CULTURAL EXCHANGE FULBRIGHT for 2016-2017

Institute of International Education (IIE)
Information for Students of GSAS

GSAS APPLICATIONS DEADLINE: September 22, 2015 (T)

All registered GSAS students must apply for an IIE Fulbright through the GSAS Fellowships Office Director, Dr. Cynthia Verba. (Those who are away from campus and unavailable for a campus interview during the application period may apply as an at-large candidate -- more on this below.)

ONLINE APPLICATIONS:
PLEASE NOTE: UNDER A NEW IIE POLICY, ONLINE APPLICATION IS NOW THE REQUIRED METHOD OF APPLICATION FOR ALL APPLICATION MATERIALS, INCLUDING REFERENCES AND LANGUAGE REPORTS AND TRANSCRIPTS, WHICH NEED TO BE UPLOADED. You can secure access to the electronic application forms, as well as detailed information on the Fulbright programs, by going to www.fulbrightonline.org/us, and clicking “Applicants” and then “Getting Started.” When you start the electronic application process you will be assigned your own User ID and password to access the application. **When you get to the question of naming your institution, after clicking Harvard, be sure to answer the next option, which is Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, which will then indicate your authorized Fulbright advisor as: cverba@fas.harvard.edu.**

Potential applicants should take these steps as early as possible; this gives them the status of “in-progress,” allowing them to work on to become fully informed of the process and to work on the application until they finally submit to meet the campus deadline.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL THE REQUIRED ELECTRONIC APPLICATION MATERIALS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED ON THE DESIGNATED GSAS DEADLINE OF SEPTEMBER 22.

DEADLINE EXTENSIONS: Any student who has a significant problem meeting the deadline for any of the required items in the application should speak directly to Cynthia Verba. If recommendations or language reports are missing when the deadline has arrived, it is essential to meet the deadline with whatever materials you have and then submit the rest as soon as possible, continuing to submit in sealed envelopes.

AN ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT IS THAT YOU SIGN UP FOR AN INTERVIEW, WHICH WE DO IN A ROUND TABLE FORMAT. YOU MUST SIGN UP FOR THE INTERVIEW AT LEAST A WEEK PRIOR TO THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE. YOU MAY CHOOSE INTERVIEW DATES ON A SIGN-UP LIST [WE EILL GO ELECTRONIC AND DO GOOGLE SIGN UP NEXT YEAR SO SKIP: AT THE DEAN’S RECEPTION AREA IN SMITH CENTER 350.] YOU MUST DO SO NO LATER THAN THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE IN OCTOBER. ONLY THOSE WHO ARE AWAY FROM HARVARD AND ARE APPLYING AS AT-LARGE CANDIDATES ARE EXEMPT FROM THESE DEADLINES AND REQUIREMENTS.

FOR ADVICE ON YOUR PROPOSAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL ESSAY, PHONE 617-495-1814, FOR AN APPOINTMENT WITH CYNTHIA VERBA.
PURPOSE

The Cultural Exchange Fulbright is awarded for study or research abroad, and is administered by the Institute of International Education (IIE) on behalf of the U.S. Information Agency. Around 630 awards for 93 countries are offered each year. The awards are for both western and non-western countries.

IIE information on their programs, as well as on the countries or regions to which you may apply is available at the IIE Website, at www.fulbrightonline.org. Applicants to a given country or region will be considered for all awards to that country that are appropriate. The majority of Fulbright Grants will be reserved for advanced graduate students who, in most cases, will be engaged in research for the doctoral dissertation, but it is also the policy of the Board of Foreign Scholarships that awards be available to other graduate students, graduating seniors, and candidates who wish to further their careers in the creative and performing arts.

STIPEND

Fulbright Full Grants

These provide round-trip transportation, language or orientation courses, tuition, books, maintenance for one academic year in only one country, and health and accident insurance. Most of these benefits are payable in local currency. The maintenance allowance is based on living costs in the host country and is sufficient to meet the normal expenses of a single person. Fulbright Grants that follow this pattern are available for all countries in which there are Fulbright Commissions/Foundations.

Fulbright Fixed Sum Grants

These provide a fixed sum payment in U.S. dollars to the grantee. They are available to countries where there is no Fulbright Commission/Foundation.

Fulbright Travel Grants

These provide round-trip transportation to the country where the student will pursue studies for an academic year, and health and accident insurance. Note: The receipt of a travel grant is no longer specifically tied to the receipt of a maintenance award from another source. Candidates can now use personal funds to supplement travel grants. In addition, the application deadline for travel grants is now the same as for the Fulbright Full Grants.

TENURE AND AFFILIATION

Most of the grants are awarded for programs of study or research that will require an academic year. However, where sufficient justification is provided (for very advanced predoctoral candidates and candidates in the creative arts), candidates may submit requests for grants of not less than six months. Grantees are usually affiliated with institutions of higher learning in the host countries. In most cases, graduate students are engaged in independent research, and are responsible for arranging their own institutional affiliations and especially their own contacts with individual scholars. Candidates should be prepared in their Fulbright applications to provide evidence of advisory arrangements with scholars in the host country. For further details on institutional options, see the Individual Country Summaries.
ELIGIBILITY AND OTHER CRITERIA

The following are eligibility requirements:

1. Applicants must be U.S. citizens.

2. Preference is given to candidates who have not had prior opportunity for extended study abroad (more than six months) subsequent to earning their B.A. degree. Candidates who have received the majority of their high school and undergraduate educations at institutions in the U.S. will receive preference.

3. Applicants must hold a B.A. degree or the equivalent before the beginning date of the grant. Applicants may not hold a doctoral degree at the time of application - except applicants for the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst Awards who may hold a PhD degree. Holders of the M.D. degree or the J.D. degree are eligible for the IIE Fulbright.

4. Applicants must have sufficient proficiency in the written and spoken language of the host country.

5. Candidates are to be in good health, with a Certificate of Health required from finalists.

6. Strong preference is given to students who have not previously held a Fulbright grant. Students who held an English Teaching Assistantship may apply for a study/research grant, provided that two years have elapsed.

The following are the principal criteria used in judging applicants:

1. The applicant's academic or professional record.

2. The feasibility of the proposed study project. This takes into consideration: a) the level of the applicant's training to do the project, and b) the resources of the host country or institution for doing the project. A discussion of resources should also emphasize why the project needs to be carried out in the country of application.

3. The applicant's personal qualifications, with special emphasis on maturity and adaptability to a different cultural environment and ability to represent the U.S. abroad.

PROCEDURE FOR CANDIDATES IN APPLYING

Students in GSAS apply through Cynthia Verba, as authorized Fulbright Advisor; this is the only correct way to submit. As you will note above, p. 1, after you click Harvard as your institution, you must then choose the option of GSAS in order to correctly submit to Cynthia Verba. (Students in the Harvard professional schools apply through their own schools.)

The following steps should be taken:

1. To obtain IIE information on IIE programs, as well as on the country or region to which you are applying, go to the IIE Website at www.fulbrightonline.org. When you are ready to apply, follow the procedures described above for registered GSAS students.

2. Observe that the deadline for GSAS students for submitting completed electronic applications is
September 22, 2015. (Note: This is the only deadline that pertains to candidates; do not confuse it with the final deadline of late October, when Dr. Verba must send all campus applications to the IIE office in New York.) Observe that there will be an applicant interview for all enrolled applicants, and that you must sign up for this interview at least a week prior to the submission deadline. The sign-up sheet is at Smith 350, Dean's reception area.

3. The completed electronic submission requires the materials listed below.

   a) Application forms 1-5.

   b) A Foreign Language Report to be completed by a professional language teacher, or a professor who is fluent in the language. Note: that the only way you can use the same person for this Report and for a Reference letter is if the person can use a separate e-mail address for each.

   c) Three references, to be uploaded by the referees.

   d) A transcript from each institution attended, to be uploaded and submitted electronically as well.

   e) A letter of affiliation, required for many countries, and considered a good idea even if not required; can be scanned and uploaded, but be sure it is legible.

4. Applicants in the creative and performing arts are required to submit samples of their work.

5. The following are suggestions on preparing application materials:

   a) Start working on your proposal as early as possible; get feedback from colleagues, professors, and the GSAS Fulbright Program Advisor, Dr. Verba (for an appointment with Dr. Verba, phone 617-495-1814.).

   b) Consult the winning samples in Scholarly Pursuits, a publication available to GSAS students free of charge, in Smith Center 350 and online at http://gsas.harvard.edu/current_students/scholarly_pursuits.php.

   c) Be aware that students are responsible for seeing to it that all application materials - including letters of recommendation, the foreign language report and transcripts are submitted electronically by the designated deadline. If you are still missing references or the language report when the deadline arrives, submit your application forms by the deadline, and work on completing the rest of the required materials as soon as possible.

6. At-large applicants also apply online. They do not apply through the campus Fulbright representatives, and must indicate as they are applying electronically that they are at-large; they will then go into a separate application management system. For the at-large deadline consult the IIE web site. Also note: To find out if your particular circumstance would allow you to apply at-large, telephone IIE directly: 212-984-5330.

**RESEARCH ACTIVITIES INVOLVING HUMAN SUBJECTS**

Research projects that deal with human subjects where there might be even a slight element of risk to the subjects must be reviewed by the Harvard Committee on the Use of Human Subjects, the FAS
Institutional Review Board (IRB). The review procedure is kept fairly simple and swift in border-line cases, which would probably apply to most student projects. Information about the committee, its fairly broad definition of “risk,” its meeting schedules, and the committee application form can be found on the Web at http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~research by following the link on the use of human subjects.

**STAGES IN SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION**

The IIE’s National Screening Committee, consisting of specialists in various fields, makes recommendations to the supervising agencies abroad for further review. Applicants will be notified of their status in the preliminary stage of the competition by January 31. Final selection of grantees is made by the Board of Foreign Scholarships. Winners will be notified sometime in late spring.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

GSAS Fulbright applicants (and GSAS applicants for other traveling fellowships) will also want to be sure to make use of two special Harvard resources:

**Harvard research centers devoted to area studies:** Collectively, the centers play host to scholars from all over the globe. They normally offer seminars and other related activities that are open to members of the community. Students who become involved find they have the opportunity to make contact with scholars from the very countries that are their research destinations, which in turn can help to strengthen the fellowship application.

**Harvard language departments** are invaluable not only for the required languages for research abroad, but also for providing language evaluations (even for those who have not enrolled in language study at Harvard) that are required by Fulbright and other traveling fellowships.

**ALSO NOTE:** It is strongly recommended before you leave that you visit the Harvard Travel Tools website at http://www.traveltools.harvard.edu. Check the Harvard Travel Assist page to print a membership card and review destination-specific medical and security information, as well at the listings of local emergency services. The program provides 24-hour worldwide emergency medical and evacuation assistance to all Harvard students, faculty, and staff who are traveling abroad for University business or a University-related activity. (For instance, it provided assistance to GSAS students who wished to be evacuated from Lebanon during the conflict with Israel.) You should also register your itinerary in the Harvard Travel Registry so that the University and Harvard Travel Assist can locate you and provide assistance in an emergency.