform the cooperating agency, the Bureau, or the Board in writing of such fact.

If the candidate has been convicted of a felony, the Board will not select such a candidate for a grant (or, if the candidate has already been selected, the Board will annul the selection) unless the Board is satisfied that the conviction does not represent an absence of the requisite moral and social attitude desired of grantees. Such a determination will be based upon the nature of the crime, the time and place of conviction, and the subsequent conduct of the candidate. A candidate who has been convicted of a misdemeanor shall be eligible for selection unless the Board finds that the conviction represents an absence of the requisite moral and social attitude desired of grantees. Similarly, a selected candidate who has been convicted of a misdemeanor shall have his or her selection annulled only if the Board finds that the conviction represents an absence of the requisite moral and social attitude desired of grantees. Such a determination will be based upon the nature of the crime, the time and place of conviction, and the subsequent conduct of the candidate. A candidate who has been subject to any disciplinary measure, resigned from a professional appointment, or entered into a settlement for, or in connection to, any misconduct, including but not limited to unethical practices, harassment, sexual harassment or abuse shall not be eligible for selection unless the Board finds that the misconduct does not represent an absence of the requisite moral and social attitude desired of grantees.

If the candidate is arrested for, indicted for, or charged with a felony or a misdemeanor, or accused of misconduct (including but not limited to unethical practices, harassment, sexual harassment or abuse, or other misconduct that may have been the focus of some kind of inquiry or process) the application (and, if already made, the selection) may be suspended by the Board until the matter is resolved, or until such time that the Board is satisfied that the arrest, the charges, or the accusation do not represent an absence of the requisite moral and social attitude desired of grantees.

Similarly, a candidate who, at any time after becoming a grantee as defined in Section 438.1, is arrested for, indicted for, or charged with, a felony or a misdemeanor, or accused of misconduct (including but not limited to unethical practices, harassment, sexual harassment or abuse, or other misconduct that may have been the focus of some kind of inquiry or process), must inform

the cooperating agency, the Bureau, or the Board in writing of such fact. The grant may be suspended by the Board until the matter is resolved, or until such time that the Board is satisfied that the arrest or the charges do not represent an absence of the requisite moral and social attitude desired of grantees. If a grantee is convicted, the Board may revoke the grant.

If an application, selection, or a grant is suspended on the basis of the criteria stated above, and the matter causing the suspension has not been resolved prior to the date set for the commencement of the grant activities, the Board may reject the application, rescind the selection, or revoke the grant, as applicable. Any funds disbursed to the grantee must be immediately returned to the source.

After a revocation, the grantee is considered as not having received the grant and will not be an alumnus or alumna of the Fulbright Program.

Grants are also subject to revocation, termination and suspension as provided in Section 438.

426.4 Medical Studies

Candidates who wish to pursue studies as medical students are not eligible. Candidates with medical degrees may receive grants for advanced academic study, but not for internships or residencies. Grants shall not authorize activity for which a license to practice medicine or nursing is required.

427 Financial Factors

427.1 Financial Status

A candidate's financial need is not a factor in the selection process.

427.2 Recipients of Grants Under Other Auspices

Except as provided in Section 427.3, grants will not be awarded to persons who are concurrently recipients of benefits under established international programs which offer scholarships or fellowships designed to cover all expenses in connection with an educational project abroad.

427.3 Recipients of Partial Grants Under Other Auspices

A recipient of a partial grant from other sources may also receive a partial Fulbright grant, including a travel grant, under the following conditions:

- a. The Board has responsibility for final selection in accordance with established criteria.
- b. Candidates for a partial grant must demonstrate that they have sufficient funds from another grant or self-financing to cover maintenance and tuition costs in the partner country for not less than one academic year. Fulbright grant benefits may be reduced if they are duplicated by another grant. Grantees may, however, retain those benefits not specifically covered by another grant (e.g. international travel); similarly, no deduction will be made from a Fulbright grant for

benefits provided by another grant, but not by a Fulbright grant.

c. Applications for travel grants must be screened by the cooperating agency in accordance with established criteria; candidates may not be assured of a travel grant solely by virtue of receipt of a grant from other sources.

428 Competition and Recruitment

In order to ensure that the Fulbright Program draws its candidates from the widest possible pool of high caliber individuals, the Bureau and the cooperating agencies will actively disseminate information on the Fulbright Program in all geographic areas of the United States, at different types and sizes of institutions, both academic and non-academic, and will engage in such other recruitment activities as are necessary to encourage participation in the Fulbright Program of persons of diverse backgrounds, representing the variety and richness of American society.

429 Applications for Honorary Grants

Students from the United States who wish the honor of being named as grantees, but are not concerned about the financial benefits, must apply for some portion of the financial benefits of a grant in the regular competition in accordance with established procedures. Individuals selected in this manner may refuse or return to the Commission or the cooperating agency part or all of the allowances received under the grant.

430 GENERAL TERMS OF GRANT

431 Passport and Visas

The grantee is personally responsible for obtaining a passport and any visas that may be required by the countries in which the project will be undertaken or through which the grantee will pass en route to the final destination. The grant does not provide for expenses related to any passport or visa fees. Such expenses must be borne by the grantee without recourse to claim for reimbursement.

432 Time Commitment and Supervision

432.1 Full-Time Nature of Grants

Grants are awarded for full-time study or research (for candidates in academic fields), full-time professional training (for candidates in the creative and performing arts), full-time internships, full-time teaching assistantships, or a full-time combination of the above.

432.2 Supervision

Grantees are supervised overseas by the Commission or post in the host country. Grantees must observe the regulations of these agencies and must submit a final report and such other reports as

may be required by them or by the cooperating agency in the United States.⁴³³ Duration of Grants

433.1 Basic Grant Period

The basic grant period is the academic year (eight to ten months). The Board may approve exceptions to this period for candidates in the arts and for advanced doctoral candidates. The cooperating agency is responsible for evaluating requests for such exceptions. No grant will be for less than six months.

433.2 Extension of Grants

A Commission or the Bureau may award extension of a grant for a period not to exceed three months for a grantee to complete a project.

433.3 Renewal of Grants

A renewal grant is defined as a grant for a second year, or major portion thereof, abroad in continuation of the initial one-year grant.

- a. A Commission may award a renewal grant without prior approval of the Board or the Bureau, but will inform the Board and the Bureau of each such renewal grant. In non-Commission countries, renewal grants are awarded by the Bureau on recommendation of the post.
- b. Justification for a renewal grant must explain the need for it and evaluate the grantee's progress to date.
- c. Renewal grants provide maintenance and other benefits, and may provide additional travel at the discretion of the Commission or post in consultation with ECA.
- d. At the discretion of the Commission or post, grantees with first-year travel-only grants may be given maintenance and/or other benefits to permit a second project year.
- e. Requests for extension beyond a second year require the approval of the Board and must be thoroughly justified and recommended by the Commission or post, the cooperating agency and the Bureau.

434 Postponement of Grants

Grants may not be postponed to a subsequent academic year. Candidates who are not able to accept a grant for the academic year for which it was awarded may reapply in a subsequent competition without prejudice.

Subject to the approval of the Commission or post, a grant may be postponed to the second semester of the host country's academic year if (1) a satisfactory program of study, research, or

teaching can be arranged to commence with the second term or semester and (2) such a program will be approximately equivalent to one academic year of activity.

435 Remaining Abroad after Grant Expiration

Because a factor in selection is the expected benefit to the United States of the grantee's overseas experience, a grantee who remains abroad after expiration of the grant without advance approval will forfeit the return travel entitlement. Approval of any additional period abroad is at the discretion of the Commission or post and the Bureau, and will be contingent upon compliance with visa requirements and any other limitations imposed by the host country. A person remaining abroad after the expiration of the grant will no longer be considered a grantee, and must not continue to represent himself or herself as such.

436 Temporary Country Program Suspension

Political instability or lack of personal safety may make it necessary to temporarily suspend a country program or part of that program. Such circumstances may necessitate short- or long-term withdrawal of grantees.

The Bureau, in consultation with the Board, Commissions and posts, is responsible for drawing up timely plans for such contingencies and for providing guidelines to Commissions, posts, affected grantees and cooperating agencies.

The Board urges flexibility in providing assistance to individual grantees, including early return to the host country if feasible, short-term continuation of stipends beyond departure date from host country, temporary relocation, possible U.S. resettlement allowance, or reassignment. Factors affecting reassignment include timely request, qualifications, time remaining in grant, and timeliness of proposed host country clearance process.

437 Resignation from Grant

437.1 Personal Factors

When compelling reasons, such as personal illness, death of an immediate member of family, or other personal situation, make it impossible for a grantee to complete the grant period, the grantee will be permitted to resign from the grant with the concurrence of the Commission or post, which should report such cases to the Bureau. The Board recommends that a flexible policy on return travel benefits be followed so that grantees will not be penalized for circumstances beyond their control.

437.2 Early Completion of Project

Commissions may act at their discretion on requests by grantees for early departure from the host country upon satisfactory completion of their project or assignment. In non-Commission countries, early departure must be approved by the Bureau.

437.3 Other Reasons

Resignation requests for causes other than those identified in Sections 437.1 and 437.2 above will be reported by Commissions or posts to the Bureau for referral to the Board, which will decide on eligibility for return travel.

438 Revocation, Termination, and Suspension of Grants

438.1 Definitions

a. In the event a selected candidate fails to sign and return a copy of the grant document within a reasonable time after it has been received by the selected candidate, the selection may be withdrawn by the Board, the Commission or post, or the corresponding cooperating agency by notice of such withdrawal delivered to the selected candidate.

b. A grant may be revoked, terminated, or suspended. After a revocation, the grantee is considered as not having received the grant and will not be an alumnus or alumna of the Fulbright Program; after a termination, unless otherwise stated, the grant will be considered to have ended when the Board announces its decision to terminate; and after a suspension, the grant will be considered inoperative until a decision is made to reinstate, revoke or terminate the grant.

438.2 Authority to Recommend Revocation or Termination

a. A Commission or post, as applicable, has authority to recommend that the Board revoke or terminate the grant held by a grantee who has departed the United States for the host country.

b. The cooperating agency has authority to recommend that the Board revoke or terminate a grant to a grantee who has not yet departed the United States for the host country.

438.3 Grounds for Revocation or Termination

In addition to the grounds specified in Section 426.3, grounds for revocation or termination include, but are not limited to: (1) violation of any law of the United States or the host country; (2) any act likely to give offense to the host country because it is contrary to the spirit of mutual understanding; (3) failure to observe satisfactory academic or professional standards; (4) physical or mental incapacitation; (5) engaging in any unauthorized income-producing activity; (6) failure to comply with the grant's terms and conditions; (7) material misrepresentation made by any grantee in a grant application form or grant document; (8) conduct which may have the effect of bringing the Department of State or the Fulbright Program into disrepute; (9) violation of the Policies of the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

In addition, the Board may terminate a grant, unless prohibited by law, if (1) the grantee has exhausted all benefits of health and accident insurance provided by the U.S. Department of State in connection with the grant and continued medical treatment would lead to the grantee's becoming a public charge, or (2) the grantee requires such protracted medical treatment that successful completion of the grant is jeopardized, or (3) medical information submitted in the

application is found to be substantially inaccurate or incomplete. The procedure for any such termination shall be the same as that provided for the termination of grants generally, except that the recommendation for such termination, supported by the corresponding factual information, shall be made by the Bureau (not a host institution, Commission, post, or cooperating agency). In the event any such grounds occur during the period of a grant, it is the Board's policy that such a grant should not be renewed or extended. Grants shall not authorize activity for which a license to practice medicine or nursing is required.

438.4 Procedure for Revocation or Termination

The procedure for revoking or terminating a grant is:

1. The Commission, post, or cooperating agency consults initially with the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and the Staff Director of the Fulbright Scholarship Board;
2. The Commission, post, or cooperating agency prepares a Statement of Fact and Recommendations for Specific Action by the Board and forwards them to the Staff Director;
3. The Staff Director provides a copy of these documents to the grantee and obtains proof of delivery;
4. The grantee sends a written reply to the Staff Director within two weeks of receipt of the documents. The Board may grant additional time for reply if circumstances warrant. The Staff Director will inform the Board if the grantee does not reply within the specified time;
5. The Staff Director provides a copy of all documents to the Commission, post, or cooperating agency for review and to the Bureau for review, evaluation, and recommendation;
6. Following receipt of the Bureau's evaluation and recommended action, the Staff Director provides a copy of all relevant documents to the Board. The Board will inform the grantee, the Commission or post, the relevant cooperating agency, and the Bureau, expeditiously and in writing, of the Board's decision and the reasons therefore.

438.5 Financial Issues Related to Revocation, Termination and Suspension

Unless otherwise specified by the Board, when a grant is suspended, revoked, or terminated, disbursement of any allowances and benefits will cease, except for return travel, and medical benefits that may be authorized under the Bureau's accident and sickness program for exchanges; the grantee will also be required to immediately repay any advances in allowances or benefits disbursed for use in the period of time after the suspension, revocation or termination. Unless otherwise authorized by the Board, Bureau, Commission or post, no further claim for

disbursements of allowances or benefits will be honored. This provision shall not apply to grants, which are suspended because conditions in the host country require the departure of grantees for reasons of personal safety; in such instances, Section 436 applies.

The Bureau, the Commission or post will inform the grantee whose grant has been suspended, terminated or revoked of the impact of the Board's decision on past and future allowances and benefits; the Bureau, the Commission or post will take the necessary measures to implement the Board's decision, and to collect any advances in allowances and benefits that must be repaid.

438.6 Suspension

a. The Board, at the recommendation of a Commission or post may suspend a grant pending the procedure for revocation or termination of the grant, or if the grantee is arrested for, indicted for, charged with, or convicted of commission of a crime, either before or after the grantee's departure from the United States, in accordance with Section 426.3.

b. The Commission or post may suspend a grant:

1. If the grantee ceases to carry out the project during the grant period;
2. If the grantee leaves the host country for more than two weeks without the prior authorization of the Commission or post;
3. If conditions in the host country require the departure of grantees for reasons of personal safety (see Section 436).

c. A grant may also be suspended if the grantee requests suspension of the grant for personal reasons and the Commission, post, or cooperating agency concurs.

438.7 Persons Arrested for, Indicted for, Charged with, or Convicted of a Felony or a Misdemeanor

The provisions of this Section 438 are in addition to the provisions of Section 426.3 regarding the suspension, termination, or revocation of grants to persons arrested for, indicted for, charged with, or convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor.

438.8 Notification

The cooperating agency will include Section 426, Section 431, this Section 438 and Section 439 in the grant document for signature and acceptance by the selected candidate.

439 Liability

No one or more of the Board, the U.S. Department of State, the cooperating agency and the Commission or post will be liable for any claim or claims resulting from a grantee's failure to enter upon or to complete the project outlined in the grant, even though the failure is beyond the

grantee's control, including without limitation any failure resulting from a revocation, termination, or suspension effected pursuant to Section 438 above.

440 FINANCIAL TERMS OF GRANT

The monetary amount of Fulbright grants will be set by the corresponding Commission, or, in non-Commission countries, by the Bureau in consultation with the post. It is intended that grants be adequate to assure that high quality candidates are attracted to the Program and that grantees who participate will be able to fulfill their projects without undue financial hardship.

With this objective in mind, and to encourage standardization of grant benefits, the Board recommends that student grants include a basic package of benefits, as described in Section 441. Additional benefits may be added as needed. Levels of these benefits will be set by Commissions or, in non-Commission countries, by the Bureau in consultation with the post.

441 Grant Benefits

441.1 Basic Grant Package

Grantees to non-Commission countries will receive the following basic grant package:

1. round-trip transportation;
2. a maintenance allowance;
3. a settling-in allowance; and
4. health and accident insurance.

The grant may also include special allowances for research and language study, as well as other benefits, such as provision of housing, as required by local conditions. The grant will also include, where applicable, funds for pre-departure orientation. Commissions are authorized to develop grant packages for grantees to their countries, bearing in mind the Board's objectives as stated in Section 440.

441.2 Dependent Supplements

Definitions: A dependent is either (1) a spouse, or (2) a relative (child, parent, sibling) who is financially dependent on the grantee. Accompanying dependents are those who spend at least 80% of the grant period with the grantee abroad.

Grantees with accompanying dependents may receive a monthly supplement for such dependents.

If the number of accompanying dependents changes after the grantee signed the grant document, the benefits may be revised at any time before the expiration of the grant to compensate for (1)

accompanying dependents not previously included, (2) dependents born or acquired after such signature, (3) early departure of accompanying dependents.

Benefits for additional accompanying dependents will be retroactive to the date of their arrival in the host country, subject to the availability of funds.

441.3 Maintenance Allowance

Each grantee will receive a basic maintenance allowance, calculated in terms of living costs in the host country, for the period of the grant. Adjustment may be made in the amount of the grant if the living costs change appreciably during the grant period or if fluctuations in the currency of the host country affect living costs. In countries where the cost of living varies widely from place to place, the Commission or post may provide different allowances for different localities. The same maintenance allowance will be given regardless of level of academic training.

441.4 Travel and Transportation

a. All grantees will receive round-trip transportation from their homes to the place within the host country where the project is to be carried out. Travel costs will be calculated on the basis of direct round-trip economy class airfare. All airline tickets purchased using U.S. Government money must comply with the Fly America Act. Unless the terms of grant specify otherwise, the grant does not provide for costs of passports, visas, immunizations or other costs incidental to travel abroad.

b. Grantees may receive an excess baggage allowance to permit them to transport books, equipment, and other materials to and from their assignment as accompanied baggage.

c. If grantees arrive in the host country before the beginning date of the grant as specified on the grant authorization, they will not be eligible for maintenance allowance until such beginning date, unless the Commission considers that the reason for early travel is valid. The same policy applies to grantees to non-Commission countries, except that the post and the Bureau must agree to the early arrival and approve any adjustment of grant benefits.

d. Recipients of extensions or renewals will not be entitled to international travel beyond that provided in the original grant, except for any increases in cost of return travel.

441.5 Other Allowances

Allowances for research or other expenses related to the grantee's project may be provided. These allowances may be used for such items as books, journals, computer equipment, limited translation services, limited publishing costs, and local travel essential to the completion of the project.

Nonexpendable equipment and materials purchased by the grantee with such allowances should remain with the host institution upon completion of the project, unless it is determined by the Commission or post that such items are essential to the grantee for completion of the project after the grant has expired.

441.6 Health and Accident Insurance

- a. The Bureau provides grantees with supplemental health and accident insurance during direct travel time to the host country, while participating in grant activities abroad, and while directly en route back to the United States. This insurance is not intended to replace the grantee's normal insurance policy, which should be maintained during the grant period.
- b. In the case of an extreme medical emergency, the Commission, post or cooperating agency may request special emergency assistance for the grantee for costs not covered by the health and accident insurance policy.
- c. Grantees must provide medical insurance for accompanying dependents at their own expense.
- d. It is recommended that the grantee obtain adequate insurance for personal property.
- e. Neither the Board, the U.S. Department of State, the cooperating agency, nor the Commission or post assumes responsibility for any injury, accident, illness (except as may be covered by any supplemental health and accident insurance provided under Section 441.6 b), any loss of personal property, or any other contingency which may befall the grantee or accompanying dependents during, or as a result of, the stay abroad, travel or other activities related to the grant.

442 Grants to Two Members of the Same Family

When two members of a family receive Fulbright grants, but both will constitute a single household abroad, each will receive the allowance of a single grantee. However, when there are accompanying dependents, and a dependent supplement is normally provided, only one grantee will receive the dependent supplement.

When a spouse is the recipient of a scholarship, fellowship, or other grant equivalent to a Fulbright grant, received concurrently with the grantee's Fulbright grant, the Commission or post will usually withhold the supplemental maintenance allowance otherwise provided to an accompanying dependent.

443 Duration of Benefits

443.1 Maintenance Allowance

- a. The maintenance allowance will be established on the basis of a full academic year of two semesters or three full quarters, or (for projects not coinciding with the academic terms of an educational institution) on the basis of a nine-month period of activity in the host country. For any full month more or less than the basic period, a pro rata adjustment will be made.
- b. Allowances under the grant will commence on the date of the grantee's arrival in the host country, or, for persons already in the host country, on the date the grantee begins the grant project.

c. When grants are extended, the maintenance allowance for the extension period will be computed at a pro rata monthly rate based on the existing allowance for the academic year.

d. Summer maintenance allowances will be paid to recipients of renewal grants who remain in the host country. These allowances will be based on the maintenance allowance given during the preceding academic year. In non-Commission countries, summer maintenance may be paid in advance to recipients of renewal grants who remain in the country if the post so recommends to the Bureau.

e. As a general rule, no maintenance allowance for the summer recess will be given recipients of renewal grants for time spent in the United States, or in countries outside the host country, or in travel thereto or there from, unless the grantee obtains advance approval from the Commission or post for absence from the host country.

f. The maintenance allowance will terminate on the date of the grantee's departure from the host country or on completion of the project, whichever is earlier.

443.2 Health and Accident Insurance

The supplemental health and accident insurance described in Section 441.6 will terminate upon the grantee's arrival back in the United States, or on completion of the project, whichever is earlier.

443.3 Travel for Grantees Remaining Abroad after Expiration of Grant

If a grantee requests and receives permission from a Commission or post and the Bureau to remain abroad after the grant has expired, return transportation may be extended, but any increases in cost of travel after the initial period of the grant must be borne by the grantee.

See Remaining Abroad After Grant Expiration (Section 435)

443.4 Early Departure of Grantee

If the Commission or post permits early departure of a grantee, provision of return transportation is at the discretion of the Commission or post, except as specified under Section 437.

444 Benefits from Other Sources

444.1 Restrictions on Employment and Other Remunerative Activities

A grantee may not accept employment or other remuneration for the duration of his/her Fulbright grant without advance written approval of the Commission or post. In special cases, and only with prior written approval of the Commission or post, a grantee may accept fees or other remuneration for work related to the Fulbright grant, provided such work does not conflict with responsibilities under the grant or host country visa regulations.

444.2 Reporting Other Grants, Scholarships, and Salaries

A grantee must report to the cooperating agency, and to the sponsoring Commission, if applicable, all scholarships, fellowships, grants, or salaries from other sources, in U.S. dollars or in foreign currency, received by the grantee during or with respect to the Fulbright grant period. Adjustments to the Fulbright grant package may be made if benefits received from other sources duplicate benefits provided by the Fulbright grant.

444.3 Honoraria or Other Fees for Consultations, Guest Lectures, and Presentations

- a. Honoraria or other fees received in the host country for special guest lectures or similar events during the grant period may be accepted by the grantee, subject to the concurrence of the sponsoring Commission or post.
- b. A grantee who is invited by a Commission, post, or sponsoring institution to lecture or consult in another country during the grant period may receive travel expenses and per diem, but not honoraria, from the inviting Commission, post, or sponsoring institution. The grantee must inform the Commission or post in his/her host country of any such offer.

444.4 Fundraising Guidelines

- a. A grantee may not engage in in-person, print, and/or electronic fundraising or solicitation of gifts for personal benefit using his/her Fulbright affiliation, the Fulbright Program name, or the Fulbright Program logo. A grantee may seek additional funding to offset costs not covered by the grant as long as the solicitations are not for costs that would duplicate grant benefits and do not include a reference to the grantee's Fulbright affiliation, the Fulbright Program name, or the Fulbright Program logo.
- b. Subject to prior written approval from the grantee's host Commission or post, a grantee may refer to his/her Fulbright affiliation when soliciting for a third-party charitable or humanitarian cause (for example, Books for Africa or similar programs), but should avoid giving any impression that the Fulbright Program, the Government of the United States, or any agency representing it has endorsed the cause or approved the content of the in-person, print, and/or electronic solicitation.

444.5 U.S. Government Employees

- a. A grantee on leave without pay from U.S. government employment may receive all benefits normally provided to grantees.
- b. If the grantee continues to receive compensation from the employer agency, allowances and benefits under the Fulbright grant may be adjusted accordingly.

444.6 Veterans

No deduction will be made from grants because of funds received by the grantee as educational benefits under Title 38, United States Code.

444.7 Fulbright Alumni Benefits

Fulbright Alumni are eligible to receive the following benefits, provided they agree to the terms and conditions of each and all other requirements set forth by the entities below.

1. Certificate of Completion – the cooperating agency will issue certificates of completion to all Fulbright Alumni following the end dates of their grants.
2. International Exchange Alumni – the International Exchange Alumni website (<https://alumni.state.gov>) provides tools to past and present U.S. government-sponsored exchange program participants to advance their communities and our world.
3. Fulbright Association – the independent, nonprofit, nongovernmental Fulbright Association offers one year of free membership in the Fulbright Association to any newly returned U.S. grantees who finished their first Fulbright grant within the previous year. (See <http://fulbright.org/membership>)
4. Non-Competitive Eligibility for Federal Employment – Executive Order 13750 stipulates that exchange program alumni who successfully complete the Fulbright U.S. Student Program are eligible for 12 months of non-competitive eligibility (NCE) hiring status within the federal government, with the possibility of extensions if certain criteria are met. Successful Fulbright U.S. Student Alumni will receive “certificates of achievement” conferring the NCE at the conclusion of their grant periods from the Department of State. (See: <https://alumni.state.gov/member-resources/job-center/non-competitive-federal-employment>.)

This is not an exhaustive list of alumni benefits. Individual commissions, posts, and cooperating agencies are encouraged to offer additional benefits to Fulbright Alumni, such as small or follow-on grants, networking opportunities, membership in additional alumni associations, and other benefits (see also 144).

450 INCOME TAX LIABILITY

Grantees will be responsible for determining their individual United States income tax liability resulting from their grant. The extent of liability is set forth in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

460 RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS OF GRANTEEES

As provided in U.S. law, all recipients of Fulbright academic exchange grants will have full academic and artistic freedom, including freedom to write, publish, and create, and no grant

made by the Board may be revoked or diminished on account of the political views expressed by the recipient or on account of any scholarly or artistic activity that would be subject to the protections of academic and artistic freedom normally observed in universities in the United States. It is the policy of the Board to ensure that the academic and artistic freedoms of all persons receiving grants are protected.

Grantees are responsible for observing satisfactory academic and professional standards and for maintaining a standard of conduct and integrity that is in keeping with the spirit and intent of the Fulbright Program and that will contribute positively to the promotion of mutual understanding between the peoples of the United States and those of other countries. Grant recipients are expected to obey the laws of the United States.

A person accepting a grant is not by virtue thereof an official or employee of the U.S. Department of State or other agency of the Government of the United States of America, or of an agency of the government home country.

470 PUBLICATIONS RESULTING FROM GRANT

The Board welcomes the publication and dissemination through the usual channels of the results of research and other educational activities financed under the Fulbright Program. Authors should take care to avoid any impression that the Government of the United States or any agency representing it has endorsed the conclusions or approved the contents of the publication.