

# VPDO Honduras

The Cultural Affairs Office offers the following services to U.S. Fulbrighters:

- Airport pick up, upon request
- Security briefing for all incoming Fulbright scholars and students
- Limited mail and diplomatic pouch service upon arrival
- Assistance in finding housing
- Other important details concerning the Post/Embassy

## **Airport Pick Up:**

Upon the grantee's request, U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section and / or host institution representatives meet the grantees at the airport and provide transportation to the hotel/apartment. The Embassy will assist in securing accommodations for the first few days, also upon grantee's request. Please e-mail a copy of your travel itinerary to CIES once your arrangements have been made so that the Post can be informed about your arrival. Pick up on weekends is not available. Call for information about weekend transportation.

## **Security Briefing:**

The Post requests that grantees report to the Embassy to fill out information forms, for in-house control, which include emergency contact information for the grantee. The registration with the Consular Section can be done on-line by entering into the Embassy website before arrival at Post or by using <http://travel.state.gov>. The Embassy will also schedule a security briefing by the Regional Security Office (RSO) at the U.S. Embassy. The grantee is expected to be at the Embassy about 1-2 hours for the briefing and to fill out of necessary forms. The written information provided on security issues is located on the U.S. Embassy website.

## **Housing:**

Sometimes grantees request housing options before arrival, but usually they make their own arrangements through recommendations from previous Fulbrighters. If they require information related to any topic or interest, the Embassy is always ready to provide the necessary assistance and information.

## **Other Important Details Concerning the Post/Embassy:**

The staff at the Embassy is here to help in any way possible. You should feel free to contact them, if you have a problem or any questions or concerns. Grantees should be aware, however, that they do not have the same privileges as fulltime Embassy staff or diplomats, such as access to the Embassy medical office, the mail service (APO) or the Embassy commissary. Grantees also do not have automatic entry to the Embassy premises without prior permission from the RSO.

**Mail and the Diplomatic Pouch:** Please review your orientation packet for instructions regarding official and personal mail and limited access to the diplomatic pouch. Keep in mind that pouch privileges cannot be used to send materials back to the U.S. at the end of your stay. Several months before departure, Fulbrighters should start to determine the mode by which they will ship back their goods

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(accompanied air, unaccompanied freight, and/or international mail) and secure necessary export permits, if applicable.

**Health Care:** access to the U.S. Embassy's Health Unit is not extended to U.S. Fulbright grantees and their dependents.

**Fulbright grantees have health care provisions under the Department of State Group Accident and Sickness Program for Exchanges (ASPE). The ASPE is not an all-purpose health insurance; it is subject to specific limitations. You are encouraged to review the information spelled out in the ASPE brochure supplied by CIES.**

We encourage you to carry copies of medical records and basic information that will enable a medical professional to help quickly and properly should it become necessary. You should carry a good supply of aspirins, vitamins, band-aids and preferred over the counter medications and your own supply of long-term prescription medicines for special medical requirements.

We also strongly suggest that you provide a copy of your health insurance card to the Cultural Affairs Office in case of emergency.

**Visas:** U.S. citizens do not need a visa to enter Honduras as tourists. Scholars are given a temporary visa permit for the duration of their tour in the country. Work permits require the hiring of a lawyer and it is a long and expensive process. The term used to justify scholars' presence in the country is "providing technical assistance to xxxx entity at no cost to the host institution."

**You will be required to give your passport to Cultural Affairs Section staff in order to obtain authorization from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for your stay in Honduras. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will make an annotation in your passport. Please bring your passport to the Embassy when you come for your Security Briefing.**

