Writing the Fulbright ETA Statement of Grant Purpose

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Know the Program

- Mission & Goals
- Program Design
- Country Preference Factors
- Selection Factors
- Application Components
Mission & Goals

Fulbright Mission:

• To increase *mutual understanding* between people of the U.S. and people of other countries through *exchange*.

Specific ETA Goal:

• To improve students’ knowledge of English language and US culture.
What is Fulbright looking for?

In general, selection is made on the basis of:

• Quality/validity and feasibility of the proposal.
• Academic or professional record.
• Personal qualifications.
• Language preparation.
• Maturity, motivation and adaptability.
• Extent to which the candidate and the project will help to advance the Fulbright aim of promoting mutual understanding among nations through engagement in the host community, among other activities.
• Knowledge of host country.
• Requirements of the program in individual countries.
What is Fulbright looking for?

Selection factors specific to the ETA Grant:
• Thorough knowledge of English language & grammar
• Excellent communication skills
• Flexibility, adaptability, openness
• Demonstrated leadership & service
What is Fulbright looking for?

Factors to address for the ETA Grant:

• Reasons for undertaking an English Teaching Assistant assignment.

• Reasons for selection of your chosen country.

• Specific qualifications, training, and/or experiences related to teaching abroad.

• Specific ideas for engaging with students and helping them to learn English.

• How you expect to benefit from the assignment, and what use you will make of the experience upon your return to the US?

• What use you will make of your time outside the classroom?
Use Application Wisely

Application Includes:

• Personal Data
• Identification of Country & Program
• Project Title
• Abstract of Proposal
• Host Country Experience & Other Foreign Experience
• Education
• Occupational Experience
• Extracurricular Activities
• Honors, Scholarships, Awards
• Publications, Exhibitions, Performances, Presentations
• Plans Upon Return to the US
• Statement of Grant Purpose
• Personal Statement
• Language Self-Evaluation
• Transcripts
• References & Language Evaluation
ETA Statement of Grant Purpose

Format
• 1 typed single spaced page
• 1” margins, Times Roman 12 pt. font
• Title:

STATEMENT OF GRANT PURPOSE
Your Name, Country of Application, English Teaching Assistantship

• Every applicant’s essays will be unique!
Introduction

• Set the tone in the first paragraph—don’t waste it!
• Consider the readers—make them want to keep reading.
• Get right to the point – don’t make the readers work to figure it out or search for information.
• Avoid unnecessary quotes
Body

• Explain your points with concrete details and specific examples from your past experiences.
• Make choices between points to make in this essay vs. the Personal Statement vs. other areas of the application – use space wisely!
• Cover both ETA duties and ideas + community engagement side project
Conclusion

• Even if just a sentence or two
• Pull things together, nod to the future
  • How do you expect to benefit from the assignment?
  • What use you will make of the experience upon your return to the US?
Initial Drafting

• Brainstorm - make a list of experiences noting not only what you did, but why you did it and what you learned/gained as a result

• Look at the whole application
  • What experiences can be adequately represented in other areas of the application?
  • What needs to be expanded upon in the essays?
  • How can you reflect on those experiences more deeply/convey different information in the essays?

• Don’t worry about the page limit at first
  • Write everything, then edit and make choices
Revision, Revision, Revision!

• Organize your statement carefully.
  • Don't make reviewers search for information.
  • Remove anything that does not fit (save for other essays)
• Distance yourself from writing for a short time
• Ask yourself:
  • Have you addressed all the “why” questions?
  • Does it provide specific details that demonstrate your experience and ideas for teaching English?
  • Does it demonstrate your interest, motivation, and ability?
  • Have you addressed the community engagement idea?
  • Do you repeat information included in other parts of your application? Omit repetitive information unless it’s necessary for further explanation or emphasis.
• Grammar & spelling!!
Seek Critical Feedback

- Have several people read and critique it
  - Someone who knows you really well
  - Someone who doesn’t know you well at all
  - Advisers, faculty, mentors
  - Friends, family members, other applicants, etc.
  - People you are asking for letters of recommendation
- Read it out loud to yourself and/or a friend
Brainstorming Exercises

• Imagine yourself arriving in the host country. What is the first thing you want to do?
• Imagine yourself in the host country after 6 months of living there. What does your life look like?
• What excites you about the prospect of being in a classroom working with students?
• Why do you think spending a year in your country of choice will be beneficial to you?
• What knowledge/skills/qualities do you expect to come away with after a year of teaching English?
• What are some tools/methods/activities/etc. that:
  • you have used to learn the languages you speak?
  • you have used when tutoring/mentoring others?
Brainstorming Exercises

• Draft an abstract for your application, summarizing what you plan to do as Fulbright ETA in 4-6 sentences.
Resources

• Me!
• Other editors, including each other
• Fulbright webinars
• Fulbright applicant blog: http://blogs.fulbrightonline.org/usapp/
• Odegaard Writing Center: http://depts.washington.edu/owrc/