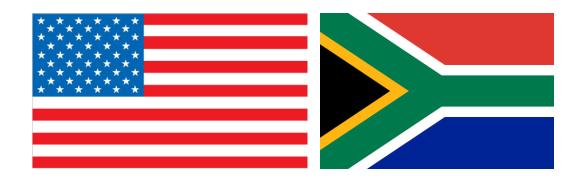


# SOUTH AFRICA COUNTRY GUIDELINES FOR U.S. FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS AND STUDENTS

2023-2024

Updated: March 8, 2023



4/13/2023 Page 1 of 27



#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

#### Introduction

# I. The Fulbright Grant: Binational Nature of the Program

What the Grant Provides Reporting Requirements

# II. Public Diplomacy Section, U.S. Embassy in South Africa

Contact information Website STEP

# III. Ensuring Your Safety Abroad

Security Briefing
Security Precautions
Contact Numbers
Emergency Numbers and Hospital Information
Travel within South Africa and to Other Countries
Emergency Medical Evacuation
Criminal Penalties

# IV. Logistics

- 1. Fly America
- 2. Treaty Permits/Visas/Study Permits
- 3. Accommodation in South Africa
- 4. Arrival in South Africa
- 5. Briefings
- 6. Mail
- 7. Banking and Money Matters
- 8. Health Matters
- 9. Transport and Driving
- 10. Food
- 11. Schools
- 12. Computers, Internet and Cell Phones
- 13. Electricity
- 14. Security
- 15. General Information about South Africa
- 16. Communication/Language

# V. Relevant Websites

4/13/2023 Page 2 of 27



#### 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 Diplomacy Section (PDS) 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 Diplomacy Section (PDS) 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.

PDS officers in Pretoria will supplement this overview of privileges that can and cannot be accorded to Fulbright scholars and students by the Public Diplomacy Section (PDS) and the U.S. Embassy. Information in the guidelines is subject to change. This is the best information that PDS Pretoria and the African Exchanges Branch of ECA have as of March 2021.

#### 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 AND ETA 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) 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.

4/13/2023 Page 3 of 27



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 SCHOLAR GRANTS** have three components:

#### 1. Travel and Relocation

- a) Unaccompanied and/or excess baggage
- b) 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

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).

# 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. However, please do not wait until reports are due to raise with CIES/IIE or PDS any concerns you may have.

# II. PUBLIC DIPLOMACY SECTION, U.S. EMBASSY IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Fulbright Program is managed by the Public Diplomacy Section (PDS) of the Embassy of the United States of America in Pretoria, South Africa. As a Fulbright grantee, you are required to keep the PDS 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** after your arrival in country and give them your complete contact information so that you may be reached in the event of emergencies.

4/13/2023 Page 4 of 27



# Embassy of the United States of America Public Diplomacy Section GENERAL INFORMATION

Street Address: 877 Pretorius Street, Arcadia, Pretoria 0083

*Mailing Address*: P.O. Box 9536, Pretoria, 0001

Contact numbers: Telephone: +27 12 431 4000

Facsimile: +27 12 342 2090

E-mail: fpsa@state.gov

Website: <a href="https://za.usembassy.gov/">https://za.usembassy.gov/</a>

All Fulbright grantees must register with the embassy in case of emergency. This should be done through the STEP website just prior to arrival in country: <a href="http://step.state.gov">http://step.state.gov</a>. The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) is a free service to allow U.S. citizens and nationals traveling and living abroad to enroll their trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate, allowing you to receive important information about safety conditions and helping the U.S. Embassy contact you in an emergency, whether natural disaster, civil unrest, or family emergency. It is not specific to Fulbright grantees. Grantees should separately notify the Embassy of their arrival date.

#### III. ENSURING YOUR SAFETY ABROAD

While overseas, U.S. Fulbright participants are private U.S. citizens who do not fall under Chief of Mission authority; however, they are also under U.S. government sponsorship during their exchange programs and the Department provides guidance and assistance for their welfare and security. Fulbright participants are supervised by the post/commission and must abide by post/commission requirements, the terms and conditions of their respective grants, and the policies of the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

PDS, the Regional Security Office, and American Citizen Services can assist you in matters of safety and security. Should you encounter safety threats, or if you are a victim of crime, contact the U.S. Embassy in your host country for assistance. All U.S. Embassy websites have information on American Citizen Services, including how to obtain assistance in an emergency. In the event of an authorized ordered departure due to natural disaster, civil unrest, epidemics, or other emergency circumstances, Fulbrighters must consult with the U.S. Embassy.

# **Security Briefing**

All Fulbright grantees will receive a security briefing upon or shortly after arrival in the host country. At your security briefing, Fulbright grantees should ask about areas of the city and the country where they need to be especially alert. You can also ask for recommendations for

4/13/2023 Page 5 of 27



protecting personal belongings at home and when traveling. Up-to-date security information can be obtained from the U.S. Department of State's travel website: <a href="https://travel.state.gov">https://travel.state.gov</a>.



# Fulbright Grantee Security Brief SOUTH AFRICA

Welcome to South Africa. The following security information is provided to help you avoid becoming a victim of crime during your stay in South Africa and contains recommended security precautions for you to use during your stay.

Crime in South Africa is rated as **Critical** (on a scale from Low to Critical) by the U.S. Department of State. **Daily street crime, often violent, is the greatest threat faced by our staff and visitors alike.** 

Crime rates are alarmingly high compared to many urban areas in the U.S. with especially violent crimes occurring in South Africa. Common crimes include murder, rape, armed robbery, carjacking, home invasion, cash-in transit heists, property theft, "Smash and Grabs" and ATM scams. Although some crimes are opportunistic in nature, many are committed by well-armed, organized gangs who roam freely day and night with little fear of being confronted or captured by law enforcement. Armed robbery is the most prevalent crime in South Africa. For the most part, these robberies are carried out by multiple assailants armed with handguns, threatening their victims with violence.

Americans are not typically singled out by criminal elements but may become targets of opportunity depending on their dress, actions, behavior, and level of perceived vigilance. Our goal is to make you aware of the crime situation, give you the information needed to avoid becoming a victim of crime, and as a last resort, give you guidance on how to react if you find yourself a victim of crime.

Walking during daylight hours is generally considered safe, however one must continually be aware of their surroundings at all times. To ensure your safety, we recommend that you not venture into any downtown area after dark. Note that it is particularly risky to be downtown after dark by yourself. Even during daylight hours, it is better to go in groups of three or more and avoid looking or acting like a tourist. For example, do not carry cameras or stand on street corners reading maps. Do not carry more cash or travelers checks than you will need for a particular outing. Avoid distractions such as talking on a cell phone or updating your "social profile" when out and about as such actions limits one's situational awareness.

4/13/2023 Page 6 of 27



We recommend that you use extreme caution when using ATM machines. NEVER accept help from anyone when you are using an ATM in South Africa. Numerous scams have been devised by clever individuals and are employed on a daily basis in South Africa. Again, NEVER accept help while operating an ATM machine. If an ATM machine appears to be malfunctioning, go to another machine. Never allow anyone to observe your passwords or PIN numbers. Additionally, ensure you maintain positive control of your credit/debit card at all time, requiring the establishment (restaurant, gas station, etc.) to bring the card-reading machine to you.

In the event that you are confronted by a criminal, do not resist if the person threatens you with a weapon. While gratuitous violence is not common in South Africa, if you believe you are in danger of injury during the commission of a crime, do everything in your power to attract attention to your situation to thwart the perpetrator: scream, yell, lash out, run for help, do anything to get out of harm's way.

When traveling in a vehicle, always keep all doors locked and the windows rolled up within 1-2 inches of the top frame. Do not leave anything of value in plain view in your car (especially purses, laptop computers and cell phones) while driving or when the vehicle is parked. "Smash and grabs" and 'Carjackings" are common occurrences in South Africa. Lock valuables in the trunk before arriving at your parking destination, i.e., do not place valuables in the trunk and then leave the car unattended again. Doing so may encourage an on-looker to break into your vehicle to abscond with your valuables once you walk away from your car. Leaving anything on your seat, even an empty paper bag can tempt someone to smash your window. You are more vulnerable while standing still at an intersection so be extra alert of those around your vehicle.

Being safe in your home in South Africa largely depends on the physical security features you have in place and whether the features are used properly. When searching for a residence you should try to find a home with the following security features: an external perimeter wall at least 2.2 meters high topped with anti-climb features or an electric fence, a motorized vehicle gate, security lighting on the home and fixed to the vehicle gate, sturdy metal grills on all windows, metal grill gates on all entrances, solid core wood doors with deadbolt locks and a peep hole, an alarm system monitored by an alarm company and an internal safe haven located in your sleeping area which you can retreat to in the event of a home invasion and lock at night.

Many organized crime syndicates, armed with rifles and sub-machineguns, operate in large groups of 10-15. These gangs target cash in-transit vehicles, banks, shopping malls, and other commercial establishments. Any customers present are robbed of their cash and valuables. Most criminals conduct pre-operational surveillance. If you're paying attention to your surroundings, there's a good chance you will spot this surveillance or other suspicious activity. Listen to your intuition – if a situation does not look or feel right, immediately leave the area. Your vigilance will greatly reduce the likelihood of you becoming a victim of crime.

Criminals seek out potential victims at the OR Tambo Airport, shopping malls, restaurants, and other public venues. The victim is usually followed to their house/hotel

4/13/2023 Page 7 of 27



and robbed upon arrival. As you approach your residence/hotel, pay close attention to anyone who might be following you or is loitering near the entrance.

In **Johannesburg**, we strongly recommend that you avoid the **Central Business District (CBD)**, Hillbrow, Berea, Booysens, Jeppe, and the surrounding townships (i.e. Alexandra and Soweto), especially after dark, unless traveling with an organized tour group. The northern suburbs including Rosebank, Sandton, Melrose, Hyde Park, Bryanston, and Fourways, are considered safer but are not immune from street crime and organized crime.

In **Pretoria**, we strongly recommend that you avoid the **Central Business District (CBD)**, Sunnyside and Pretoria's surrounding townships (i.e. Atteridgeville, Mamelodi, Tembisa, Soshanguve), especially after dark, unless traveling with an organized tour group. The eastern suburbs including Brooklyn, Menlyn, Irene, Lynnwood and Hatfield (to a lesser extent), are considered safer but are not immune from street crime and organized crime.

Visitors should be alert in townships as spontaneous protests may occur, often involving road blocks, burning tires, and violent demonstrations.

# **Security precautions**

- First and foremost, be aware of your surroundings. Your vigilance may convince a would-be attacker to find an easier target.
- Maintain a low profile. Do not flash your cash or wear expensive jewelry. Also ensure
  that you safeguard your mobile phone at all times as it is one of the items stolen most
  often (apart from laptop computers). Always keep these items out of sight if possible.
- Do not visit areas you are not familiar with. Travel in groups, whenever possible and minimize your movements after dark.
- Only carry as much cash as you're willing to hand over to a criminal.
- Keep photocopies of your passport and other identity documents on your person and keep the originals locked up in the hotel safe or a separate location.
- Drink responsibly Alcohol intake negatively affects your situational awareness. Also
  be aware of the risk of having your drinks spiked in clubs and other social venues.
  Never allow your drink to leave your sight or allow anyone to fetch you any drinks.
- Be aware of the extreme risk of having any kind of sexual encounter with unknown local citizens. South Africa is a country with one of the highest number of HIV/AIDS infection rates in the world and the risk is therefore extremely severe.
- If you are in a vehicle, keep the windows up and the doors locked. When stopped at a red light, leave room between the car you're in and the car in front of you in case you need to take evasive action. If you believe you are in danger, leave the area immediately. Stay on main roads and keep to well-lit public areas. If you think you're being followed, drive to the nearest safe area (police station, US Consulate, etc.)
- Avoid all forms of public transportation including mini-van taxis. Rental cars are
  available or hire a private taxi through the hotel concierge. Using UBER is also
  considered safe but monitor the media for any reports of tensions between UBER
  and the metered taxi industry.

4/13/2023 Page 8 of 27



- Travel by vehicle and only walk in "controlled areas" such as shopping malls or other areas with a security presence.
- Before entering an establishment, scan for any suspicious activity to reduce the chances of walking into a "robbery in progress."
- Once inside the establishment, locate the nearest fire exits or other avenues of escape.
- Avoid walking/driving near money transport vehicles. They are frequently targeted by well-armed gangs who are not afraid to open fire, even in crowded public areas. If you hear shots fired, get down on the ground! Do not try to investigate or intervene.
- If you need to use an ATM, do so from inside a controlled area such as a shopping mall or hotel. Avoid ATMs on the street.
- Avoid confrontations with local residents. Many are armed, especially mini-van taxi
  drivers who carry weapons to ward off criminals and to battle with rival taxi gang
  members.

Should you be confronted by an armed individual - do not resist. Resistance or hesitation by a victim can result in death or serious injury. Keep your hands visible and follow instructions carefully. Do not make any furtive movements that might startle your attacker. Give up your money and valuables and live to see another day.

Finally, the RSO would like to emphasize the importance of adapting to the crime threat as opposed to letting the security situation scare you or limit your activities. By using basic security precautions and being aware of your surroundings, you can avoid becoming a victim of crime. For greater site/region specific security and safety guidance, contact the nearest Regional Security Office.

Being safe in South Africa can largely depend on you. You must take responsibility for you own safety and not put yourself in a situation that put you at risk.

# **CONTACT NUMBERS**

# **Embassy Pretoria:**

Marine Guard Post One: 012-431-4169

RSO Staff During Business Hours: 012-431-4099

RSO After Hours: 079-111-5775

#### Consulate Johannesburg:

Marine Guard Post One: 011-290-3020

# Consulate Cape Town

Marine Guard Post One: 021-702-7411

# Consulate Durban

No Marine Guard – call the Consulate: 031-305-7600 (Ask for the Regional Security Officer)

4/13/2023 Page 9 of 27



#### **EMERGENCY NUMBERS**

# South Africa Police Service (SAPS) General Emergency: 10-111 Ambulance – 10-177 Fire: 10-177

Pretoria:

Hospital: Muelmed Hospital 012-440-0600 577 Pretorius St.

Pretoria Heart Hospital 012-440-0200 551 Park St.

Life Groenkloof Hospital 012 424 3600 50 George Storrar Dr.

Trauma: Unitas Hospital 012-677-8000 Clifton Ave.

Hatmed 012-362-7180 454 Hilda St

Faerie Glen Hospital 012-369-5600 Atterbury & Oberon

Minor: Wilgers Hospital (Willow) 012-807-8100 Lynnwood & Denneboom

# Johannesburg:

Hospital: (Preferred)

Milpark: 011-480-5600 (for all major trauma)

Swift Care Clinic: 011-328-0511 Sandton Clinic: 011-709-2000 Morningside Clinic: 011-282-5000

Johannesburg General: 011-488-4911 (NOT recommended except if no other choice)

#### Durban:

Hospital: St. Augustine's 031-268-5000

Entabeni Hospital 031-204-1300

# Cape Town:

<u>Hospital</u>: Christiaan Barnard 021-480-6111 (preferred/primary)

City Park 021-480-6111 – trauma unit available

 Claremont
 021-670-4300

 Constantiaberg
 021-799-2911

 Vincent Pallotti
 021-506-5111

 Kingsbury
 021-670-4000

 Poison Reference
 021-689-5227

 Red Cross Children's
 021-658-5111

 Southern Cross
 021-799-3000

 Somerset
 021-402-6911

#### Travel within South Africa and to Other Countries

4/13/2023 Page 10 of 27



When planning trips beyond the area of your host community, check the Embassy website for the latest travel advisories <a href="https://za.usembassy.gov/">https://za.usembassy.gov/</a>. Fulbrighters should verify that PDS and the U.S. Embassy consular section have your current addresses and telephone numbers in case of emergencies. Fulbrighters should also keep PDS apprised of any travel, in-country or abroad. Please be advised that grantee medical benefits are not in force during independent travel outside of the host country. If you plan to travel outside of the country, you need to arrange for other medical and medevac coverage for this period. For the latest security information, Americans traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department's website at <a href="https://travel.state.gov">https://travel.state.gov</a> where the current <a href="https://travel.state.gov">Travel Advisories and Public</a> <a href="https://travel.state.gov">Announcements</a> can be found.

### **Emergency Medical Evacuation**

Fulbright grantees have health care benefits under the Department of State Group Accident and Sickness Program for Exchanges (ASPE). ASPE is a health benefits program; it is not an all-purpose health insurance, and it is subject to limitations. Traveler's medical insurance, particularly emergency evacuation coverage is strongly recommended, especially for grantees based outside the capital city. Fulbrighters are strongly encouraged to provide PDS with copies of their medical evacuation coverage documents in the event of an emergency.

The Fulbright grant provides limited medical and medical evacuation (medevac) coverage for the grantee only. The cost of medical insurance and medevac insurance for dependents must be paid for by the Fulbrighter. Fulbrighters based outside the capital should explore membership in a local medical evacuation service that transports injured or ill members from rural areas to the capital or another city.

In the event that a Fulbright grantee requires emergency medical evacuation, the U.S. Embassy will assist. Travel to another country for medical diagnosis and/or treatment is not necessarily an emergency medical evacuation. Consult the website describing the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs' Accident and Sickness Program for Exchanges for details.

#### **Criminal Penalties**

While you are traveling in your host country, you are subject to its laws even if you are a U.S. citizen. Foreign laws and legal systems can be vastly different than our own, and persons violating local laws, even unknowingly, may be expelled, arrested, or imprisoned. If you break local laws in your host country, your U.S. passport will not help you avoid arrest or prosecution. It's very important to know what's legal and what's not wherever you go.

#### Safety and Security Considerations for LGBTQ+ Grantees and their Dependents

Attitudes and laws towards lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals differ around the world, and some countries still criminalize homosexuality. Fulbrighters should research the host country prior to their departure from the U.S., particularly if they intend to be accompanied by their same-sex partner during the Fulbright grant.

4/13/2023 Page 11 of 27



U.S. Department of State Travel Advisories for LGBTQI+ Travelers (https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go/travelers-with-special-considerations/lgbti.html)

If you encounter any problems or if you are harassed or threatened due to your sexual orientation or gender identity, please contact the U.S. Embassy.

### Human Rights in South Africa

<u>The Bill of Rights</u> is the cornerstone of South Africa's democracy. It enshrines the rights of all people in South Africa and affirms the democratic values of human dignity, equality and freedom.

#### Domestic Violence

U.S. citizen victims of domestic violence may contact the Embassy for assistance.

The Department of State helps <u>U.S. citizens who are victims of crime overseas</u>. We connect crime victims with police and other services and provide information and resources to assist with physical, emotional, and/or financial injuries from crime.

#### IV. LOGISTICS

# 1. Fly America

Grantee air travel is coordinated through IIE and its designated travel agency, GBT AMEX, which will bill IIE directly for the costs of your tickets. GBT staff will assist you with selecting an itinerary, and will then send your itinerary to IIE 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 New York or Washington (South African Airways code share)

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

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

4/13/2023 Page 12 of 27



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

You may accrue frequent flyer programs and miles, regardless of which airline you choose.

# 2. Treaty Permits/Visas/Study Permits

All Fulbright grantees who will be in South Africa for any period longer than three months must obtain a treaty permit from the Embassy (or Consulate) of the Republic of South Africa before arrival in South Africa. This process can take 8 - 10 weeks; more time may be needed during the December holidays. It is not possible to obtain a treaty permit on short notice. Do not arrive in South Africa without the treaty permit and expect to adjust your status. Applications for treaty permits are processed and finalized at the foreign offices of the Department of Home Affairs. Remember, issuance of a treaty permit is at the sole discretion of the Republic of South Africa: it is a privilege and cannot be guaranteed. You are encouraged to demonstrate all appropriate courtesy when requesting this privilege.

Please note that recent changes in South African law now allow for all treaty permits to be valid for **multiple entries**.

On all application forms, it must be clear that the grantee will not take up employment at the host institution, but will be in South Africa to conduct research or as a guest lecturer. Avoid words like "work" (implying "payment") and "scholar" (implying "study").

#### Treaty Permit Processing Fee

The grantee is responsible for treaty permit costs as well as the cost of any renewal/extension. For this reason, you are strongly advised to 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.

#### Family Member Visas

Spouses must apply for a long term **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 South African university must apply for **Study Permits**.

# U.S. Embassy, South Africa - Letter of Endorsement

When applying for a treaty permit, scholars must provide a letter of endorsement from the U.S. Embassy in Pretoria (<u>fpsa@state.gov</u>). To obtain this letter, the grantee must provide the Public Diplomacy Section (PDS) with:

- Passport number
- Your name as it appears on your passport
- Date of arrival in South Africa

4/13/2023 Page 13 of 27



- Date of departure from South Africa. If you believe you may need to extend your stay in South Africa, include that additional time with your departure date. It is very difficult to extend a Treaty Permit once in South Africa.
- The institute/s with which you will be affiliated.
- Host institution contact detail: name, telephone number and email address.
- Names as they appear on the passports of any dependents travelling.
- Passport numbers of all dependents travelling.
- The South African Embassy or Consulate where you will apply for your Treaty Permit. The Embassy is in Washington, DC; Consulates are located in Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York.

# Helpful Links

http://www.dha.gov.za/index.php/immigration-services/types-of-temporary-permits

http://www.southafrica-newyork.net/homeaffairs/permit\_treaty.htm

http://www.southafricachicago.com/

http://www.dirco.gov.za/losangeles/

http://www.saembassy.org/

http://www.vfsglobal.com/dha/southafrica/treaty-visa.html

# <u>Treaty Permit Application - Recommended Documents</u>

It is your responsibility to present all documentation pertaining to your Fulbright grant, according to your unique circumstances. You are advised to contact the South African Embassy or Consulate where you plan to apply to confirm their application requirements. Please know that requirements can change without notice.

#### <u>Treaty Permit Application - Recommended Documents</u>

- a) Completed **application** form (<u>DHA-1738</u>) signed by applicant.
- b) **Passport** valid for no less than 30 days after the last day of intended visit. Please ensure that you have two, blank, facing pages in your passport. Travelers without sufficient space in their passports *have* been refused entry and returned to their port of departure. Note that the last page in your passport, marked "Endorsements," is for amendments and is not considered blank for visa purposes. When applying for the Treaty Permit, your passport remain with the South African Embassy or Consulate for processing; avoid international travel at that time.
- c) Two passport **photos** (confirm the required size with the South African Embassy or Consulate.)
- d) **Bank Statement** proving access to the Fulbright funds. Recently, applicants have indicated that specifically three months' statements, stamped with the bank branch name and signed by the bank official on each page, have been required.
- e) Roundtrip **flight itinerary** A printout from the relevant airline or travel agency should suffice. Many former Fulbright grantees have said that a planned itinerary from a travel website is all that is needed and that a confirmed ticket is not required when

4/13/2023 Page 14 of 27



- applying for the Treaty Permit. Check with the South African Embassy or Consulate where applying to be certain.
- f) \$36.00 processing fee, money order (amount subject to change). Note: The previous cohort said that they were required to bring a pre-paid, self-addressed courier (FedEx or similar) envelope to return your passport, (return address also as the grantee address).
- g) **Letter from PDS** explaining the Fulbright program and the anticipated length of stay. To request this letter, write to <u>fpsa@state.gov</u>.
- h) A **letter** from the **host institution** in South Africa. This letter should include a point of contact at the host institution, with an email address and phone number at which s/he can be reached (contact information should be current even during the December holiday period, if you are applying at that time). The South African Embassy or Consulate frequently calls host institutions to confirm their support.
- i) A copy of your Fulbright grant document.
- j) A letter from the landlord (or temporary accommodation) confirming accommodation in South Africa. This letter should include the physical address and dates of your stay. Some Treaty Permit applicants have been required to provide their landlord's South African identification number and photocopy of his/her identity document's biographic page. The documents were then certified by the South African Police Service (SAPS).
- k) <u>Medical</u> and <u>radiological</u> report (chest x-ray or skin TB test). In some instances, only chest x-ray is accepted.
- Courier envelope (FedEx or similar) self-addressed to applicant to return your passport.
- m) Yellow fever vaccination certificate if the applicant has or intends to travel from or transiting through a yellow fever endemic area.
- n) If school-age children are accompanying you, proof of school enrolment is required along with confirmation of payment of enrolment fees. The letter must be on school letterhead with the registration number of the school included.
- o) Written **consent from both parents**. A <u>Parental Consent Affidavit</u> is on the South African Department of Home Affairs' website: <a href="http://www.dha.gov.za/">http://www.dha.gov.za/</a>.
- p) FBI certificate (and full criminal background report and police clearance certificate from all countries in which the applicant has resided for 12 months or more since the age of 18. Please know that third-country police reports may take 4-5 months to obtain.) \*

Visit the FBI website for more information:

http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks

Currently, the process time listed on this website to obtain the certificate is 12-14 weeks. Note the "Channeler Option" listed on the right column for "FBI-Approved Channelers List" for expedited service.

Note: a police report may also be required from your local county or jurisdiction. \*These last documents may take some time 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 nearest you, as soon as possible, to confirm what is required, and complete all requirements even if you don't plan to travel immediately.

We have been informed that Fulbright Grantees sometimes experience difficulty obtaining their Treaty Permit because of the FBI clearance not being presented to the

4/13/2023 Page 15 of 27



South African Embassy or Consulate on the correct paper. The "channelers" listed on the FBI website do not always send the FBI Identity History Summary Check on the official paper. They often just email a copy and when printed on regular paper it is not considered "official" by the South African government. This is a new development and we are now informing Fulbright grantees that they need to go through the official FBI channel to obtain the Identity History. This is Option 1 on the FBI site "Submit your Request Directly to the FBI". https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks This is a much longer process than going through a "channeler" which is Option 2.

If you have already gone through a "channeler" you have a couple of options: You can have the channeler send you a hard copy of the report on the official FBI paper, if available. If that is not an option, check with other channelers to see if any of them will send the document on the required paper. Or the best option is to submit another request directly to the FBI and hope that your report will come through before you apply for your Treaty Permit.

**NOTE**: The U.S. Embassy attempts to remain informed of current South African visa requirements. However, South African Consulates in the U.S. can change their visa application requirements at any time without forewarning. Please consult the South African Consulate nearest to you for the latest and most accurate requirements. Take with you any documentation you have regarding your grant and other personal information that may be pertinent. It is best to be over-prepared.

NOTE: Fulbright grantees should ensure their treaty permit/visa is valid for 12 months (or sufficient for the length of stay for 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 sufficient for the length of stay of the grant period). We have recently experienced instances where the passport stamp indicated a three month period and this is not easy to correct.

#### 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: 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

4/13/2023 Page 16 of 27



Web: 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: <a href="mailto:sacgconsular@sacg.xohost.com">sacgconsular@sacg.xohost.com</a>
Web: <a href="mailto:www.sachicago.pwpsystems.com/">www.sachicago.pwpsystems.com/</a>

#### 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: www.dirco.gov.za/losangeles

#### 3. Accommodation in South Africa

Fulbright Grantees are responsible for finding their own housing. Unfortunately, the U.S. Embassy and Consulates do not have sufficient staffing resources to assist in securing housing for Fulbright grantees. Grantees *must* arrange at least temporary housing prior to arrival in South Africa.

Grantees could be accommodated in one of the following ways:

- a) Fully-sponsored or Partially-sponsored housing provided by the host institution.
- b) Housing allowance provided by the host institution.
- c) 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 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 websites similar to Craigslist: <a href="http://gumtree.co.za">http://gumtree.co.za</a>, <a href="http://gumtree.co.za">www.olx.co.za</a>
- d) The classified section in the university newspaper or local newspaper.

4/13/2023 Page 17 of 27



- e) For grantees in Pretoria and Johannesburg: <u>www.availabed.co.za</u>
- f) Other good sites for long-term stays and rentals: <a href="www.property24.com">www.property24.com</a>, <a href="www.property24.com">www.property24.com</a>, and <a href="www.homes.trovit.co.za">www.homes.trovit.co.za</a>

#### 4. Arrival in South Africa

Grantees are required to provide the appropriate CIES and IIE program officers with their final itineraries at least three weeks in advance of arrival in South Africa so that the Embassy and Consulates can be informed accordingly.

International airports, and airports in all the major cities, have modern facilities with frequent, inexpensive shuttle services to the city centers. As in all cities, use only certified companies. Car rental is also available at all South African airports.

# 5. Briefings

It is **required** that Fulbright grantees receive a security briefing from the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate upon or shortly after arrival in South Africa. Fulbright grantees must schedule a date for the security briefing upon arrival in South Africa via e-mail at fpsa@state.gov.

**IMPORTANT:** For more information on the U.S. Embassy in Pretoria and the Consulates in Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town go to: <a href="http://za.usembassy.gov">http://za.usembassy.gov</a>

#### 6. Mail

a. Diplomatic Pouch: Duty-free privileges are NOT accorded to Fulbright grantees. However, Fulbright grantees are authorized to make a one-time, one-way shipment of educational materials to the American Embassy or Consulate in the country of assignment through the pouch. Any costs to forward this shipment to another location within South Africa must be covered by the Fulbright grantee. For more information, contact the Fulbright Office in Pretoria if you wish to send a shipment of educational materials to South Africa.

# Instructions for Shipment of Books and Educational Materials by U.S. Fulbright Grantees

(As of January 2022. Subject to change.)

U.S. Fulbright grantees are generally allowed to make a one-time shipment of educational materials to themselves in the host country through "the pouch", or the diplomatic mail system. Items sent in the diplomatic pouch are solely at the risk of the sender. The Department assumes no responsibility for loss of or damage to items sent via the diplomatic pouch. The USPS recognizes the Department of State as the agent for addressees and considers mail "delivered" to addressee upon delivery to the Department, at which point the mail passes outside of USPS control and is no longer defined as mail, it is defined as an "item." The USPS Domestic Mail Manual, Section 703, paragraph 3.1.2, recognizes that the Department has the authority to open and inspect all mail sent to it for transmission abroad to

4/13/2023 Page 18 of 27



determine whether the item meets the Department's standards. Mail that does not comply may be returned to sender through USPS.

Some U.S. Embassies may not allow Fulbrighters to send pouch shipments. Please contact PDS in your host country for shipping address and additional guidance.

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.

# 14 FAM 724.8 Use of Pouch by Fulbright Scholars

Fulbright scholars, as described in 6 FAH-5 H-352.7, 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 exceed 6 cubic feet in volume. Six cubic feet is equal to 10,368 cubic inches and 1 cubic foot is equal to 1,728 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 a shipment exceeds 6 cubic feet, the entire bulk shipment will be returned to sender. The tracking or registry numbers should be included on all parcels (see 14 FAM 723.3 and 14 FAM 723.2). These materials cannot be sent back to the United States by pouch.

Address these packages to:

Cultural Affairs Officer 9300 Pretoria Pl Department of State Washington, DC 20521-9300

The Fulbright scholar's name must appear in the return address.

Fulbright scholars assigned to a country with a Category A, Category B, or Category C post may use the pouch for letter mail up to 2-pounds to and from the United States. Letters must be addressed as follows:

Name of Grantee 9300 Pretoria Pl Dulles, VA 20189-9300

Fulbright scholars must also use this address as the return address on all mail from abroad.

Do not include any mention of the U.S. Embassy, the Department, Fulbright, or any other official title references in addresses using the 20189 ZIP code. The 20189 ZIP code can only

4/13/2023 Page 19 of 27



be used for letter mail up to the 2-pound limit and cannot be used for mailing of the one-time shipment of educational materials.

Full instructions on use of pouch can be found <u>here</u>.

- b. Airmail: There is no access to the pouch for general mail. The local postal system varies in reliability. To ship papework PostNet is frequently used but to ship other objects, it is recommended you use a courier service which are reliable but more expensive. Please note that import duties are 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. Banking and Money Matters

Credit cards, debit cards, electronic fund transfers (EFTs), and cellphone banking are widely used in South Africa. Checks are no longer issued or used. Most bill payments are done by EFT, such as rent, insurance, etc.

Opening a bank account in South Africa can be quite a complex process, and many Fulbright grantees prefer simply to use their American credit and ATM cards to access their funds from American accounts. However, you may wish to open a South African bank account to make local electronic fund transfers (EFTs) for rent, etc. Your Treaty Permit provides you with Temporary Residency status, which is needed to open a bank account. Banks are highly regulated in South Africa, so there is not much variation between them, but you should discuss different account options available at the bank where you wish to open an account. In general, bank accounts in South Africa tend to be more costly than in the U.S. (fee per transaction, etc.). Check the fine print when opening an account.

Automatic teller machines are abundant, but it is recommended that only ATMs attached to a bank building are used. Major credit cards are accepted at most retail outlets and restaurants. Be aware that all debit and credit cards issued by South African banks require a pin number for most transactions, while many American cards do not, making them easier to compromise. It is suggested that you only use cards which require that you put in your pin number to avoid compromising your account.

Some U.S. banks do not charge any fees for international transactions. Investigate options offered by various banks. For safety reasons, we advise that you keep your cash and credit cards separate, and not carry large amounts of cash with you.

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

4/13/2023 Page 20 of 27



#### 8. Health Matters

The quality of private medical care in South Africa is similar to that in the United States, but the costs are considerably lower. This is true of dental services as well. Most, but not all, common American medications are widely available in South Africa.

#### **Vaccinations:**

Please visit the following CDC sites:

- <a href="http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/south-africa">http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/south-africa</a>
- <a href="http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list">http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list</a>

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: <a href="www.cdc.gov/malaria/">www.cdc.gov/malaria/</a>

This disease is mostly under control in South Africa. However, the risk of malaria transmission exists throughout the year, in low altitude areas of Mpumalanga, Limpopo, and northeastern KwaZulu-Natal and Kruger National Park. Although risk is highest from October to May, we 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.

#### COVID-19:

Please visit <a href="https://www.gov.za/Coronavirus">https://www.gov.za/Coronavirus</a> and/or <a href="https://za.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/">https://za.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/</a> for updated information about the COVID-19 situation in South Africa.

4/13/2023 Page 21 of 27



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

**IMPORTANT**: To facilitate your medical care in South Africa:

- a) Carry 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 South Africa if you plan to visit any of the neighboring countries. Note: often medical fees are paid in cash and then reimbursed by your insurance company after all paperwork is submitted and approved.

# 9. Transport and Driving

It is extremely difficult to move around independently and safely in South Africa without your own vehicle. Should you plan to drive here, please learn the legislation regarding 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, 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, then you must also carry a copy of your passport.
- Always have your documentation with you when driving; traffic officers will expect to see documentation if they stop you.

In general, public transportation is limited in South Africa, with some bus and train services in larger cities. There are also minibus taxis that travel the main arteries of 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. However, purchasing a vehicle as a temporary resident without a South African ID can be complicated. In addition, purchase prices are generally more expensive than in the U.S. Reliable used cars can be found for \$10,000 and up; they can in many cases be resold to the dealer, but with expected loss.

4/13/2023 Page 22 of 27



The advice of former 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 Embassy or Consulate Public Affairs Office nearest you might also have some information on vehicles for sale from time to time.

#### Useful websites:

- http://www.rentawreck.co.za
- <a href="http://www.autotrader.co.za">http://www.autotrader.co.za</a>
- https://www.webuycars.co.za/
- <a href="http://www.carfind.co.za">http://www.carfind.co.za</a>
- <a href="http://www.automart.co.za">http://www.automart.co.za</a>
- <a href="http://www.cars.co.za">http://www.cars.co.za</a>
- http://www.ulf.co.za (long term rental)

#### Insurance:

- http://www.outsurance.co.za
- <a href="http://www.car-home-insurance.net/south-africa/chi-1st-for-women.html">http://www.car-home-insurance.net/south-africa/chi-1st-for-women.html</a>
- <a href="http://www.dialdirect.co.za">http://www.dialdirect.co.za</a>
- 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: 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. Gas (or "petrol") is more expensive in South Africa than in the U.S.

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 more rural areas.

#### 10. *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 water is safe to drink all over South Africa.

4/13/2023 Page 23 of 27



#### 11. 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 local schools, 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 and are often taught in English. 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 in mid-January (exact date depends on the specific province).

# 12. 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 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.

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 many 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:

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

Since you will be a temporary resident of South Africa, you may not be able to purchase a full cellphone contract. Instead, you may have to take a pay-as-you-go package, which you can topup 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 cellphone unlocked, so you can use it here, with a new South African SIM card.

# 13. Electricity

4/13/2023 Page 24 of 27



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. Televisions function on the PAL system, but multi-system equipment is becoming the norm.

Load Shedding: When the demand for electricity exceeds the available supply, the national electricity utility, Eskom, implements planned supply interruptions throughout the country. This is called load shedding. It is a controlled way of rotating the available electricity between all Eskom customers. Load shedding schedules can be found at <a href="https://www.eskom.co.za/distribution/customer-service/outages/municipal-loadshedding-schedules/">https://www.eskom.co.za/distribution/customer-service/outages/municipal-loadshedding-schedules/</a>

**Security Alert:** U.S. Embassy – State of Disaster Declared Over Ongoing Energy Crisis of "Load-shedding" – Controlled Electricity Outages (As of February 15, 2023. Subject to change)

The government of South Africa has declared a "State of Disaster" in response to ongoing power shortages. The country's energy crisis includes sustained load-shedding (controlled rolling blackouts), at varying intervals and is expected to extend beyond 2023. Load-shedding currently results in localized power outages of up to six hours or more per day throughout the country. These planned electricity outages negatively affect private residences, businesses, municipal lighting, traffic lights, and hotels. Rolling blackouts can also impact water availability and safety, internet connectivity, cell phone network coverage, fuel pumps (and therefore fuel availability), residential security features, and the food supply. Additionally, power outages have the potential to increase crime; for example, traffic jams when lights are out provide opportunities for smash and grab crime, and residences can be targeted when lights are out and security systems are not functioning. Further, ongoing conditions have led to an increase in protests and demonstrations, and in some cases civil unrest, throughout the country.

The U.S. Embassy would like to take this opportunity to remind U.S. citizens traveling to or living in South Africa that South Africa has a Travel Advisory Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution due to Crime and Civil Unrest.

Visit <a href="https://za.usembassy.gov/security-alert-u-s-embassy-state-of-disaster-declared-over-ongoing-energy-crisis-of-load-shedding-controlled-electricity-outages/">https://za.usembassy.gov/security-alert-u-s-embassy-state-of-disaster-declared-over-ongoing-energy-crisis-of-load-shedding-controlled-electricity-outages/</a> for updated information about the Energy Crisis situation in South Africa.

# 14. Security

Many visitors to South Africa are concerned about crime and overall security, but by following some internationally applied rules of safety, in both urban and rural areas, many problems can be avoided. Street crime is generally viewed as the greatest security threat faced by U.S. 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. More details on personal security

4/13/2023 Page 25 of 27



while in South Africa will be provided during the mandatory briefing at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate shortly after arrival in country.

Fulbright grantees are required to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) at <a href="http://travel.state.gov">http://travel.state.gov</a> to receive important consular messages in the event of an emergency.

IMPORTANT: All grantees must schedule a security briefing at the Embassy or Consulate as soon as possible after arrival.

#### 15. General Information about South Africa

Start by checking the following State Department 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
- http://tripadvisor.com/Tourism-g293740-South Africa-Vacations.html

# 16. Communication/Language

South Africa has eleven official languages. English is widely understood and used in official notices and documents. It 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.

#### V. RELEVANT WEBSITES

- http://www.fulbright.org

- http://za.usembassy.gov/education

Fulbright Association

### Universities in South Africa

University of Cape Town University of Fort Hare University of KwaZulu-Natal

University of Limpopo North West University

University of the Free State University of Mpumalanga

Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University

University of Pretoria

University of Johannesburg

Rhodes University

- http://www.uct.ac.za

- http://www.ufh.ac.za

- http://www.ukzn.ac.za

- http://www.ul.ac.za

- http://www.nwu.ac.za

- http://www.uovs.ac.za

- http://www.ump.ac.za

- http://www.nmmu.ac.za

- http://web.up.ac.za

- http://www.uj.ac.za

- http://www.ru.ac.za

4/13/2023 Page 26 of 27



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 Western Cape

University of the Witwatersrand

University of Zululand

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

Central University of Technology

Durban University of Technology

Tshwane University of Technology

- http://www.cput.ac.za
- http://www.cut.ac.za
- http://www.dut.ac.za
- 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://www.state.gov

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

4/13/2023 Page 27 of 27