



COUNTRY GUIDELINES FOR
U.S. FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS
AND STUDENTS

2013 - 2014

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INTRODUCTION

The Fulbright Program is sponsored and administered by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the United States Department of State. Overseas, Fulbright programs are the responsibility of the Public Affairs Section (PAS) of the American Embassy.

The country guidelines contain **summary** information about the Fulbright award, logistical and program support provided through Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), contact information for the Public Affairs Section (PAS) and/or the U.S. Embassy, and advisory information about South Africa. 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 South Africa.

PAS officers in Pretoria will supplement this overview of privileges that can and cannot be accorded to Fulbright scholars and students by the Public Affairs Section and the U.S. Embassy. Information in the guidelines is subject to change. This is the best information that PAS Pretoria and the African Exchanges Branch of ECA have as of March 2013.

I. THE FULBRIGHT GRANT: 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 that 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 South Africa 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 or student.

WHAT THE GRANT PROVIDES

Fulbright Student Grants have two components: [1] a base amount and [2] monthly maintenance. 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) **Round-trip economy airfare:** The Fulbright student is responsible for making travel arrangements according to the Fly America Act and securing tickets.
 - b) **Unaccompanied and/or Excess Baggage**
 - c) **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 **MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE** is provided monthly 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.

Fulbright Senior Scholar Grants have three components:

1. Travel and Relocation
2. Monthly Maintenance
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).

WHAT THE GRANT COVERS

1. Travel and Relocation

- a) Round-trip economy airfare. The Fulbright scholar is responsible for making travel arrangements according to the Fly America Act, and securing tickets.
- b) Unaccompanied and/or excess baggage.
- c) Miscellaneous costs such as visa fees, permits, medical exams, immunizations, etc.

2. Monthly Maintenance

Payments are provided to cover subsistence needs such as housing, fuel, utilities and food.

3. Monthly Base Stipend

II. PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION, U.S. EMBASSY IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Fulbright Program is managed by the Public Affairs Section (PAS) of the Embassy of the United States of America in Pretoria, South Africa. As a Fulbright grantee you are required to keep the PAS informed of your whereabouts, should you leave your host institution for an extended period of time, or if you intend on leaving the country. **Please contact them as soon as possible** and give them your complete contact information so that you may be reached in the event of emergencies.

Embassy of the United States of America GENERAL INFORMATION

Street Address: 877 Pretorius Street, Arcadia, Pretoria 0083

Mailing Address: P O Box 9536, Pretoria, 0001

Contact numbers: Telephone: 27 12 431-4189
Facsimile: 27 12 342-2090

E-mail: Fulbright_Program_SAfrica@state.gov

Website: <http://southafrica.usembassy.gov>

Fulbright Staff at the US Embassy in Pretoria

Cynthia Jefferies
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JefferiesCL@state.gov

Mamosa Makaya
Fulbright Program Assistant
MakayaMX@state.gov

EJ Monster
Cultural Affairs Officer
MonsterEJ@state.gov

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/>

III. LOGISTICS

1. *Fly America*

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.

Direct flights are currently offered by:

- Delta Airlines from Atlanta to Johannesburg

In addition, several U.S. flag carriers serve South Africa via code share agreements:

- United Airlines from Washington to Johannesburg (SAA code share)

The following carriers also comply with the Fly America Act and offer flights to South Africa via Europe:

- Delta (Air France code share) via Paris
- North West Airlines (KLM code share) via Amsterdam
- United Airlines (Lufthansa code share) via Frankfurt
- United Airlines (SAA code share) via London American Airlines (British Airways code share) via London

Please keep in mind that code share agreements could change before your departure for South Africa. HRG can provide you with updated information.

You are allowed to sign up for frequent flyer programs and miles, regardless of which airline you choose.

2. *Treaty Permits/Visas/Study Permits*

Fulbright grantees (lecturers/researchers) **must not apply for work permits** or study permits. Currently, all Fulbright grantees who will be in South Africa for a period longer than three months need to obtain a **treaty permit** before arrival in South Africa. This procedure can take 4 to 6 weeks, although more time may be needed during the month-long December holidays. It is impossible to obtain a treaty permit on short notice. **Do not** arrive without the appropriate visa and expect to adjust your status in country.

Spouses must apply for a **Visitor’s Visa** (for a maximum of 12 months). A special visitor’s visa will be issued, which will read, “Accompanying Spouse on Fulbright Grant”. Please note that accompanying school-going children or students registering at a local university in South Africa need to apply for **Study Permits**.

Upon application for a treaty permit, scholars must supply a letter of endorsement from the U.S. Embassy, Pretoria. To obtain such a letter, the grantee must inform the Public Affairs Section of passport numbers of grantee and accompanying dependents, as well as of approximate dates of arrival in and departure from South Africa. Please make sure that if you are considering extending your grant, dates are submitted to reflect this. On all application forms it needs to be made clear that the grantee will not take up employment at the host institution, but will be in South Africa to conduct research as a guest lecturer. Avoid words like “work” (implying “payment”) and “scholar” (implying “study”).

In all cases the grantee should contact the South African Embassy in Washington D.C., or nearest South African Consulate General (New York, Chicago, Los Angeles) as soon as possible to ensure what documentation will be needed and about current treaty permit, visa and study permit fees.

Please be aware that these requirements can change without notice. At the moment, the South African Consular Offices require:

- a) Temporary Residence Permit form (BI-1738)
- b) Passport valid for no less than 30 days after the last day of intended visit. Please make sure that you have two whole pages free in your passport to be able to enter the country. You CAN be turned back at the border if you do not have sufficient space in your passport. Also note that the last page in your passport is for US amendments, and not considered an empty page.
- c) Two photos
- d) Roundtrip flight itinerary (open-ended with no return date is accepted). Please note that a printout from the relevant Airline or Travel Agency is sufficient.
- e) \$72.00 processing fee + \$16.00 for FEDEX for mailing = \$88.00. Only Cash or money order accepted.
- f) Letter from PAS explaining the Fulbright program and the anticipated length of stay.
- g) A letter from the host in South Africa
- h) Medical and radiological report
- i) * Police clearance certificate from all countries applicant resided in for 12 months or more since the age of 18 years. Some states are able to provide this clearance through local police stations, but if not, federal clearance can be obtained through the FBI. You can visit this website for more information: <http://www.fbi.gov/foia/>.

** This last document may take a while to obtain. Although some consular offices will allow you to submit the police report under separate cover and at a later stage, we highly recommend that you contact the Embassy/Consulate as soon as possible to make sure what is required for each, and proceed to get that done even if you don't plan to travel immediately. This could save you a lot of last-minute stress!*

IMPORTANT: For questions regarding Treaty Permits, please contact Mamosa Makaya, Cynthia Jefferies or our general Fulbright inbox:
Fulbright_Program_SAfrica@state.gov.

Addresses of South African Consular Offices in the U.S. are provided below for your convenience:

Washington D.C.

South African Embassy
3051 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC, 20008
Tel: (202) 232-4400
Fax: (202) 244-9417
E-mail: consular@saembassy.org
Web: <http://www.saembassy.org>

New York

South African Consulate-General
333 East 38th Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY, 10016
Tel: (212) 213-4880
Fax: (212) 856-1575
E-mail: consular@southafrica-newyork.net
Web: <http://www.southafrica-newyork.net>

Chicago

South African Consulate-General
200 South Michigan Avenue, 6th Floor
Chicago, IL, 60604
Tel: (312) 939-7929
Fax: (312) 939-2588
E-mail: sacgconsular@sacg.xohost.com
Web: <http://www.sachicago.pwpsystems.com/>

Los Angeles

South African Consulate-General
6300 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 600
Los Angeles, CA, 90048
Tel: (323) 651-0902
Fax: (323) 651-5969
E-mail: admin@link2sa.com
Web: <http://www.link2southafrica.com>

The grantee is responsible for the treaty permit/visa/study permit costs as well as renewal/extension costs. For this reason, you are strongly advised to ensure that you

apply for the proper length of stay in South Africa. Grantees can use their relocation allowance, which is provided in the first grant payment, for these expenses.

Please note that recent law now makes allowance for all treaty permits/visas/study permits to be valid for **multiple entries** into South Africa.

IMPORTANT: Fulbright grantees should ensure that their treaty permit/visa/study permit is valid for 12 months (or the sufficient length of stay of the grant period), from the day they enter South Africa (and NOT from the day the visa is issued at the South African Consulate General). Please also ensure that the residence permit, issued upon arrival in South Africa by customs, allows for a 12-month stay (or the sufficient length of stay of the grant period).

3. *Accommodation in South Africa*

Fulbright Grantees are responsible for finding their own housing

Scholars could be accommodated in one of the following ways:

- a) **Fully-sponsored housing** provided by the host institution.
- b) **Partially-sponsored housing** provided by the host institution.
- c) **Housing allowance** provided by the host institution.
- d) **No housing allowance** from the host institution, necessitating a full housing allowance being incorporated into the grant.

Useful resources for locating housing are:

- a) Former and current Fulbright student grantees to South Africa. Feel free to use our new ExchangesConnect webpage (connect.state.gov), that connects potential, current, and former educational and cultural exchange program participants. There you can discuss application processes, programs, and living abroad.
- b) The International Office at your host institution.
- c) South Africa's versions of Craigslist: <http://gumtree.co.za>, www.olx.co.za
- d) The classified section in the university newspaper or local newspaper.
- e) For grantees in Pretoria and Johannesburg: <http://www.availabed.co.za>
- f) Other good sites for long-term stays and rentals: www.property24.com, www.privateproperty.co.za, and www.homes.trovit.co.za.

4. *Arrival in South Africa*

International airports, and airports in all the major cities, have modern facilities with frequent, inexpensive shuttle services to the city centers. Car rentals are also available at all South African airports.

Grantees and their families will be met at the airport by the host institution and/or staff of the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy or Consulates (Durban,

Cape Town, and Johannesburg). It is preferable for grantees to arrive on weekdays during normal business hours rather than weekends (including Fridays). If grantees cannot arrive during these times then alternative arrangements may be made on their behalf.

Grantees must provide the appropriate CIES and IIE program officers with their final itineraries at least 3 weeks in advance so that those officers can inform PAS Pretoria of your travel schedules.

One of our Public Affairs Offices can make the following arrangements on the grantee's behalf if arrival is on a weekday during normal business hours:

- Collection from the airport. Staff from the host institution and/or PAS will wait for you in the arrivals hall, carrying a sign with your name on it.
- Pay for one night's accommodation at a hotel near the Embassy or Consulate that is closest to your final destination so that you may attend a security briefing.
- PAS staff will provide transportation to the U.S. Embassy or Consulates to meet and discuss your research project as well as receive a **security briefing**.
- If possible, we may assist with arrangements to get you to your final destination. Please make sure to keep in contact with the Embassy in Pretoria and/or the Consulate nearest your final destination.

IMPORTANT: We recommend that you investigate the restrictions and luggage limitations on the connecting flight to your final destination the next day. Budget airlines like Kulula, 1-Time and Mango might require you to pay for excess baggage, since they are not international airlines. It is often cheaper to pay for a slightly more expensive ticket, than having to pay huge amounts for excess baggage.

5. *Briefings*

It is strongly recommended that scholars and students attend a security briefing from the Embassy or Consulates. Fulbright grantees must pre-arrange dates for scheduling a security briefing prior to arrival in South Africa.

IMPORTANT: For more information, check out links to U.S. Embassy and Consulates.
U.S. Embassy, **Pretoria:** <http://southafrica.usembassy.gov/>
U.S. Consulate, **Cape Town:** http://southafrica.usembassy.gov/consulate_capetown.html
U.S. Consulate, **Durban:** http://southafrica.usembassy.gov/consulate_durban.html
U.S. Consulate, **Johannesburg:** http://southafrica.usembassy.gov/consulate_jhb.html
Or e-mail Fulbright_Program_SAfrica@state.gov

6. *Mail*

a. Diplomatic Pouch:

Duty-free privileges are NOT accorded to Fulbright scholars and students. However, permission to ship up to four boxes of educational materials at the beginning of your grant has been negotiated with the U.S. Embassy and Consulates. Pouch privileges are accorded on a one-way basis only; **material cannot be shipped back to the U.S. by pouch.**

Fulbright grantees are authorized to make a one-time shipment of educational materials to the American embassy or consulate in the country of assignment. This shipment must not meet or exceed 6 cubic feet in volume. Six cubic feet is equal to 10,368 cubic inches and 1 cubic foot is equal to 1728 cubic inches. To determine the volume of a box in cubic feet, multiply the width times the length times the depth (all in inches), and divide the sum by 1728. For example, a box that measures 24" X 24" X 18" has a volume of 6 cubic feet. If shipment becomes bulk, **the entire shipment will be returned to sender.** Tracking or registry numbers should be included on all parcels. Boxes not securely wrapped or not conforming to weight/size requirements **will be returned.**

It will be the responsibility of the Fulbright grantee to pick up the boxes and cover the cost of onward shipping to the grantee's final destination.

- Remember to put your name/U.S. address in the upper left corner.
- In the lower left corner label each box clearly as unclassified, educational materials.
- Label each box successively: 1 of 4, 2 of 4, 3 of 4, and 4 of 4.
- In each case, the mail should be addressed to one of the American officers, **and not to the grantee in care of the officer.**
- Please contact the Embassy to find out which Public Affairs Officer's name should be used for shipping.

If assigned to the Cape Provinces (Eastern, Northern and Western Cape):

U.S. Consulate General Cape Town
NAME OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
Department of State
2480 Cape Town Place
Washington, DC 20521-2480

If assigned to KwaZulu-Natal (Durban, Zululand, and Pietermaritzburg):

U.S. Consulate General Durban

NAME OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
Department of State
2490 Durban Place
Washington, DC 20521-2490

If assigned to Pretoria, Mpumalanga and Limpopo:

U.S. Embassy Pretoria
NAME OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
Department of State
9300 Pretoria Place
Washington, DC 20521-9300

If assigned to Johannesburg, the North West Province and the Free State (Bloemfontein):

U.S. Consulate General Johannesburg
NAME OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
Department of State
2500 Johannesburg Place
Washington DC 20521-2500

The return address should be that of the Fulbright grantee.

There are no provisions for insuring, certifying or registering mail transmitted through the pouch. The State Department accepts no liability for loss or damage.

NOTE: Former grantees recommend that you wait until you get to South Africa to decide what you would like to ship in these boxes.

b. Airmail

There is no access to the pouch for general mail. The local postal system is usually reliable, although valuable items should be sent by registered mail, and insured if very valuable. Airmail to the U.S. would take 7-10 days, while mail from the U.S. to South Africa could take up to 3 weeks. Scholars and students should make arrangements to receive mail through their host institutions, and/or rent a P.O. Box from either the nearest post office or the postal agency PostNet SA.

Please note that import duties are often charged on items entering the country by mail.

c. Express Mail

To avoid delays with a crucial item or package, it is recommended that DHL or FEDEX be used, even though it is more expensive than regular airmail.

7. *U.S. Embassy and U.S. Consulate Access*

Upon presentation of your passport you will be accorded access to the American Embassy or Consulate. U.S. Public Affairs Sections (PAS) at the Embassy and U.S. Consulates have excellent Information Resource Centers with U.S. subject materials. Durban, Johannesburg, and Soweto have lending libraries, while Cape Town and Pretoria have reference libraries. For addresses of the American Libraries in South Africa, please visit the following link:

<http://southafrica.usembassy.gov/irc.html>

8. *Banking and Money Matters*

Many Fulbrighters do not open a South African account and prefer simply to use their American credit and ATM cards to access their funds from American accounts. Automatic teller machines are abundant, and major credit cards are accepted at most retail outlets and restaurants.

Some U.S. banks do not charge any fees for international transactions. Investigate options offered by Capital One and Salem Five. It is also quite simple to cash travelers' checks at any major bank, upon presentation of your passport. For safety reasons, we advise that you keep your cash and credit cards separate, and not carry all your cash with you.

Fulbright grantees **do not** have access to Embassy cashier facilities.

With regard to the opening of bank accounts in South Africa, this can be quite a complex process, and PAS suggests that the different account options be discussed with the specific bank where you wish to open the account. Exchange Control Consultants at the South African Reserve Bank, ABSA Bank, First National Bank and Standard Bank advise that Fulbright grantees (senior scholars and students) open **Normal Resident Accounts**. Grantees will thus be considered as foreign nationals taking up temporary residence in South Africa. The branch where they apply for the account might have to request permission to open such an account.

With African Reserve Bank, grantees can also open a **Non-resident Account**, since they will not be earning money in South Africa, but this option has some limitations. There is also the option of having both types of account at the same time.

While checks are not accepted by all businesses, due to many problems with check fraud, most check accounts provide account-holders with a check card (the

same as a debit card). Alternatively, grantees can draw checks against a savings account over the counter inside the bank or at selected ATMs as is the case with Standard Bank Auto Plus ATM. Checks can also be drawn against credit cards.

For more information, websites of the abovementioned banks can be found at the following addresses:

South African Reserve Bank:	http://www.reservebank.co.za
ABSA Bank:	http://www.absa.co.za/absacoza
First National Bank:	http://www.fnb.co.za
Standard Bank:	http://www.standardbank.co.za

Procedure to follow before and/or when opening a South African Bank Account:

- Familiarize yourself with the information under the heading “General Exchange Control Information” (see below), as copied from the Exchange Control Manual published by the South African Reserve Bank.
- At the bank, request to see a Foreign Exchange Control Consultant (and if possible the Supervisor of the Bureau de Change) at the specific branch you want to open your account. The receptionist at general enquiries or the general customer services official will not be able to assist you.
- It is important that you have the following with you:
 - Your passport as means of identification
 - A copy of a letter from PAS confirming your status as a Fulbright grantee (for this purpose please ensure that PAS has your passport details)
 - A letter or declaration from your bank in the U.S. stating that you are a creditworthy client
- Be prepared to sign a declaration similar to the one issued by one of the banks in South Africa (included as Sample Declaration Letter below). Please note that procedures and documentation in this regard may differ between banks.

Other banking services and/or helpful hints:

- Your bank in South Africa will be able to assist with issuing of checks against your MasterCard or Visa Debit and Credit Cards. This, however, has to be conducted over the counter, where a call will be made directly to MasterCard or Visa International for authorization.

- It is advisable to wire money from your American bank account to your South African bank account, instead of having a check or bank draft issued in dollars (in your name).
- If you have been issued with a check in South African Rand, the name of the issuing bank in South Africa will appear at the bottom of the check. This money will be made available immediately upon presentation of the check.
- All bank transactions in South Africa carry a charge. Fulbright grantees should thus be prepared for unexpected charges in the South African banking system, such as fees for cash deposits, withdrawals and VAT on banking transactions.
- Grantees are warned not to bring large checks, even certified or cashier's checks issued in U.S. Dollars with them in expectation of immediate funds, because banks in South Africa could take weeks to clear these checks and release the funds. If scholars think they will need a large sum at the beginning, e.g. to purchase a car, they should have the money wired from their bank to a local bank. It is relatively easy to receive wire transfers from an American bank. Checks made out in South African Rand will be cleared and issued by the issuing bank whose name will appear on the bottom of the check.

General Exchange Control Information:

Section 3 of the Exchange Control Manual, published by the South African Reserve Banks advises as follows:

Payments by "Temporary Residents" in the RSA (Republic of South Africa)

Official foreign representatives and other foreign nationals temporarily resident in the Republic (see section 3.2) are for Exchange control purposes treated as residents.

Payments by other foreign nationals who have taken up temporary residence in the Republic

- *Foreign nationals are, for Exchange Control purposes, natural persons of countries outside the CMA (Common Monetary Area) who have taken up temporary residence in the Republic excluding those who are purely on temporary visits.*

Norms applied

- *The norm applied by Exchange Control is that contract workers should, while they are in the RSA, be treated more or less like residents in order to avoid unnecessary administrative procedures which would have resulted from treating them as non-*

residents. That implies, for example, that they can keep bank accounts or obtain funds from financial institutions for the purchase of a house in the same way as a resident.

General requirements

- *On taking up temporary residence in the Republic foreign nationals (see section 3.2) are required to declare to an Authorized Dealer whether or not they are in possession of any foreign assets and if so, provide an undertaking to the effect that they will not place such assets at the disposal of a third party normally resident in the Republic. They will also be required to declare that they have not applied for similar facilities through another Authorized Dealer.*
- *They will furthermore be required to provide the Authorized Dealer with an original and valid permit issued by the Department of Home Affairs substantiating their temporary residence in the Republic.*
- *The income earned on the foreign assets of such foreign nationals is not required to be transferred to the Republic, Authorized Dealers may permit such foreign nationals:*
 - a) *to conduct their banking on a resident basis (see section 3.2.1);*
 - b) *to deal with their foreign assets in any manner;*
 - c) *to simultaneously conduct resident as well as non-resident banking accounts; and*
 - d) *to transfer abroad funds accumulated during their stay in South Africa provided the individuals can substantiate the source of such funds and that the value of such funds is reasonable in relation to their income generating activities in the Republic during the period.*

(SAMPLE DECLARATION LETTER)

DECLARATION

BY FOREIGN NATIONAL

TEMPORARILY RESIDENT IN THE REPUBLIC

I

.....
hereby undertake, in respect of any foreign assets which I may presently own, or which may come into my possession during my stay in South Africa on a Tour or Duty/Contract basis, that I will not place such assets at the disposal of any third party normally resident in the Republic.

I further declare that:

1. I have not resided in the Republic previously
OR
2. I have resided in the Republic previously and my emigration was dealt with by
.....
3. I have not applied for similar facilities through another Authorized Dealer (Bank).

Country of Origin:

Passport Number:

Date of Arrival:

Signed:

Date:

9. *Health Matters*

The quality of medicine in South Africa is fully equal to that in the United States, and the costs are considerably lower. This is true of dental services as well.

Vaccinations:

Please visit the following CDC sites:

- <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/south-africa.aspx>
- <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/content/vaccinations.aspx>

The CDC recognizes three categories of vaccinations: **routine, recommended, and required**. Note that **Southern Africa** is a region not a country, and risk varies between countries and regions in each country. **NO vaccinations or immunizations are needed when entering South Africa from the United States**. The only inoculation requirement is a **yellow fever vaccination** certificate from travellers over one year of age entering South Africa **within six days of leaving an infected country**. Yellow fever only occurs in South America and West and Central Africa. Visitors who travel through or disembark in these areas are advised to be inoculated against the disease before visiting South Africa.

Malaria:

Please visit the following CDC site: <http://www.cdc.gov/malaria/>

This disease is mostly under control in South Africa. However, the risk of malaria transmission exists throughout the year, particularly in the low altitude areas of the Mpumalanga Province, Limpopo, northeastern KwaZulu-Natal and Kruger National Park. Although risk is highest from October to May, we would like to recommend that you consult either a travel medicine specialist or your own physician for malaria prophylaxis prior to traveling to South Africa. Please note that resistance to chloroquine has been reported.

The risk of contracting the disease is negligible provided that you take the standard precautions. Malaria tablets, a good insect repellent, particularly in the evening, long-sleeved shirts and mosquito coils are advisable precautions.

Fulbright grantees do not have access to the U.S. Embassy Health Unit. However, please do keep PAS informed in the case of an emergency.

IMPORTANT: To facilitate your medical care in South Africa:

- a) Take with you basic information that will enable a medical professional to help you quickly, efficiently and properly should it become necessary.
- b) If you, your spouse, or your children are using prescription drugs, bring enough to last for the term of your grant. Ensure that the drugs are kept in their original containers.
- c) Check your personally-held insurance policies as to coverage and provisions for both yourself and your dependents. Ensure that your health policies will also cover medical assistance outside the South African borders, e.g. if you plan to visit any of the neighboring countries.

10. *Transport and Driving*

It is practically impossible to move around independently and safely in South Africa without your own vehicle. Should you plan to drive here, it is necessary that you know the legislation with regards to your driver's license:

Section 23 of the National Road Traffic Act No. 23 of 1996, Regulation 110 (1) provides the following conditions:

- All drivers must have a valid driver's license from their country of residence.
- The license must be issued in an official language of the Republic (English, in your case, is fine.)
- If the license is not printed in English, an International Driver's Permit carried in conjunction with your national driving license is recommended and must be printed or authenticated in English.
- If your license does not have a photograph on it, then you must also carry a copy of your passport with you so that you can be identified as the legal holder of the driving license.
- Always make sure that you have your documentation with you when driving, as traffic officers will expect to see documentation if they stop you for any reason.

Public transportation is not very reliable in South Africa. There are limited bus and train services in larger cities. There are also minibus taxis that travel up and down main arteries throughout major cities, but they are usually filled to capacity and often have reckless drivers. Some taxi and bus routes are not always safe.

Most Fulbright grantees have found that purchasing or renting a car is essential. Prices are generally much more expensive than in the U.S. Reliable used cars can be found for \$10,000 and up, and can in many cases be resold to the same car dealer, but at a loss.

The advice of former and current Fulbrighters to South Africa, especially those who lived in the same city you will be living in, can be very valuable if you decide to purchase a vehicle. Contact previous grantees by visiting the alumni website at connect.state.gov.

The Public Affairs Office nearest to you might also have some information on vehicles for sale from time to time. It is also helpful to check in with the Community Liaison Office (CLO).

Useful websites to visit are:

- <http://www.rentawreck.co.za>
- <http://www.autotrader.co.za>
- <http://www.gumtree.co.za>
- <http://www.carfind.co.za>
- <http://www.automart.co.za>
- <http://www.cars.co.za>

Insurance:

- <http://www.outsurance.co.za>
- <http://www.car-home-insurance.net/south-africa/chi-1st-for-women.html>
- <http://www.dialdirect.co.za>
- <http://www.autogen.co.za>

It is recommended that a car be checked for roadworthiness by the Automobile Association of South Africa (AA) before purchase. A roadworthy test will cost between \$50 and \$100.

You can visit the AA web page at the following address:
<http://www.aasa.co.za>

When purchasing a car, a valid receipt must be kept for fiscal control when reselling the car. This would ensure that the sales income can be taken out of the country.

Automatic transmission cars are more expensive than manual ones, although manual shifting with the left hand can be strange at first. Gas is very expensive in South Africa.

Driving is on the left side of the road. Roads in most parts of the country are of a high standard, but less so in the more rural areas. Beware of potholes!

11. *Food*

Food familiar to the American palate is widely available, safe and inexpensive. Raw vegetables need not be sanitized before consumption, and good meat and milk are safe and available everywhere.

Tap (faucet) water is safe to drink all over South Africa.

Glossary of some major food terms:

Biltong	- Dried meat made from beef, ostrich or game (similar to beef jerky)
Braai or braaivleis	- Barbecue
Bredie	- Traditional Afrikaner/Malay dish; vegetables and lamb braised and stewed
Bobotie	- Traditional Malay dish; delicately flavored curry with a topping of beaten egg baked to a crust, which is served with stewed fruits and chutney
Boerewors	- Spicy sausages (often sold like hotdogs by street vendors), essential at any braai
Bunny chow	- Quarter of a loaf of bread hollowed out and filled with curry; a takeaway specialty, especially in Durban
Groente	- Vegetables
Kingklip	- An excellent firm-fleshed white fish
Koeksisters	- Small doughnuts dripping in syrup (traditional sweet pastry)
Kroeg/shabeen	- Bar
Mielie meal/pap	- Maize porridge (grits); the staple diet for rural blacks, served with stew
Mince	- Ground Beef
Peri-peri	- Spicy Portuguese pepper sauce
Potjiekos	- Traditional Afrikaner stew cooked at braais in three-legged pots
Samoosa	- Spicy Indian filled pastry
Snoek	- A firm-fleshed migratory fish that appears off the Cape in June and July – can be smoked, salted, curried (pickled fish), fried, grilled
Vienna	- Smaller version of the Russian sausage, often prepared as hotdogs
Vleis	- Afrikaans for meat
Waterblommetjie Bredie	- Traditional Afrikaner/Malay dish; mutton stew with water-hyacinth flowers (faintly peppery) and white wine

12. *Schools*

The academic year in South Africa runs from January to December. While your host institution will be in the best position to advise on schools in their area, the Embassy or Consulate's Community Liaison Office (CLO) can also provide a list of public and private primary and high schools. Many American children attend local schools which are of good standard. In major cities, there may be waiting lists so it might be necessary to reserve places in schools well before the start of the end-of-year summer holidays (first week of December). The new school year starts between approximately January 10th and 18th (depending on the province).

13. *Computers, Internet and Cell Phones*

Personal and laptop computers may be imported, but should be declared upon entry with proof of purchase in order not to be charged duty when leaving the country. It is often not necessary to bring LCD projectors along to South Africa, as instructional equipment is readily available in most universities. Computer supplies are widely available, although generally priced higher than in the United States.

NOTE: Mac computers and software are not as readily available in South Africa as in the U.S. You could also experience compatibility issues when loading software, for instance for internet connectivity.

Internet access is available and generally not difficult to arrange, but again is more expensive than U.S. services. You can purchase broadband connectivity through any of our cell-phone providers. It is best to shop around for special offers at the time of your arrival, and to pay attention to the connection speeds available from each provider for your specific residential area.

Investigate your options:

- <http://www.mtn.co.za/Pages/MTN.aspx>
- <http://www.vodacom.co.za/portal/site/vodacom>
- <http://www.cell-c.co.za/content/home/index.asp>
- <http://www.virginmobile.co.za/index.html>
- http://www.iburst.co.za/default.aspx?link=site_switch
- <http://www.8ta.com/>

Since you will only be a temporary resident of South Africa, you will not be able to purchase a cell-phone contract. Instead, you will have to take a pay-as-you-go package, which you can top-up as needed. There are several options available, and special services like SMS-bundles (text-messaging) and free-weekend minutes are available through some service providers.

Current grantees have suggested that you bring a "world phone" or that you have your own American cell-phone unlocked, so you can use it here, with a new South African SIM-card.

14. *Electricity*

Electrical current in South Africa is produced at 220/230 volts AC at 50 cycles per second. Three-pronged plugs are universal, so plan to purchase an adapter. Some hotel rooms have 110 volt outlets for electric shavers and small appliances. Television and VCR sets function on the PAL system, but multi-system equipment is becoming the norm. For more information, try International Electrical Supplies: <http://www.international-electrical-supplies.com/electricguide.html>

15. *Security*

Many visitors to South Africa are concerned about security and the crime rate, but by following some internationally applied rules of safety, in both urban and rural areas, problems can be avoided. Street crime is generally viewed as the greatest security threat faced by US citizens in South Africa. However, Americans are not singled out for criminal activity and usually only become victims when the opportunity presents itself to common criminals.

American scholars and students are encouraged to sign up for the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) on <http://travel.state.gov>, so they can receive important consular messages in the event of an emergency.

<p>IMPORTANT: It is strongly recommended that students and scholars request a security briefing from the Embassy or Consulate as soon as possible soon after arrival. This is definitely in your best interest.</p>
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16. *General Information about South Africa*

Start by checking the State Department International Travel website:
- http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1008.html

Other websites with general and tourism information about South Africa are:
- <http://www.southafrica.net>
- http://www.sa-venues.com/general_info_nationwide.htm

17. *Communication/Language*

South Africa has eleven official languages. English is most widely understood and used in official notices and documents, and is also the official language of instruction in schools and universities. Nevertheless, you may come across South Africans who will have difficulty understanding and speaking English, especially in rural areas. Spelling and most expressions are based on British English, although American TV Programs broadcast in South Africa have had an impact on the English spoken by South African youth.

- <http://www.salanguages.com>
- http://www.sa-venues.com/sa_languages_and_culture.htm

South African English vs. American English

Due to the influence of the many languages spoken in South Africa, some English expressions may be unfamiliar to Americans. The following are a few examples:

<u>South African</u>	<u>American Equivalent</u>
Arrange (I'll arrange transport ...)	Organize
Baba (pronounced "bah-bah")	Baby
Bakkie	Pick-up truck
Biscuits	Cookies
Boot (of a car)	Trunk (of a car)
Braai	Barbeque/cookout
(Bread) rolls	Biscuits
Cheers	Goodbye
Chips/slap chips	French fries
Crisps	Potato chips
(College) prospectus	(College) catalogue
Coldrinks	Soft drinks
Curtains	Drapes
Diary	Academic calendar
Hiccup	Problem, challenge
Howzit?	How are you?
Is it?	Really?
Jelly	Jello
Jol (as in "to have a jol")	To have a good time or to party
Kombi	VW mini-van / microbus
Lekker (pronounced "lekka")	Nice, good
Lift	Elevator
Loo / toilet	Bathroom
Pap (pronounced "pup")	Grits (more or less)
Pavement	Sidewalk
Peanut butter and jam	Jelly
Petrol	Gasoline
Plaster	Band aid
Pleasure / it's a pleasure	You're welcome
Queue	Line
Robot	Traffic lights
Rubber	Eraser
Serviettes	Napkins
Shame	What a shame (and not shame on you) What a pity – could also be used for "how

“Sharp”	touching” (as in “shame, what a cute baby”)
“Sharp, sharp”	“Cool”
Smart or shot	“Very cool”
Sweets	Cool or great
Tackies	Candy
Tap	Sneakers
Tissues	Faucet
Tomato sauce	Kleenex
Torch	Ketchup
Yebo	Flashlight
	Yes / Yes, I agree

IV. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

One of the requirements of the Fulbright award is submission of two reports: at the mid-term stage of the assignment; and a final report prior to departing from the host country. Fulbrighters will receive instructions from CIES or IIE, as appropriate, on how to file reports online.

V. RELEVANT WEBSITES

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

Fulbright South Africa
http://southafrica.usembassy.gov/fulbright_program.html (under “Services”)

Universities in South Africa

University of Cape Town	- http://www.uct.ac.za
University of Fort Hare	- http://www.ufh.ac.za
University of KwaZulu-Natal	- http://www.ukzn.ac.za
University of Limpopo	- http://www.ul.ac.za
North West University	- http://www.nwu.ac.za
University of the Free State	- http://www.uovs.ac.za
Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University	- http://www.nmmu.ac.za
University of Pretoria	- http://web.up.ac.za
University of Johannesburg	- http://www.uj.ac.za
Rhodes University	- http://www.ru.ac.za
University of South Africa	- http://www.unisa.ac.za
Stellenbosch University	- http://www.sun.ac.za
University of Venda	- http://www.univen.ac.za
University of the Western Cape	- http://www.uwc.ac.za
University of the Witwatersrand	- http://web.wits.ac.za
University of Zululand	- http://www.uzulu.ac.za
Walter Sisulu University	- http://www.wsu.ac.za

Universities of Technology in South Africa

Cape Peninsula University of Technology	- http://www.cput.ac.za
Central University of Technology	- http://www.cut.ac.za
Durban University of Technology	- http://www.dut.ac.za
Tshwane University of Technology	- http://www.tut.ac.za
Vaal University of Technology	- http://www.vut.ac.za

Major Newspapers

Business Day	- http://www.businessday.co.za
Cape Argus	- http://www.iol.co.za
Cape Business News	- http://www.cbn.co.za
Cape Times	- http://www.capetimes.co.za
Community Talk	- http://www.communitytalk.co.za
Daily Dispatch	- http://www.dispatch.co.za
Mail and Guardian	- http://www.mg.co.za
News24	- http://www.news24.com
Pretoria News	- http://www.pretorianews.co.za
Sowetan	- http://www.sowetan.co.za
Star	- http://www.thestar.co.za
Times Live	- http://www.timeslive.co.za
The Witness	- http://www.witness.co.za

Other relevant websites

U.S. Department of State	- http://southafrica.usembassy.gov/fulbright_program.html
SA Government	- http://www.gov.za
SA Government Communication	- http://www.gcis.gov.za
Council for International Exchange of Scholars	- http://www.cies.org
Institute of International Education	- http://www.iie.org
IEASA	- http://www.ieasa.studysa.org
Hans Zell Publishing	- http://www.hanszell.co.uk