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500 - STUDENTS FROM PARTNER COUNTRIES

510 GENERAL PROVISIONS

511 Definitions

511.1 Students from Partner Countries

Students are nationals of countries participating in the Fulbright Program who apply for a grant to pursue academic courses, normally for credit, or to engage in research or projects supervised by an approved institution, or a combination of both. The grants are awarded for study in the United States.

511.2 Educational Levels

Candidates for student grants must have completed their undergraduate education and hold a degree equivalent to a bachelor's degree by the start of the grant period. Different criteria apply for those in professional and creative fields, governed by Section 522.4, and in other specially approved programs.

In special cases exceptions may be made, where there is strong justification, for candidates who are undergraduates or whose formal training is not equivalent to U.S. academic standards.

520 SELECTION CRITERIA

521 Personal Factors

521.1 Citizenship

a. Candidates in a Commission country must meet the citizenship criterion specified in the executive agreement between the United States and that country. In a non-Commission country, candidates must be citizens or nationals of that country, or permanent residents qualified to hold a valid passport issued by that country.

b. Persons holding both citizenship in a partner country and U.S. citizenship or permanent residency are ineligible for Fulbright grants to the United States.

521.2 Previous Experience in the United States

a. Preference will be given to candidates who have not had extensive recent experience in the United States.

b. The demands of the field may require that this preference be set aside. Examples include required language fluency, the nature of the particular field of study, and assignments for which recent relevant experience in the United States may be an asset. Recommendations of candidates with extensive recent experience in the United States 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 experience in the United States applies at each stage of competition.

d. A candidate who has resided in the United States 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 in the United States for nine months or more during a calendar year is deemed to have resided in the United States for that year. Students already in the United States are ineligible for a grant. Requests for an exception to this rule will be approved only in rare and compelling circumstances and requires written justification demonstrating the demands of the field. Approval is at the discretion of the Board.

521.3 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.

521.4 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.

521.5 Adaptability

Adaptability and personal suitability will be factors in nomination and selection. Applicants should be representative and responsible citizens who can contribute to a full and fair picture of the culture and civilization of their own countries and thereby contribute to understanding and friendship between the people of the United States and of other nations. They should also be able to adjust successfully to life in the United States. The Board strongly encourages personal interviews with candidates to determine these qualities.

521.6 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, a Commission or post of a leave of absence for the grantee.

521.7 Health

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

522 Academic and Program Factors

522.1 Academic Excellence

Excellence of academic record and other qualifying educational or related professional experience will be significant factors in selection. Candidates must meet the academic requirements of the U.S. institution with which they will be affiliated.

522.2 Nature of Project

Projects should be evaluated for their goals and feasibility. Proposals should reflect enduring concerns, emphasize basic subjects, demonstrate sound methodology, and avoid politicization of scholarly inquiry.

522.3 Selection Standard: Study Programs

The Board recommends that grants be given to the best qualified candidates, consistent with Section 511.2, regardless of their level of study.

Graduate students at universities in partner countries and candidates planning to begin graduate study or professional programs in the United States will be expected to have fully developed programs of study or research. Other candidates will not be required to have long-term education or career goals.

522.4 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 the professions and in creative fields, such as fine and performing arts, music, and literature. Notwithstanding Section 511.2 (Educational Levels), non-academic candidates may substitute years of professional study or experience for an undergraduate education and degree.

522.5 Acceptability to the United States

Candidates must be acceptable to the United States and must comply with U.S. laws and regulations regarding immigration and naturalization.

522.6 Language Proficiency

Candidates must meet the English language requirements considered necessary for study or research and for adjustment to life in the United States. In cases where the English language requirement would eliminate an otherwise highly qualified candidate, a waiver of the requirement may be granted with the condition that the Bureau arrange for the candidate to have intensive English language training so that he or she is proficient in English before the start of the academic program.

522.7 Change in Study Program

The awarding of a grant does not necessarily imply approval of the grantee's program of study in the specific terms outlined in the application. Reasonable modifications of the program may be required, and the grantee is expected to accept such modifications as the Commission, the cooperating agency or host institution deems necessary. Grantees who wish to change their program of study must obtain prior approval from the Commission or post and the cooperating agency.

523 Placement Factors

523.1 Types of Grant Activity

Candidates may pursue degree programs or approved non-degree or special programs, including advanced professional training. They may follow the regular academic curricula at their host institution or engage in research projects supervised by the institution or do a combination of both.

523.2 Placement

- a. Candidates must meet the entry requirements of and be acceptable to the institution in which they propose to pursue their studies.
- b. Candidates whose placement will be arranged by the cooperating agency may indicate preferences for affiliation, with the understanding that the cooperating agency will also take into account factors such as availability of financial assistance, faculty strengths and weaknesses, and character and size of institution in selecting the most appropriate institution for the grantee.
- c. Except as provided in Section 523.2e below, grantees must be placed in a U.S. institution accredited by a recognized accrediting agency, as defined in Chapter 200 of the Policy Statements.
- d. No grantee will be placed in an institution which is not in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (see Section 212.1b for determination of compliance).
- e. 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, the cooperating agency, in consultation with Commissions and posts, may recommend other appropriate placements.

523.3 Geographic Distribution

Every effort will be made to affiliate grantees at institutions in all geographic areas of the United States, and at all types and sizes of institutions, provided that such affiliation is not detrimental to the goal of providing the best possible academic experience for the grantee.

523.4 Change of Placement

Normally, grantees will not be permitted to change their institutional placement or their degree or program objectives once they have been affiliated with an institution. This includes changing from a non-degree to degree program, and from an M.A. to a Ph.D. or other degree program. Any changes require prior approval from the cooperating agency, which will consult with the Commission and the Bureau or, for candidates from non-Commission countries, the Bureau.

523.5 Practical Experience

Definition: Practical experience is a period of observation or other activity closely related to the grantee's program of study that is designed to supplement the academic experience (Also referred to as "academic training" in J-1 visa regulations). Such experience should not duplicate activities that are part of the academic program.

Practical experience must adhere to the following conditions:

1. The experience must be recommended by the grantee's academic advisor and approved by the Bureau or a cooperating agency designated by the Bureau.
2. Practical experience may not exceed the total time spent in academic study, nor be more than a maximum of 18 months.
3. The experience must be completed within the period for which the grant (including renewals and extensions) has been awarded.

524 Eligibility Factors

524.1 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.

524.2 Government Employees

Except as provided in Section 525.1, government employees who meet established criteria are eligible for grants.

524.3 Candidates in the Field of Religion

a. Candidates 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.

524.4 Military Status

- a. Candidates on active military duty must list their military title and provide information on any restrictions which might affect performance of responsibilities under the grant.
- b. Candidates not on active duty, or who have a military title without compensation, must inform the Commission or post whether they intend or are required to affiliate with the military upon return to the home country.

525 Ineligibility Factors

See Previous Experience in the United States (Section 521.2) and Previous Fulbright Grants (Section 521.3)

525.1 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 U.S. missions abroad who work for 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. Board members or staff of a Fulbright Commission;
- c. Officers of an organization, in the United States or abroad, including members of boards of trustees or similar governing bodies, and 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. Immediate families (spouses and dependent children) of individuals described in paragraphs a-c. This provision does not disqualify self-supporting children who live apart from their parents;
- e. 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.

525.2 Persons Arrested for, Charged with, or Convicted of a Crime

A candidate who, at the time of application, or at any subsequent time prior to becoming a grantee as defined in Section 537.1, has been convicted of commission of a crime (excluding minor traffic violations), must inform the cooperating agency, the Bureau, or the Board in

writing of such fact. Similarly, a candidate who at the time of application, or at any subsequent time prior to becoming a grantee as defined in Section 537.1, has been arrested for or charged with a crime (excluding minor traffic violations), and the criminal matter has not been resolved, must inform the cooperating agency, the Bureau, or the Board in writing of such fact.

If the candidate has been convicted of a crime, 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.

If the candidate is arrested for or charged with a crime, the application (and, if already made, the selection) may be suspended by the Board until the criminal 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.

Similarly, a candidate who, at any time after becoming a grantee as defined in Section 537.1, is arrested for, or charged with a crime, 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 criminal 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 537. As used in this Section 525.2 and Section 537.7, "crime" means a criminal offense punishable by imprisonment of one year or more.

525.3 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.

526 Financial Factors

526.1 Financial Status

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

526.2 Recipients of Grants Under Other Auspices

Except as provided in Section 526.3, grants will not be awarded to persons who are concurrently recipients of benefits from other scholarships or fellowships designed to cover all expenses in connection with an educational project in the United States.

526.3 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 United States 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 the Fulbright grant (e.g., travel for dependents).
- c. Applications for travel grants must be screened in accordance with established criteria; candidates may not be assured of a travel grant solely by virtue of receipt of grant from other sources.
- d. Because candidates may need information about receipt of funds from other sources before they apply for a travel grant, deadlines for travel grants may be later than deadlines for other grants.

527 Competition and Recruitment

In order to ensure that the Fulbright Program draws its candidates from the widest possible pool of high-caliber individuals, Commissions and posts will actively disseminate information on the Fulbright Program throughout the participating countries, at different types and sizes of institutions, and will engage in such recruitment activities as are necessary to encourage participation in the Fulbright Program of persons of diverse backgrounds.

528 Applications for Honorary Grants

Students from partner countries 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 cooperating agency part or all of the allowances received under the grant.

530 GENERAL TERMS OF AWARD

531 Passport and Visas

The grantee is personally responsible for obtaining a passport and any visas required by the countries through which the grantee will pass en route to the United States, as well as a visa for the United States. 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.

531.1 Exchange Visitor Visa

Foreign student grantees who require a visa for the United States must enter the United States on a J-visa under Exchange Visitor Program No. G-1-1. All grantees, including those who do not require a visa to enter the United States, are expected to return to their home countries for at least two years at the conclusion of their grant, in compliance with J-visa requirements.

532 Time Commitment and Supervision

532.1 Full-Time Nature of Grants

With the exception of practical experience as provided in Section 523.5(a), grants are awarded for full-time study or research (for candidates in academic fields), or full-time professional training (for candidates in the creative and performing arts), or a combination of teaching, study, and cultural/language outreach activities (for Foreign Language Teaching Assistants).

532.2 Supervision

Grantees in the United States are supervised by the cooperating agency. They must observe the regulations of this agency and submit a final report and such other reports as may be required.

533 Duration of Grants: Basic Grant, Renewal, and Extension

533.1 Definitions

Basic Grant — A basic grant covers a grantee's initial study in the United States under the Fulbright Program. It is for the period described in Section 533.2. A basic grant provides full or partial funding to the grantee, supplemental health insurance, administrative supervision by the cooperating agency, and visa sponsorship by the U.S. Department of State.

Renewal Grant — A renewal grant covers an additional year, or major portion thereof, immediately following a basic grant. A renewal grant provides full or partial funding to the grantee, supplemental health insurance, administrative supervision by the cooperating agency, and visa sponsorship by the U.S. Department of State. A renewal grant does not provide additional travel. At the discretion of the Commission or post, a grantee who received a basic travel-only grant may receive a renewal grant that includes other benefits.

Extension grant — An extension grant covers an additional year, or major portion thereof, immediately following a basic grant or a renewal grant. An extension grant provides administrative supervision by the cooperating agency, supplemental health insurance, and visa sponsorship by the U.S. Department of State, but does not provide any funding to the grantee.

533.2 Period of Basic Grant

The minimum period of a basic grant is an academic term (typically four months or more) except for certain professional fields which should strive for a similar minimum length. The maximum period of a basic grant may not exceed 12 months. Posts and Commissions shall indicate each grantee's goal, namely, non-degree study or a Master's or Doctoral degree.

533.3 Awarding Renewal Grants and Extension Grants

a. Grantees should be informed at the time of selection that:

1. The Fulbright program is not primarily a degree granting program and ordinarily programs of study are limited to one or two years;
2. Grantees are strongly encouraged to find their own support from non-Fulbright sources if they wish to stay in the United States beyond the period of their program of study and transfer visa sponsorship according to Section 533.4 of the Policies, since renewal and extension grants may not be available;
3. Renewal and extension grants are not guaranteed, and are conditioned upon satisfactory academic progress, as well as administrative and budgetary factors;
4. Grantees may apply for renewal or extension grants, subject to the following limits:
 - Non-degree student: total grant length should not exceed two years
 - Master's student: total grant length should not exceed three years
 - Doctoral student: total grant length should not exceed five years

b. Awards of renewal or extension grants within the limits of subsection (a)(iv) shall be made by the Commission or post, consistent with programs approved by the Bureau and the Board. Extension grants may also be awarded for the purpose of practical experience, in accordance with section 523.5. The Bureau shall notify the Board of all renewal and extension grants that are made. The Board will consider awarding an extension or renewal grant that exceeds the limits set out in subsection (a)(iv) when the following conditions are met: the grantee demonstrates a compelling justification; the Bureau and the Commission or post concur; and the grant would clearly advance the interests of the Fulbright program.

c. Grantees wishing to change the goal of their program from non-degree to degree or from Master to Doctoral degree must obtain the approval of the cooperating agency and the

concurrence of the Bureau or, where applicable, Commission. Grants received prior to the change will be counted in determining the grantee's eligibility for further renewals or extensions.

533.4 Transfer of Visa Sponsorship

Grantees who wish to continue their studies in the United States after the expiration of Fulbright Program support (whether by basic grant, renewal grant, or extension grant) must receive the approval of the cooperating agency, the Bureau, and the Commission or post to transfer visa sponsorship to the host institution. Such a transfer does not release grantees from their obligation to fulfill the two-year home residency requirement (see Section 531.1). Grantees who transfer to host institution sponsorship receive no further travel, maintenance, insurance or other Fulbright benefits. In the event such transfer is made before the grantee has used the grantee's return travel entitlement under the grantee's basic grant, the grantee may, at the option of the Commission or the Bureau (for non-Commission countries), receive a voucher corresponding to the then current value of such entitlement.

534 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 academic year if a satisfactory program of study, research, or teaching — for the period of the basic grant — can be arranged to commence with the second term or semester.

535 Retroactive Grants

[Deleted]

536 Resignation from Grant

536.1 Personal Reasons

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 the Bureau (for non-Commission countries). 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.

536.2 Early Completion of Project

A grantee's request for early departure from the United States upon satisfactory completion of the grantee's project or assignment is subject to approval by the Commission or, for grantees from non-Commission countries, by the Bureau.

536.3 Other Reasons

Resignation requests for causes other than those identified in Sections 536.1 and 536.2 above will be reported to the Board by the Bureau after consultation with Commissions or posts. The Board will decide on eligibility for return travel.

537 Revocation, Termination, and Suspension of Grants

537.1 Definitions

a. For the purpose of Section 525.2 and this Section 537, 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 of same to the Commission or cooperating agency.

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

In the event a selected candidate fails to sign and return a copy of the grant document within a reasonable time after it is received by the selected candidate, the selection may be withdrawn by the Commission or, in non-Commission countries, the 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.

537.2 Authority to Recommend Revocation or Termination

a. The cooperating agency and the host institution have authority to recommend that the Board revoke or terminate the grant held by a grantee who has departed the home country for the United States.

b. The Commission or, in non-Commission countries, the post has authority to recommend that the Board revoke or terminate a grant to a grantee who has not yet departed the home country for the United States.

537.3 Grounds for Revocation or Termination

In addition to the grounds specified in Section 525.2, grounds for revocation or termination include, but are not limited to: (1) violation of any laws of the United States or the home country; (2) any act likely to give offense to the United States 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 has authority to terminate a grant if: (1) the grantee has exhausted all benefits of health and accident insurance provided to the grantee 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 objectives 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.

537.4 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.

537.5 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.

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.

537.6 Suspension

a. The Board, at the recommendation of the Bureau, Commission or post may suspend a grant pending the procedure for revocation or termination of the grant, or if the grantee is arrested for, charged with, or convicted of commission of a crime, either before or after the grantee's departure for the United States, in accordance with Section 525.2.

b. The Bureau, Commission or post may suspend a grant if:

1. The grantee ceases to carry out the project during the grant period, and/or
2. The grantee leaves the United States for more than two weeks without the prior authorization of the cooperating agency.

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.

537.7 Persons Arrested for, Charged with, or Convicted of a Crime

The provisions of this Section 537 are in addition to the provisions of Section 525.2 regarding the suspension, termination, or revocation of grants to persons arrested for, charged with, or convicted of a crime.

537.8 Notification

The Commission or, in non-Commission countries, the cooperating agency will include Section 525, Section 531, this Section 537 and Section 538 in the grant document for signature and acceptance by the selected candidate.

538 Liability

No one or more of the Board, the U.S. Department of State, the cooperating agency or 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 525.2 or Section 537.

540 FINANCIAL TERMS OF GRANT

541 Grant Benefits

Benefits for grantees vary according to the type of grant awarded. Commissions are authorized to develop grant packages for grantees from their countries. For grantees from non-Commission countries, the Bureau, in consultation with the post, will determine the grant benefits. Basic benefits to grantees will include one or more of the following: (1) travel from the grantees' home to their institution of affiliation in the United States and return, (2) full or partial support in the United States for tuition, fees, and maintenance, (3) allowances for books and incidentals, and (4) pre-departure orientation. Additional allowances may also be provided as deemed necessary. All grantees will receive supplemental health and accident insurance through the Bureau.

541.1 Travel and Transportation

a. Normally grantees will receive round-trip transportation from their homes to the place within the United States 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 United States 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 from 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 extension or renewal grants will not be entitled to international travel beyond that provided in the original grant, except for any increases in cost of return travel.

e. Subject to the provisions of Section 533.3, grantees who remain more than five years, or who stay beyond their grant period without official approval, will lose the return travel portion of their grants.

541.2 Other Allowances

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

541.3 Health and Accident Insurance

- a. The Bureau provides grantees with supplemental health and accident insurance during direct travel time from the host country, while participating in grant activities in the United States, and while directly en route back to the home country. 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 supplemental health and accident insurance policy.
- c. A grantee is responsible for providing any health insurance required by visa regulations for any dependent who accompanies the grantee to the United States. Failure to do so may result in termination of the grant.
- d. It is recommended that the grantee obtain adequate insurance for personal property.
- e. Neither the Board, the U.S. Department of State, 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 541.4a), 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 in the United States, travel or other activities related to the grant.

541.4 Additional Travel Funding for Dissertation Research

Grantees who have completed course work, passed the comprehensive examinations for a doctorate and who need to return to their home country to conduct dissertation research, may receive funds for an additional round-trip in continuation of their initial grant under the following conditions:

1. The grantee's advisor and host institution confirm that the grantee is at the required research stage of the doctoral program.
2. The grantee's topic requires substantial research in the home country.
3. Funds are available for such a travel grant.

542 Duration of Benefits

542.1 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 United States. 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 United States, or, for persons already in the United States, on the date the grantee begins the grant project.
- c. When a renewal grant is awarded, 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 United States. These allowances will be based on the maintenance allowance given during the preceding academic year.
- e. As a general rule, no maintenance allowance for the summer recess will be given recipients of renewal grants for time spent outside the United States, unless the grantee obtains advance approval from the Commission or post for absence from the United States.
- f. The maintenance allowance will terminate on the date of the grantee's departure from the United States or on completion of the project, whichever is earlier.

542.2 Health and Accident Insurance

The supplemental health and accident insurance described in Section 541.3 will terminate upon the grantee's arrival back in the home country, or on completion of the project, whichever is earlier.

542.3 Early Departure of Grantee

If the Commission or the Bureau permits early departure of a grantee, provision of return transportation is at the discretion of the Commission or Bureau, except as specified in Section 536.

542.4 Stopovers in Third Countries After Departure from United States

- a. Grantees returning to their home countries may be permitted to use their return travel grants for stopovers in third countries for study, lecturing, or research for academic purposes related to the grantee's educational objectives.

Commissions and, for non-Commission grantees, the Bureau are authorized to review the requests of grantees for such stopovers, establishing their individual policy thereon, provided that such approved stopovers in a third country be limited to a period no longer in duration than that spent by the grantee under the grant in the United States.

b. Upon the departure from the United States of grantees with approved stopovers, the responsibility of the Board and the Bureau for the programming and supervision of the grantees ceases. During the stopover period, the individual does not maintain the status of a grantee under the program; such status ceases at the time the stopover period begins and is not resumed until the return travel under the grant is once again resumed. Such individuals, therefore, may not continue to be considered grantees and may not represent themselves as grantees during the stopover period.

543 Benefits from Other Sources

543.1 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 approval of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, in consultation with the cooperating agency and Commission or post. In certain cases, and only with prior authorization by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, 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 U.S. visa regulations.

543.2 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.

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

Any honoraria or other fees received in the United States for special lectures or similar events during the grant period may be accepted by the grantee, subject to the approval of the cooperating agency.

544.4 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), 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 contents of the in-person, print, and/or electronic solicitation.

550 INCOME TAX LIABILITY

Grantees shall be responsible for determining whether any part of funds received in the United States is subject to U.S. income tax regulations. Cooperating agencies, in consultation with the U.S. Department of State, shall provide guidelines to assist grantees.

560 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 of the home country.

570 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.