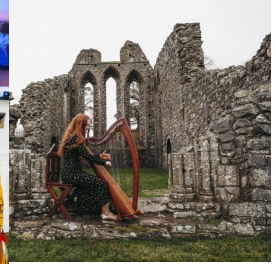


FULBRIGHT
U.S. Student Program

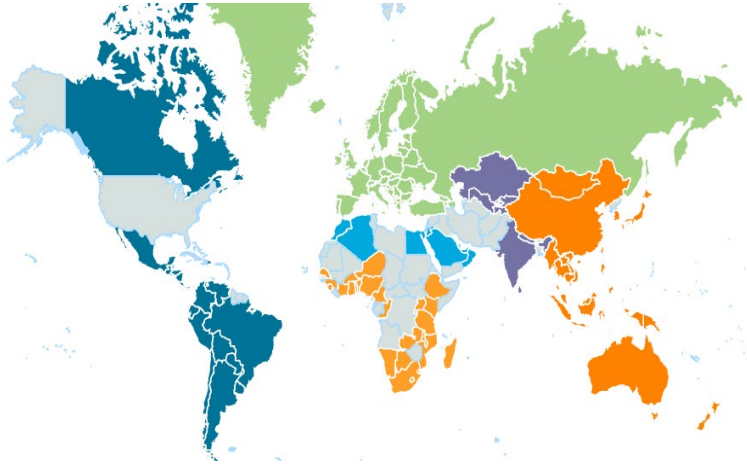
Introduction to Fulbright: Plan Your Life-Changing Experience Abroad

NMU Fellowship and Scholarship Committee (FSC)

NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Introduction to Fulbright U.S. Student Programs

- An international exchange program that offers grants for study, research, teaching, and cultural exchange
- Over 140 participating countries
- Two Primary Award Opportunities
  - Open Study/Research Awards
  - English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Awards
- Awards include:
  - a monthly stipend
  - health benefits
  - round-trip airfare
  - ETAs receive an additional benefit:
    a 60-hour online TESOL Fundamentals Course



Open Study/Research Awards

- Program requirements vary by country
- Field-specific award opportunities for certain countries
  - Arts Grants
  - Business Grants
  - Journalism & Communications Grants
  - STEM & Public Health Grants
- Fulbright Graduate Degree Programs
  - In addition to the standard benefits, may include tuition coverage for select graduate degree programs
  - See the country summary for specific details.

English Teaching Assistant (ETA)

- ETAs help teach English while serving as cultural ambassadors for the U.S.
- Age & academic level of the students varies by country (primary, middle or high school, vocational/technical school, college/university, community institution)
- Location of schools (capital city, regional city/town, rural area) varies by country

Eligibility

- Applicants must:
  - Be citizens or nationals of the U.S. ***at time of application deadline***.
    - Permanent residents not eligible.
    - Dual Citizens: Review the specific Award Description for eligibility details
  - Receive bachelor's degree or equivalent ***before start of grant period***.
  - Meet language requirements (if any) of country to which they are applying.
  - Demonstrate sufficient cultural competency to complete project and adjust to life in host country.
- NOTE: You can not apply for more than one Fulbright grant per competition cycle.

Study/Research Application Components

- Biographical Data
- Program Information
  - Field of Study
  - Project Title & Abstract
  - Abstract/Summary
- **Statement of Grant Purpose**
- Affiliation Letter
- **Short Answers**
  - Flexibility & Adaptability
  - Community Engagement
  - Impact of Fulbright Award
- *Foreign Language Forms*
- Three (3) Recommendation Letters
- Transcripts
- IRB Approval (if applicable)

NOTE: Creative/Performing arts must submit supplementary materials

ETA Application Components

- Biographical Data
- Program Information
  - Project Title
  - Abstract/Summary of Proposal
- **Statement of Grant Purpose**
- **Short Answers**
  - Flexibility & Adaptability
  - Community Engagement
  - Impact of Fulbright Award
- *Foreign Language Forms*
- Three (3) Recommendation Forms
- Transcripts

Timeline

April/May
Getting Started
Award descriptions go live on March 31. Explore possible locations and award options. Contact the Scholarship and Fellowship Center for an advising meeting.
May/June
Plan Your Support
Begin working on your application. Choose and reach out to your recommenders. Make contact with potential host sites, if applicable.
June/July
Write & Revise
Write draft of materials and get feedback from SFC support person. Update your recommenders on your application. Seek a foreign language evaluation, if needed.
August
Assemble Materials
Application should be nearing a final draft. August 31 is the internal NMU deadline to take advantage of campus interview & evaluation.
September
Internal Interview & Final Preparation
You will meet with the SFC committee for an internal interview & receive feedback. Committee will complete the Campus Committee Evaluation form .
October 6
Final Submission!
The deadline for final submission is October 6, 2026 by 5 pm ET. Try to submit earlier than that in case of technical difficulties.

Q&A

Contact us at:

Enrico Sassi ♦ esassi@nmu.edu ♦ 906-227-1925

Emera Bridger Wilson ♦ ebridger@nmu.edu ♦ 906-227-1205

Ryan Bond ♦ rybond@nmu.edu ♦ 906-227-1845