Writing the Fulbright Research/Study Statement of Grant Purpose

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Fulbright Full Grants

- For research projects in any field
- For programs of study in any field
- For artistic projects or study in the creative or performing arts and creative writing
Know the program:

1. Mission
2. Program Design
3. Country Preference Factors
4. Selection Factors
5. Application Components
Fulbright Mission

To increase *mutual understanding* between people of the U.S. and people of other countries through *exchange*.
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.
- Ability of the supervising agencies abroad to arrange/confirm supervision and facilitate research clearance, if necessary…
What is Fulbright looking for?

Factors specific to the Full Grant:

- Practical considerations for your project/study
  - Is your project/proposal feasible?
  - What is interesting/innovative/important about it?
  - With whom do you propose to work? How will you work with them? How can they help you?
  - What will you be doing? What methodologies will you be using? What are your research/study goals?
  - When and where will you carry out the project? Include a rough timeline.
  - Why does the project/study need to be done in the country/location you’ve chosen?
  - Will the culture/politics of the host country impact your work? How?
  - Do you have sufficient language skills for the project? If not, how will you accomplish your work?
  - Are there any possible feasibility concerns that could be raised by your project? Address them!
What is Fulbright looking for?

Factors specific to the Full Grant:

- **Personal & community considerations**
  - What contribution will the project/study make toward the Fulbright goal of promoting cultural exchange & mutual understanding? What contribution will you make?
  - Why do you want to undertake this project/study?
  - How will your project/study help further your academic or professional development? (Discuss more fully in the personal statement.)
  - How will you engage with the host country community?
  - What are your qualifications for carrying out this project/study? (Discuss more fully in the personal statement.)
Three most important factors:

1. FEASIBILITY (as it relates to your project)
2. FEASIBILITY (as it relates to your country)
3. FEASIBILITY (as it relates to you)
Use Application Wisely

Application Includes:

• Personal Data
• Identification of Country & Program
• Project Title & Abstract
• Affiliation(s) list
• 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
• Affiliation Letter(s)
• Personal Statement
• Language Self-Evaluation
• CLEA?
• Creative Arts Supplementary Materials?
• Transcripts
• References & Language Evaluation
Statement of Grant Purpose

Format

• 2 pages, single-spaced
• 1” margins, Times New Roman 12-point font
• No bibliography, publications, etc.
• No citations, unless absolutely necessary!
  • When citations are necessary, put them in the body of the essay
  • no footnotes or endnotes
  • no specific format/style required

• Title:

  STATEMENT OF GRANT PURPOSE

  Your name, country of application, field of study

  Project Title

• Each applicant’s essay will be unique!
Introduction

• Set the tone in the first paragraph—don’t waste it!

• Consider the readers—capture their attention and make them want to keep reading.

• Get right to the point!
  • Don’t make the readers work to figure out what you’re proposing or search for information.
  • Address the W questions briefly, laying the foundation/roadmap for the rest of the essay.

• Avoid unnecessary quotes

• Avoid getting bogged down with background information
Body

• This is a proposal, not a research paper!
  • Include enough of the background information on your topic as is necessary to understand your project & establish your authority/knowledge. But keep it brief!
• Give concrete details of what you will be doing, where, when, with whom, for how long, how many, etc.
• Make choices between points to make in this essay vs. the Personal Statement vs. other areas of the application – use space wisely!
• Cover both project/studies + community engagement plan.
• Keep the selection committee composition in mind!
• Address all potential questions.
Conclusion

- Even if just a sentence or two
- Pull things together, nod to the future
  - How will your project help further your academic or professional development?
  - What use you will make of the experience upon your return to the US?
Initial Drafting

• Look at the whole application
  • What elements can be adequately represented in other areas of the application?
  • What needs to be expanded upon in the essays?
  • How can you use those other areas of the application to supplement your essays?
• Don’t worry about the page limit at first
  • Write everything, then edit and make choices
• Answer the questions posed
• Outline to help determine organization
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 your writing for a short time

• Ask yourself:
  • Have you answered all of the who, what, when, where, why, how questions?
  • Have you raised any questions/concerns that need to be addressed?
  • 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 the field
  • Someone who knows the country
  • Someone who doesn’t know either one
  • 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
  • Does anything trip you up?
  • Does it flow logically, both internally and with the entire application?
Brainstorming

• What country have you chosen and why?
• Draft an abstract of your project, summarizing it in 4-6 sentences.
• 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 are you doing on the weekends?
• Make a rough monthly outline of your Fulbright year.
• List the classes, research projects, extracurricular activities, internships, volunteer work, etc. that you’ve been involved with that are particularly relevant to your project, country and/or cross-cultural interaction in general.
  • Note something you learned, skills gained, connections made, etc. from each one.
Resources

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