2017-18 Fulbright U.S. Student Program
South and Central Asia Grant Administration

"The essence of intercultural education is the acquisition of empathy—the ability to see the world as others see it, and to allow for the possibility that others may see something that we have failed to see."

-Senator J. William Fulbright in *The Price of Empire*

Photo taken by 2013 Fulbright ETA to Tajikistan, Canyon Darc

Fulbright Program Background

…to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.

... and thus to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic, and peaceful relations between the United States and other countries of the world.

Elizabeth Hermann, 2012 Fulbright ETA to Bangladesh

Program Administration

Presidentially-appointed J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (FFSB)

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)

Administered by the Institute of International Education (IIE)

Host country support provided by the U.S. Embassy

Fulbright Award Benefits

- Round-trip transportation/flight
- One-time Base Allowance:
  - Included in 1st stipend payment
  - Funds for R/T Int'l Flight
  - Settling-in expenses
  - Baggage fees
  - Visa Allowance
- Research/ETA allowance
- Monthly stipend to cover room & board and incidental costs
- Accident & Sickness Coverage (ASPE)
- Fulbright ASSIST 24/7 Support

2013 Fulbright Grantees in Tajikistan, Bryan Furman (4th from left) and Alfred Yannucci (far right) with students during site visit by Brooke Pearson (ECA) and Cara Doble (IIE)

Required Documents

- Fulbright medical forms *(to be submitted no more than 6 months before departure)* for the required medical clearance
- Official (hard copy) transcript verifying conferral of Bachelor's degree
- Grant Authorization (Financial Terms) & Program Terms and Conditions
- Grant Payment Deposit Information (Bank info)
- Authorization Form + "VOID"ed check <u>or</u> other official documentation from the bank showing: 1) Name on account 2) Account number and 3) Routing number (Direct Deposit forms, letter from bank, screen shot of online banking interface will suffice)
- Host Country Contact and Affiliation Information Form
- Approved Fly America compliant itinerary

Travel Arrangements

- Travel itineraries must be Fly-America compliant and require IIE approval prior to purchase.

  If Fly America compliance is not received or a non-compliant flight is purchased, the R/T Travel allowance will either be withheld or adjusted to reflect the amount.

- Grantees will purchase their own tickets upon approval. A proof of purchase and the approved itinerary will be uploaded by the grantee to the IIE- Self Service Portal.

- Travel funding is included in the Base (in first grant payment) and the travel funding is fixed (set as part of the base allowance). There is no separate reimbursement process for travel costs.

Grant Payments

- All grant payments are made via Electronic Funds Transfer, paid in $USD, and deposited into a U.S. bank or credit union.
- No payments will be made until all required documents have been submitted.
- First grant payment cannot be made more than 4 weeks prior to the grant start date.
  - First payment comprised of research allowance, base allowance, and maintenance allowances for months 1-3 of grant.
- 2nd and 3rd payments go out in the 3rd and 6th months of the grant, respectively.
  - 2nd payment comprised of maintenance for months 4-6 of grant.
  - 3rd payment comprised of maintenance for months 7-9 of grant.
- Last payment will not be released until Final Report and Fly America compliant return flight itinerary have been submitted.
- Last payment is the maintenance allowance for the tenth/final month of the grant.

Health Benefits

Accident & Sickness (ASPE) coverage valid only **while in host country** and only **during grant term.**

Elizabeth Muller, 2011-12 Fulbright to Nepal

- ASPE is administered by Seven Corners
- Full details of the coverage on the Fulbright website under *Current Grantees*
- Benefits paid on reimbursement basis
- Grantee ID number for used for claims with Seven Corners
- No card - go to Seven Corners website to print information.

Seven Corners/ASPE Health Benefits

Available Services

- Medical referrals for doctors and hospitals
- Medical and prescription claims
- Medical evacuations
- Assistance with questions on ASPE coverage and medical bills

Questions regarding ASPE benefits should addressed to Seven Corners.

Fulbright Assist 24/7 Support

A benefit for all grantees in the Fulbright U.S. Student Program while are on grants in their host countries

Administered by the ANVIL Group

Online and phone assistance available for the following urgent situations:

- Mental health crisis support
- Sexual assault response
- Violent Crime response
- Providing advice to grantees when they feel at risk or vulnerable

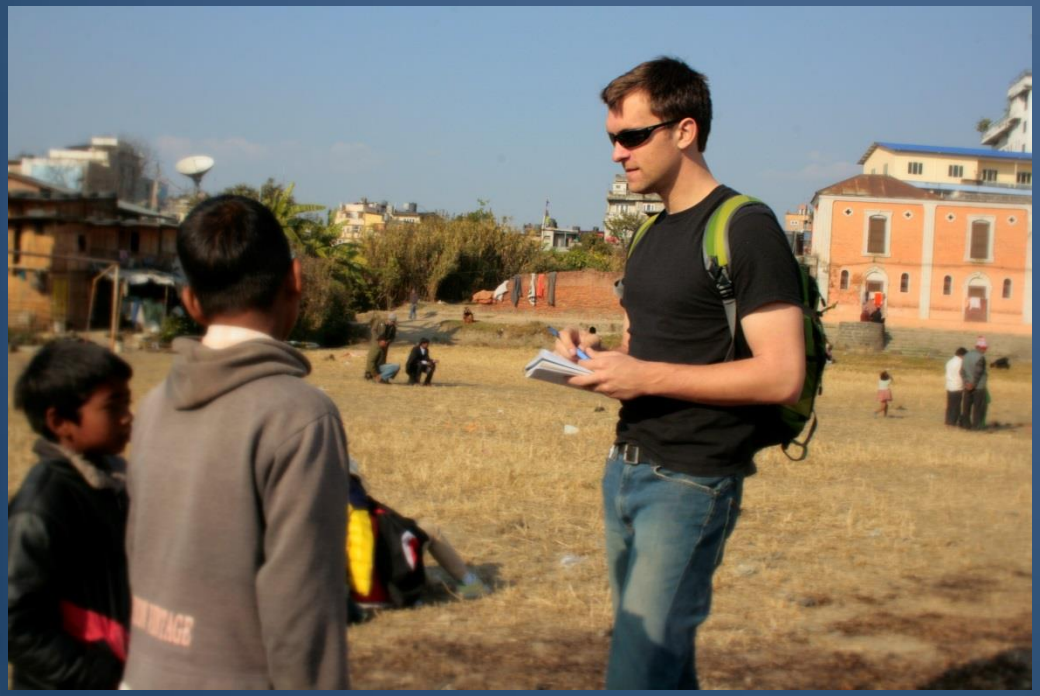
Non-Urgent Case Services:

- Medical advice (provided by licensed intensive care nurses)
- Travel health information
- Personal security advice

Other Pre-Departure Tips

- Familiarize yourself with info on Pre-Departure Resources website
- Connect with your host institutions
- Make sure you'll have valid U.S. passport (6 months past grant end date)
- Communicate arrival information to U.S. Embassy
- Let your banks and credit card companies know that you will be living overseas
- Send loan deferment forms to IIE
- Send "Thank You" letters to your U.S. Congress person and U.S. Senators

Host Country Arrival



Kyle Knight, 2011-12 Fulbright to Nepal

- Check in with U.S. Embassy
- Attend in-country orientation or security briefing
- Meet with affiliation/adviser
- Find housing
- Send contact info to Embassy contact and IIE
- Register host country contact information with the State Department: https://step.state.gov/step/

Fulbright Grant Term

Pursue a specific Study/Research project or English Teaching Assistantship

Approval required for changes in:

- Affiliation
- Methodology
- Topic or focus of project

Photo by 2009-10 Arts grantee to India, Kainaz Amaria

During the Fulbright Grant Term

- Maintain contact with Embassy and IIE:
  - Grant progress and issues
  - Changes in address/ phone
  - Emergencies
  - Health/safety issues
- Inform U.S. Embassy/Post of any in-country travel away from home area
- Request and receive U.S. Embassy and IIE approval for:
  - Any out-of-country travel (prior to booking)
  - Significant project changes
- Community engagement
- Share Fulbright photos, articles, stories: https://fulbright.netx.net/app/#login

Photo taken by 2013-14 Fulbright ETA to Tajikistan, Canyon Darcy

Out-of-Country Leave

- Up to 14 days of out-of-country leave during regular vacation periods or as approved by the U.S. Embassy and IIE
- Leave days include travel days
- Approval required by U.S. Embassy, host institution and IIE
- Provide exact dates & destination
- Obtain all approvals **before** booking travel.

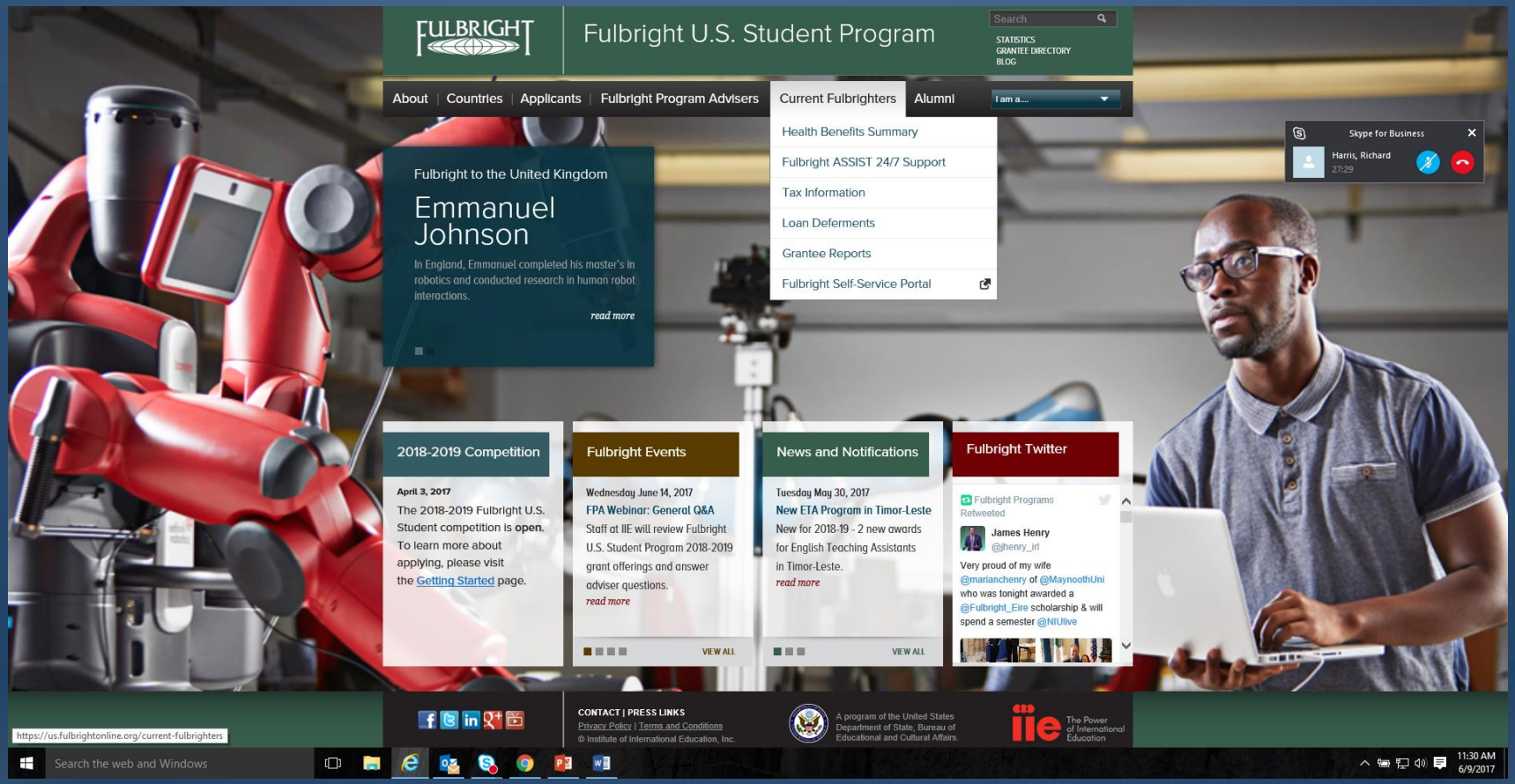
* Fulbright grantees are not permitted to leave the host country without written permission from the U.S. Embassy as this would be a violation of the Terms & Conditions of the award and is grounds for grant revocation.

Final Thoughts…

- Adhere to Grant Terms and Conditions
- Carry out Fulbright project full-time as written in the application
- Remain in-country for the duration of the grant period
- Report outside funding to IIE to ensure no duplication of funds
- Submit Mid-term and Final Reports

2011-12 Fulbright ETA to Bangladesh, Todd McKay

IIE Outbound Advising contact:
Richard Harris
FulbrightStudentAdvisingSCA@iie.org

Fulbright U.S. Student Website

Visit **Current Fulbrighters** section of the website: www.us.fulbrightonline.org