TIPS FOR WRITING THE FULBRIGHT PERSONAL STATEMENT

“The Personal Statement should be a narrative giving a picture of you as an individual. Remember, applicants are not interviewed on the national level. The Personal Statement is your opportunity to ‘talk’ about yourself and to tell the committee more about how you came to this point in your life and where you see yourself in the future. There is no single ‘right way’ to approach the Statement; rather each candidate will consider what they think is important for people reviewing your application to know about them” (http://us.fulbrightonline.org/preparing_personalstatement.html; updated in 2012 to http://us.fulbrightonline.org/application-tips).

Formerly known as the “Narrative CV”, the Fulbright Personal Statement is still very much a personal/intellectual autobiography.

- It should show how your project proposal (research, study, or teaching) is the next logical and necessary step in your life, and how you are qualified to carry it out. Provide the personal and/or academic context for your interest in doing what you are proposing.
- It is your opportunity to discuss personal motivations, experiences and activities, and future goals that are relevant to your project proposal. Make direct connections for the readers, explaining how or why those experiences are relevant, what you gained from them that you will use during your Fulbright year, how they’ve led you to this point of going abroad for this project, etc.
- Show how your academic interests and pursuits have led you to the point of applying for a Fulbright and how you and your career possibilities will be enhanced or changed as a result of the Fulbright experience.

Through concrete examples from past experiences, you need to emphasize your preparation for the project being proposed, as well as your personality. View this piece as your chance to let the selectors know you as individually as possible, but keep it relevant. The goal is to write an essay no other person could have written.

Put more simply, you want the readers to understand who you are, how you think, why your past experiences and goals are what they are, how you plan to reach your goals, and how the Fulbright experience you’re applying for fits into all that.

Tips from Past Grantees


‘Think of the Personal Statement as a ‘narrative CV.’ What about you, your academic training and unique life experiences make you the best person to carry out your project? These are the things that I think should be highlighted in your application, as well as the ways in which you demonstrate a commitment to promoting and enhancing cultural exchange. I would encourage applicants to be
creative, but also make sure that your personal statement is honest and leaves readers with a true sense of why your project is important and who you are.”


“Your Personal Statement (PS) should narrate your personal and intellectual development. It should show how your proposal is the next logical and necessary step in your life, and how you are qualified to carry it out. It is your opportunity to illustrate what a unique and exceptional individual you are!

- Overall, is your PS interesting and easy to read? Does it show, rather than tell, who you are?
- Does your PS demonstrate your motivation and ability to work independently?
- Does it show who you are, and make the reader want to know you better?
- Do you demonstrate your experience and interest in intercultural learning and sharing?
- Do you repeat information included in other parts of your application? Omit them unless they are necessary for further explanation or emphasis.”

Format

- One typed, single-spaced page with 1” margins, Times Roman 12 pt. font
- At the top of the Word Document, in the upper left-hand corner
  - On line 1, type **PERSONAL STATEMENT** so that it appears in the PDF version of your hard copy application. Do not place this information in a header
  - On the next line, type your name, country of application, and field of study (or English Teaching Assistantship)