

FULBRIGHT STUDENT PROGRAM

Fact Sheet

"Go abroad and study it, and see it, taste it, touch it, feel it, be part of it..."
**– Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Presidential Medal of Honor recipient
and Fulbright alumnus**

THE FULBRIGHT IDEAL

"The vital mortar to seal the bricks of world order is education across international boundaries, not with the expectation that knowledge would make us love each other, but in the hope that it would encourage empathy between nations and foster the emergence of leaders whose sense of other nations and cultures would enable them to shape specific policies based on tolerance and rational restraint." – Senator J. William Fulbright

- The Fulbright Program was established in 1946 through an act of Congress, spearheaded by Senator J. William Fulbright, in order to demonstrate U.S. commitment to democratic values worldwide.
- The Fulbright Program aims to increase mutual understanding among nations through educational and cultural exchange; strengthen the ties which unite the U.S. with other nations; promote international cooperation; and "to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic and peaceful relations between the United States and the other countries of the world."

FULBRIGHT BY THE NUMBERS

"It is a modest program with an immodest aim - the achievement in international affairs of a regime more civilized, rational and humane than the empty system of power of the past." – Senator J. William Fulbright

- In the past 56 years, the Fulbright Program has provided more than 250,000 students, scholars and professionals worldwide with the opportunity to observe each others' political, economic and cultural institutions, exchange ideas and embark on joint ventures of importance to the general welfare of the world's inhabitants.
- The Fulbright currently operates in more than 140 countries worldwide. The program awards approximately 1,000 grants annually to American students, and provides funding for approximately 1,400 foreign students to study at U.S. campuses each year.

FULBRIGHT IN ACTION

“The relationships that are formed between individuals from different countries, as part of international education programs and exchanges, can also foster goodwill that develops into vibrant, mutually beneficial partnerships among nations.” – President George W. Bush

- As America’s premier public diplomacy initiative, the Fulbright Program has supported more than 96,000 outstanding Americans now providing leadership in virtually all sectors of U.S. society. As Fulbright grantees, students in a range of diverse fields undertake projects that prepare them to play an influential role in today’s global society and contribute to mutual understanding among cultures and nations.
- Designed to give recent graduates, postgraduate candidates, and developing professionals and artists opportunities for international experience, cultural immersion and personal enrichment, the Fulbright Program encourages grantees to open pathways of international communication and cooperation with the citizens of their host countries.
- The Fulbright Program offers an invaluable leadership development experience along with opportunities for intellectual, professional and artistic growth. The ability to meet and work with the people of the host country, sharing daily life as well as professional and creative insights, functions to increase the international skills and awareness of Americans through cultural immersion.
- Today the Fulbright Program is the U.S. Government’s flagship international exchange program. It enables U.S. students to gain experiences in every corner of the world, and develop international competence in an era of increasing global interdependence and cultural diversity.

FULBRIGHT FUNDING

“International educational exchange is the most significant current project designed to continue the process of humanizing mankind to the point, we would hope, that man can learn to live in peace ...” – Senator J. William Fulbright

- The primary source of funding for the Fulbright program is an annual appropriation made by Congress to the Department of State. Participating governments and host institutions also contribute financial support through direct cost-sharing, as well as through tuition waivers, university housing, and other benefits.
- Fulbright full grants are earmarked for project-related needs such as round-trip transportation, maintenance for the academic year, supplemental health and accident insurance, book and research allowances, and other relevant areas as appropriate. Additional grants, including travel grants and opportunities in teaching and business studies, are available on a country-by-country basis.

SELECTING THE BEST WORLDWIDE

“People-to-people diplomacy, created through international education and exchanges, is critical to our national interests. Americans who study abroad expand their global perspective and become more internationally engaged. Foreign students and individuals who participate in citizen exchanges return home with a greater knowledge of our democratic institutions and America’s enduring values.” – Secretary of State Colin Powell

- Each year, approximately 4,500 U.S. students apply for approximately 1,000 fellowships in all fields of study.
- U.S. Student Program applicants undergo a competitive selection process including review of their project proposals and applications by the Fulbright National Screening Committee and the relevant supervising agency abroad; final approval is conferred by the presidentially-appointed J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. Selection is based on the applicant’s academic or professional record, language preparation, the feasibility of the proposed study project and personal qualifications.
- In an average year, successful U.S. applicants represent more than 425 public and private institutions; other students receive grants after completion of their studies.
- Foreign students must be nominated for the Fulbright Program by the official binational Fulbright Commissions or binational committees established at U.S. embassies abroad; successful candidates are then selected for participation by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.
- Recent American Fulbright grantees include a former Green Beret, a White House Fellow and one of *Glamour* magazine’s “Top Ten College Women of 2000.”

FULBRIGHTER HALL OF FAME

“Our future is not in the stars but in our minds and hearts. Creative leadership and liberal education, which in fact go together, are the first requirements for a hopeful future for humankind. Fostering these – leadership, learning, and empathy between cultures -- was and remains the purpose of the international scholarship program.” – Senator J. William Fulbright

Alumni of the Fulbright Program are historically leaders in their fields, both in the U.S. and abroad. Among Fulbright Student Program alumni are those who took on leadership roles in areas as diverse as economics, diplomacy, music, business, science, media and academia. Notable examples include:

U.S. Student Program

Derek Bok

President emeritus, Harvard University

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Andrew Brimmer	Former Chair, D.C. Financial Control Board; President, Brimmer & Co.; first African-American to serve as a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System
Chuck Close	Artist*
Rita Dove	Poet Laureate emeritus, United States of America; 1987 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry
Jonathan Franzen	Award-winning author, <i>The Corrections</i>
Ronald J. Grabe	Astronaut (Mission Commander, Discovery)
Hanna Holborn Gray	President emerita, University of Chicago; first woman to head a major American university
John Lithgow	Actor
Renée Fleming	Soprano; two-time Grammy® Award winner
Thomas R. Pickering	Senior Vice President, International Relations, Boeing Company; former Under Secretary for Political Affairs, U.S. Department of State; former United States Ambassador to Russia
Harrison Schmitt	Astronaut (Apollo 17); former U.S. Senator
Robert Shaye	Founder and chairman, New Line Cinema
Ruth J. Simmons	President, Brown University
Joseph Stiglitz	Nobel Laureate, Economics
Richard L. Thomas	Former CEO, the First National Bank of Chicago
Garrick Utley	Television journalist; contributor to CNN and former chief foreign correspondent for ABC News

Foreign Student Program

Andreas Becholsheim Germany	Senior vice president and general manager, Cisco Systems; Co-founder, Sun Microsystems
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Hans Blix Sweden	Chief weapons inspector, United Nations
Boutros Boutros-Ghali Egypt	Former Secretary General, United Nations
Patricia Cardoso Colombia	Filmmaker
Carl August Fleischhauer Germany	Judge, International Court of Justice
Kul Chandra Gautam Nepal	Deputy director, United Nation's Children's Fund (UNICEF)
Tomeo Kambayashi Japan	Chairman, NTT Data Corporation
Salma Khan Bangladesh	Divisional chief (women's affairs), Ministry of Planning
Alan MacDiarmid New Zealand	Nobel Laureate, Chemistry
Carlo Rubbia Italy	Nobel Laureate, Physics
Min Weifang China	Executive vice president, Peking University
Baroness Shirley Williams United Kingdom	Member of Parliament, House of Lords

(*NOTE: A showcase of virtual art created by Close and other Fulbright Program alumni can be viewed online at <http://exchanges.state.gov/fulbrightgallery>)

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