

## **2013-2014 GUINEA COUNTRY GUIDELINES FOR U.S. FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS AND STUDENTS**

The Fulbright Program, sponsored and administered by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the United States Department of State, awards scholarships to lecture, conduct research, and study abroad. Overseas, Fulbright Programs are the responsibility of the Public Affairs Section (PAS) of the U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The country guidelines contain **summary** information about the Fulbright award, logistical and program support provided through the Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), contact information for the Public Affairs Section (PAS) and the U.S. Embassy, and advisory information about your host country. The country guidelines are an important resource for you throughout the duration of your grant. Please consult the guidelines for important information needed before arrival in the host country, departure, and arrival to the host country. Public Affairs staff in Conakry will brief recipients on what privileges can be accorded to Fulbright scholars and students. This overview of privileges may be supplemented by PAS in further written communication. Please note that information in these guidelines is subject to change.

### **THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IN GUINEA**

The Public Affairs Section (PAS) is responsible for managing the Fulbright Program in Conakry, Guinea. PAS staff is the primary point of contact for your support needs.

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**All Fulbright grantees must register with the embassy in case of emergency.** This can be done on this website at any time: <http://www.travel.state.gov/>

## THE FULBRIGHT GRANT AND THE BINATIONAL NATURE OF THE PROGRAM

The Fulbright Program is administered in accordance with regulations established by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (FSB). The Board has ruled that Fulbright grant funds cannot duplicate benefits received under other auspices. Therefore, grantees, who receive host government or host institution financial contributions (for example, international travel, per diem/subsistence/housing allowance) in cash or kind, do not receive allowances for these benefits in their grants. Grantees who receive a concurrent grant to the same country under other auspices may have their Fulbright grants reduced if Fulbright grant benefits are duplicated by the other grant.

Governments and institutions in host countries support the exchange program in two ways: through (a) *monetary contributions*, which result in a sharing of program costs or (b) provision of *non-monetary assistance* to enhance the exchange experience for the guest scholar.

## WHAT THE FULBRIGHT GRANT PROVIDES

### For Student Grantees

Fulbright student grants have two components: (1) a base amount and (2) monthly maintenance allowance. Additional funds may be included in your grant as allowances and are described separately. Grant benefits authorized by ECA are paid in U.S. dollars through the Institute of International Education (IIE).

1. The **base amount** is provided to cover initial or one-time start-up expenses such as:
  - a. Unaccompanied and/or Excess Baggage
  - b. Miscellaneous Costs, such as visa fees, permits, medical exams, immunizations, etc.This is a fixed sum in each grant and may not reimburse all expenses completely.
2. A monthly **maintenance allowance** is provided to cover recurring subsistence needs such as housing, fuel, utilities, and food. The maintenance allowance is based upon the estimated cost of maintaining a modest standard of living in the country of assignment.

### For Scholar Grantees

Fulbright senior scholar grants have three components: (1) travel and relocation, (2) monthly maintenance, and (3) monthly stipend. Additional funds may be included in your grant as special allowances and are described separately. Grant benefits are based upon the estimated cost of maintaining a modest standard of living in the country of assignment. Benefits are not intended to duplicate U.S. salary levels or the standard of living of U.S. diplomatic personnel. Grant benefits authorized by ECA are paid in U.S. dollars through the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES).

1. Travel and Relocation
  - a. Unaccompanied and/or Excess Baggage

b. Relocation Allowance for expenses such as visa fees, permits, medical exams, immunizations, etc. This is a fixed sum in each grant and may not reimburse all expenses completely.

2. A monthly **maintenance allowance** is provided to cover recurring subsistence needs such as housing, fuel, utilities, and food.

3. Monthly **base stipend**

### **Fulbright Reporting Requirements**

The Fulbright award requires submission of two reports: 1) at the interim or mid-point of the grant and 2) a final report prior to departing from the host country. Grantees will receive instructions from CIES or IIE, as appropriate, on how to file reports on-line.

### **PRIOR TO YOUR ARRIVAL**

#### **Travel to Guinea**

Grantee air travel is coordinated by the travel agency, HRG Worldwide, which will bill IIE or CIES directly for the costs of your tickets. HRG staff will assist you with your reservation and then send your reservation to IIE or CIES for approval. You must book a round-trip ticket with a return date that corresponds to the grant end date. All air travel and all air shipments paid for with United States Government funds must conform to the Fly America Act, which requires that all such travel and shipments be on “U.S. flag” airlines where such service is available.

#### **Visas**

Fulbright grantees should be able to secure Guinean visas with a letter of invitation from their host institution in Guinea. Applications for the visa are available at the Guinean Embassy in Washington, D.C.

EMBASSY OF GUINEA  
2112 LEROY PLACE NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20008  
TEL: 202 – 986-4300

The office is open during the following business hours: 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

#### **DOCUMENTATION NEEDED**

- ✓ A valid passport
- ✓ Completed 2 Application forms;
- ✓ 2 Pictures (Passport size);
- ✓ Yellow fever vaccination certificate;
- ✓ A letter stating the purpose of your trip to Guinea;

- ✓ Fee paid with money order only (\$100 for three months and \$200 for six months to one year period and multiple entry);
- ✓ Rush visa for the same day or next days is charged at twice the regular fee;
- ✓ A self-stamped addressed envelope to return your passport;

A World Health Organization yellow booklet with evidence of an immunization against yellow fever within the past 10 years is required upon arrival at the Conakry Airport.

### **Arrival**

Grantees will be met at the airport as long as the post has received the grantee's flight itinerary by email at least 10 days in advance.

### **Arrangement of Meetings**

Post would be glad to arrange meetings with Guineans in Conakry for Fulbright lecturers and students and looks forward to hearing from them prior to their arrival in country. Email is the best means of communicating with the post.

## **SENDING AND RECEIVING MAIL**

### **Books and Educational Materials Sent by Diplomatic Pouch**

Fulbright grantees may use diplomatic mail for a one-time shipment of a maximum of four boxes of educational materials. Permission for outbound shipment of the materials has been authorized by the Department of State. Materials cannot be sent back to the U.S. by pouch.

For the **four 8.5"x11" copy paper-size boxes of books**, the use of sturdy boxes and reliable mailing tape such as filament (strapping) tape is strongly recommended. Each box must **weigh no more than 50 pounds. The combined volume of the entire shipment must not exceed 6 cubic feet. The grantee will be responsible for shipment costs if the limit is exceeded.**

Boxes are handled very roughly in transit. Overloaded boxes or flimsy boxes will split. Boxes sent through the diplomatic pouch are neither registered nor insured. Most boxes eventually arrive at the post. However, it is recommended that Fulbrighters not send anything in the boxes that cannot be replaced. Shipping time for boxes is hard to predict, so plan on six to eight weeks in transit. Put a valid return address in the upper left corner and repeat the return and forwarding addresses on notes inside the boxes.

All Fulbright boxes are considered "official mail" and for that reason are subject to security scanning for contents and irradiation to guard against biological (i.e. anthrax) contamination. Books and bound documents have apparently not been damaged by scanning. Photographs and single sheets of paper may be damaged, becoming yellowed and brittle. Slides or any thin plastic materials such as transparencies are destroyed. There have been reports of CDs being melted by the irradiation process.

## **Addressing the Box**

Return address in upper left-hand corner:

Grantee Name  
Street Address  
City, State, Zip

Address label:

Public Affairs Officer  
Department of State  
2110 Conakry Place  
Washington, D.C. 20521 - 2110

In lower left-hand corner of the box write:

UNCLASSIFIED VIA AIR POUCH  
Your Name  
FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

Grantees sending only one package should write "1 of 1" in the lower right-hand corner. Grantees sending more than one package should number each package in a series and circle the markings, e.g., "1 of 3", "2 of 3", and "3 of 3".

CAUTIONARY NOTE: in the past, abuse by several Fulbright scholars caused near revocation of privileges for all program participants. Anyone who violates pouch regulations will be barred from use and will have to make other arrangements for handling personal and professional correspondence.

## **HOST INSTITUTIONS**

### **Conakry**

The University of Conakry has two main campuses: one is located in the old town section (Dixinn) of Conakry and hosts the Medical School and the Polytechnic Institute. This campus does not offer housing. Thus, the grantee is responsible for his/her lodging. A mid-sized apartment or a modest-sized house with basic amenities such as water, electricity, and that meets U.S. Embassy security standards, can cost more than \$1,500 per month in Conakry excluding utilities. It is often difficult to find housing of this type near the campus due to high demand and a shortage of adequate housing. Housing is easier to find and less expensive on the outskirts of town, but comes with a longer commute. A vehicle may be necessary when living outside of the central city due to a lack of taxi service.

Sonfonia Campus, which was opened 9 years ago, is located 15 km away from the city center. The campus houses the Faculties of Economics, Law, Political Sciences, Letters, Tourism and Administrative Sciences. Sonfonia does not have an apartment accessible for Fulbright lecturers or lecturers/researchers appointed to one of its faculties.

Lecturers may need to stay at embassy recommended hotels or a modestly priced city center hotel for at least the first week after arrival. The Riviera Royal Hotel costs US\$142 daily (including breakfast) and Mariador-Meridian costs US\$190 (including breakfast) at a special embassy rate. The grantee can also choose to stay in a secure and more modestly priced hotel, the Catholic Church Guest House, where a room costs about US\$60 (including breakfast).

## **Kankan**

The Julius Nyerere University of Kankan has an apartment available for Fulbright lecturers or lecturer/researchers appointed to one of its faculties. If no Fulbright lecturer or lecturer/researcher uses the apartment, U.S. Fulbright student researchers may use it. City electricity is non-existent in Kankan, as is water. The University-rented Fulbright house now boasts solar panels on the roof and has a hand-pump well. Life in Kankan is more rustic than in Conakry, and grantees should adjust their expectations accordingly. A vehicle may be necessary to get to and from the university. Public transportation is via motor bike. Some Fulbrighters have found bicycles to be adequate to get around Kankan.

## **PAS AND EMBASSY SUPPORT**

### **Local Health Services**

Fulbrighters do not have access to Embassy health facilities. Alternate medical care is limited. The Embassy Health Unit can provide the Fulbrighters with referral to physicians and local clinics. The embassy health unit will provide mefloquine. Grantees should bring their own medications, prescription drugs and extra pairs of eyeglasses or contact lenses.

### **Check Cashing**

Grantees may cash personal checks at the Ecobank window at the Embassy.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

### **Employment for Spouses**

Work permits for spouses can be obtained from the local labor bureau in Conakry once you have arrived in country. Applications are done in person. You will be required to bring 2 passport-sized photos and US\$200.

### **Local Transportation and the Used Car Market**

Used cars in relatively good condition can generally be purchased for between US\$5,000-9,000, although they typically require up to US\$1,000 for initial maintenance/repair. Taxis in Conakry are readily available and inexpensive, although usually taxis and minibuses are in poor condition and the latter very crowded. There is no commercial air service between Conakry and Kankan.

Approximate time by ground transportation is 10-12 hours of travel and the roads are often in poor condition.

### **Permanent Housing**

Researchers who plan to work outside of Conakry should consult former Fulbrighters who have had similar experiences. Housing outside of Conakry is less expensive, and any other urban center is less congested, but public transportation is limited. Post can put researchers in touch with former Fulbrighters if requested.

### **Security**

Conakry is rated “Critical” for crime and “High” for civil unrest by the Department of State. Violence against foreign visitors is rare but incidences of purse snatchings, pick-pocketing, burglaries, residential and business thefts do occur. Civil disturbances, while not frequent, are a fact of life in Guinea. The country recently experienced a bloodless coup and is going through a period of political transition. Grantees should stay in regular contact with the public affairs officer, particularly during periods of unrest or when traveling upcountry.

Fulbrighters are required to attend a security briefing with the regional security officer at the U.S. Embassy within a week of arrival in country.

Grantees are advised that explicit permission from the Guinean government should be obtained before photographing military and transportation facilities, government buildings, or public works. Taking a photograph without permission in any public area will agitate security personnel or cause offense to those being photographed. Those taking photographs in public places are sometimes detained and their cameras or memory chips seized by security forces.

### **Other Websites or Resource Material**

Guinea Consular Info: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1132.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1132.html)

State Alumni: <http://alumni.state.gov>

Fulbright Association: <http://www.fulbright.org>

Africanews: <http://www.africanews.org/>