

# FULBRIGHT



INSTITUTE OF  
INTERNATIONAL  
EDUCATION

## Fulbright Exchange Programs in Afghanistan

## *Fulbright's History*

### ❑ THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM:

- Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State
- The largest U.S. international exchange program offering opportunities for students
- In 1945, **Senator J. William Fulbright** introduced a bill in the U.S. Congress
- On August 1, 1946, President **Harry S. Truman** signed the bill into law
- The J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (FSB) was created by Congress to supervise the Fulbright Program.



## *Fulbright's History*

- 12-member Board, appointed by the President of the U.S.!
- U.S. Embassy Kabul administers the program, including recruitment and competitive selection of candidates
- Candidates must be approved by Fulbright Scholarship Board in Washington, DC
- Approximately 310,000 “Fulbrighters,” 116,900 from the U.S. and 192,800 from other countries, have participated in the program since its inception more than sixty years ago
- Over 300 Afghan Fulbrighters have studied in the U.S. since 2003
- Recruiting 70-85 Master’s candidates and 3 Doctoral candidates this year!



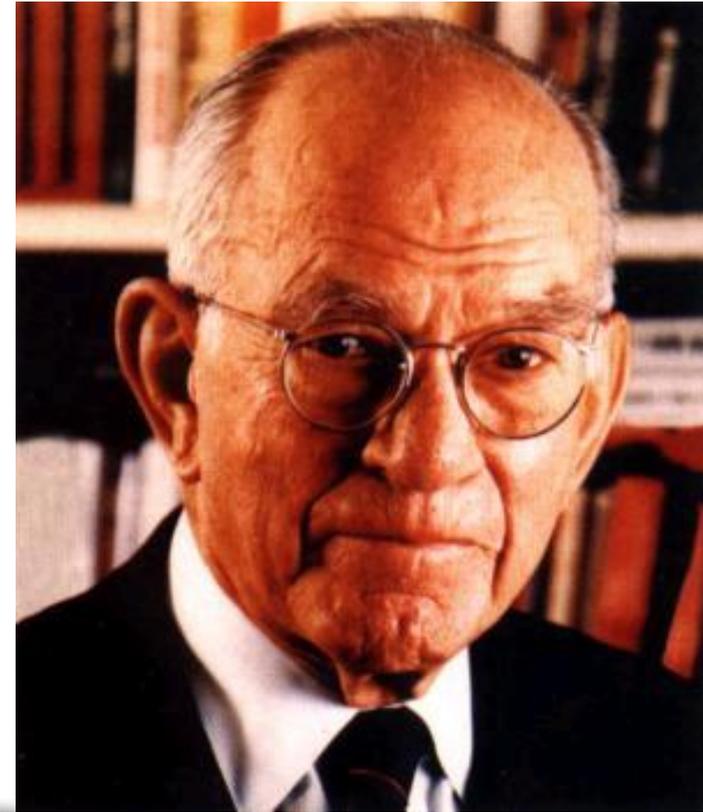
## *Fulbright's History*

- ❑ The Fulbright Program.....
  - awards approximately 8,000 grants annually, 4,000 to non-US students
  - operates in over 155 countries worldwide
  
- ❑ Alumni are heads of state, cabinet ministers, ambassadors, members of congress, judges.....the entire range of professions!



## Purpose of Fulbright Program

*"The Fulbright Program aims to bring a little more knowledge, a little more reason, and a little more compassion into world affairs, and thereby to increase the chance that nations will learn at last to live in peace and friendship." – J. William Fulbright*



## *Purpose of Fulbright*



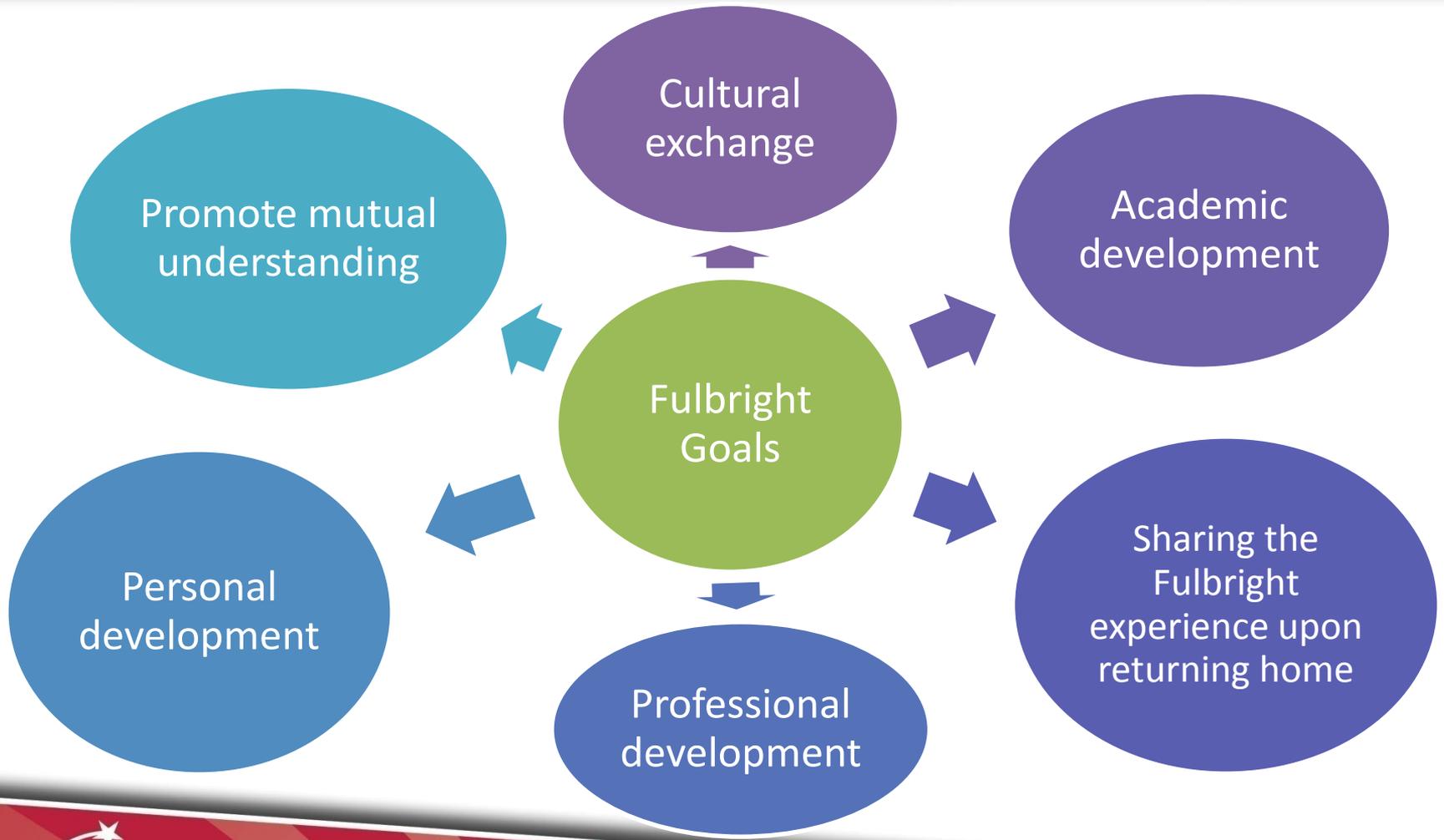
Increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries



From its inception, the Fulbright Program has fostered bilateral relationships in which other countries and governments work with the U.S to set joint priorities and shape the program to meet shared needs.



Fostering leadership, learning and empathy between cultures was and remains the purpose of the international scholarship program



## Fulbright Exchange Programs in Afghanistan

- ❑ Fulbright Returns to Afghanistan!
  - Re-started in 2003
  - Administered by the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy
  - Began with Fulbright graduate and undergrad scholarships
  - Undergrad scholarships stopped in 2009
  - Now offer Master's degrees and Doctoral (PhD) degree programs!



## Current Scholarship Programs in Afghanistan

- ❑ U.S. Embassy is offering five key scholarship opportunities annually:
  - **Fulbright Foreign Students Doctoral Scholarships**
    - Five years, earn a Doctoral (PhD) degree
  - **Fulbright Foreign Students Graduate Scholarships**
    - Two years, earn a graduate degree
  - **The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship**
    - Nine months, non-degree
  - **The Foreign Language Teaching Assistantship**
    - Nine months, non-degree
  - **The Afghan Junior Faculty Development Program**
    - 10 week intensive academic program, non-degree

## ❑ Overview of Fulbright Doctoral Program:

- Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State
- Administered by the Embassy
- Funds 5 years of doctoral study in the U.S.
- Pursue a doctoral (PhD) degree in **Agriculture, Communications, Economics, Education, Engineering, Math, Science or Technology.**
- As many as 3-5 opportunities this year!

## ❑ COMPETITIVE and TRANSPARENT selection process

1. Technical review
2. Panel review;
3. iTOEFL testing
4. Interview Panel Review
5. TOEFL and GRE testing
6. Approval by President's Fulbright Scholarship Board

## Eligibility Requirements for Fulbright Doctoral Program:

- Open to Afghan citizens residing in Afghanistan, who have:
  - ✓ Already completed their Master's degree or will complete their degree by September 2012
  - ✓ Intend to study **Agriculture, Communications, Economics, Education, Engineering, Math, Science or Technology**
  - ✓ Demonstrated leadership and integrity
  - ✓ Strong English skills (600 on the TOEFL)
  - ✓ Three recommendation letters (usually 2 from professors & 1 from employer)
  - ✓ Commitment to return to Afghanistan and make a difference
  - ✓ Limited or no prior experience in the U.S.
  - ✓ A professional writing sample of 10-15 pages, in your field of study, will be required if you are selected as a finalist. (It will be used for placement purposes)

## ❑ Overview of Fulbright Graduate Program:

- Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State
- Administered by the Embassy's Public Affairs Section
- Funds 2 years of graduate study in the U.S.
- Pursue a graduate degree in any discipline (MA, MS, MBA/MPA, LLM or similar)
- As many as 70-85 scholarships this year

## ❑ COMPETITIVE and TRANSPARENT selection process

1. Technical review
2. Panel review;
3. iTOEFL testing
4. Interview Panel Review
5. TOEFL and GRE testing
6. Approval by President's Fulbright Scholarship Board



## Eligibility Requirements for Fulbright Master's:

- Open to Afghan citizens residing in Afghanistan, who have:
  - ✓ Already completed their Bachelor's degree or will complete their degree by September 2012
  - ✓ Demonstrated leadership and integrity
  - ✓ Strong English skills (600 on the TOEFL)
  - ✓ Three recommendation letters (usually 2 from professors & 1 from employer)
  - ✓ Commitment to return to Afghanistan and make a difference
  - ✓ Limited or no prior experience in the U.S.



Website: <http://kabul.usembassy.gov/fulbright.html>

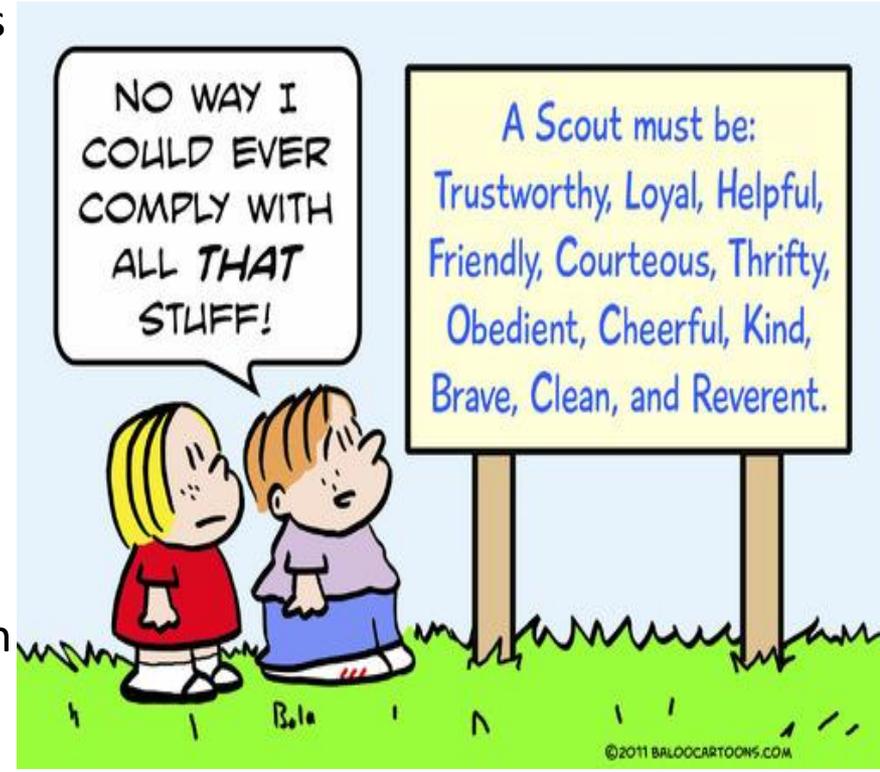
Email: [KabulPASExchange@state.gov](mailto:KabulPASExchange@state.gov)

# WHAT DOES THE SCHOLARSHIP PROVIDE?

- All grantees receive funding for:
    - Costs related to standardized tests (TOEFL, GRE and GMAT)
    - Expenses related to U.S. visa and visa interview
    - International and domestic travel
    - Tuitions at an accredited school in the U.S. for up to two years
    - Health insurance for the period of grant
    - A monthly living stipend
    - A one time computer allowance (\$500)
    - Book and stationery allowance
    - Expenses related to professional activities in the U.S.
    - Dependents are NOT allowed under the program
- (This includes mahram. Even if you wanted to pay for someone to join you, visa requirements will NOT allow it.)

## ❑ Overview of the Fulbright Year(s) in the U.S.

- Shall comply with the Terms and Conditions of the Grant
- Shall comply with the terms of J-1 visa (RETURN to Afghanistan at end of program)
- Grantees shall attend pre-academic or Gateway Orientation, if assigned
- Grantees MUST enroll as full time students
- Shall maintain good academic standing
- Are NOT allowed to work on or off campus
- Shall return to Afghanistan after completion of the program





# The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program

A Program for Mid-Career Professionals Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State

- Also a **Fulbright** exchange program, but very few people apply!
- 10-month non-degree program for mid-career professionals
- Opportunity for both professional training and academic coursework

## ➤ Eligibility Requirements:

### ➤ Open to Afghan citizens residing in Afghanistan, who have:

- ✓ An undergraduate degree
- ✓ A minimum of five years of substantial professional experience
- ✓ Limited or no prior experience in the U.S.
- ✓ Demonstrated leadership qualities
- ✓ A record of public services in the community
- ✓ Strong English skills (at least 550 on PBT)
- ✓ No dependents are allowed





# The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program

A Program for Mid-Career Professionals Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State

## ❑ Overview of the Humphrey Fellowship Year

- Practical professional experience is the core of the program
- Fellows design and implement individualized programs to get career related knowledge (like urban development)
- Fellows interact with colleagues, U.S. leaders and professionals, and gain career experience
- Supplemented by university classes and field trips
- Special workshops and seminars with other Humphrey Fellows

## ❑ University Placements:

- Based on their professional interest, fellows are placed in groups at U.S. universities
- Host universities are chosen for their excellence in particular field of study



# The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program

A Program for Mid-Career Professionals Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State

## WHAT DOES THE FELLOWSHIP PROVIDE?

### All Fellows receive funding for:

- International and domestic travel
- Relevant courses, workshop and seminars
- Health insurance for the period of grant
- A monthly maintenance stipend
- Supplies such as books and computers
- Professional activities

Access to alumni network in Afghanistan

Dependents are **NOT** allowed under the program (no one from your family can go with you)





# The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program

A Program for Mid-Career Professionals Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State

## ■ Professional Fields:

- Agriculture and rural development
- Communication /journalism
- Substance abuse education, treatment, and prevention
- Economic development/finance and banking
- Education administration, planning, and policy
- HIV/AIDS policy and prevention
- Human resource management
- Law and human rights

## ■ Professional Fields:

- Natural resources, environmental policy and climate change
- Public health policy and management
- Public policy analysis and public administration
- Teaching of English as a foreign language
- Technology policy and management
- Urban and regional planning

**Website:** [www.humphreyfellowship.org](http://www.humphreyfellowship.org)

## Overview of Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA)

- Also a Fulbright exchange program
- Nine-month, non-degree program
- Opportunity for both teaching and studying at U.S. colleges
- Providing teachers of English with the opportunity to refine their skills

### ➤ Eligibility Requirements:

- ✓ Applicants must be teachers of English
- ✓ Teaching experience required
- ✓ Must possess Bachelor's degree
- ✓ No less than 550 TOEFL
- ✓ Be 21 to 29 years old at the time of application



## ■ Overview of the FLTA Year in U.S.

- Aimed at strengthening foreign language instruction at U.S. colleges and universities
- FLTA fellows may assist in or teach up to two language classes in the U.S.
- Required to enroll in at least two courses per semester
- One of the courses must be in U.S. studies, like politics
- Should attend orientation arranged by Department of State before arriving at host institute
- NOT allowed to work on or off campus
- Act as cultural ambassador of Afghanistan at U.S. campuses
- Access to alumni network in Afghanistan



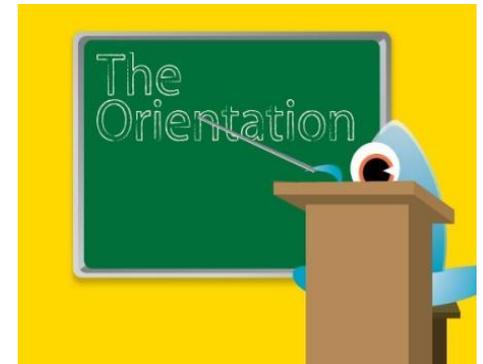
# Afghan Junior Faculty Development Program(AFJDP)

- Also a **Fulbright** exchange program
- 10 week intensive professional training program at a U.S. university
- Aims to enhance and broaden the professional skill sets of junior faculty in various fields of study
- Enable participants to develop language and professional skills
- To strengthen eligibility for graduate studies at international institutions
- Alumni of this program will be well positioned to increase the academic quality in their courses in Afghanistan



# Afghan Junior Faculty Development Program(AFJDP)

- Two month program includes the following:
  - Participation in an initial orientation
  - Eight-week academic program at a U.S. university
  - One-week intensive English seminar
  - Attendance at a professional conference
  - Participation in a multi-day professional seminar at the end of the program
  - Participants will receive one-on-one mentoring
  - Access to alumni network in Afghanistan



# Afghan Junior Faculty Development Program(AFJDP)

- **Activities and seminars during the program will focus on theoretical and practical topics such as:**
  - Overview of US Higher Education Structure and Administration
  - Intensive English for Practical Usage
  - Introduction to U.S. Culture
  - Teaching Methodology and Pedagogy and
  - Curriculum and Syllabus Development
  - Leadership in Education
  - Integrating Practical Application of Course Material
  - Assessment Strategies
  - Research Methodology and Building Research Capacity
  - Technology - IT as a Pedagogical Tool
  - Academic Support Structures



# Afghan Junior Faculty Development Program(AFJDP)

- **Program activities for the participants will include :**
  - faculty seminars
  - discussion sessions
  - assigned academic readings and site visits
  - projects and presentations
  - Participants will give a final presentation at the end of their academic program :
    - ✓ demonstrating the knowledge learned
    - ✓ how they plan to implement their new skills at their home university
  - participants are expected to serve as cultural ambassadors both while in the United States and upon return to their Afghan institutions.



# Afghan Junior Faculty Development Program(AFJDP)

## ➤ Eligibility Requirements:

- ✓ Full-time junior level faculty member at a public or private Afghan university
- ✓ Undergraduate (first university/Bachelor's) degree
- ✓ strong academic background
- ✓ Afghan nationality and a current resident of Afghanistan
- ✓ Demonstrated interest in and intent to continue teaching at the university level in Afghanistan
- ✓ Demonstrated leadership qualities and achievements
- ✓ Three letters of recommendation
- ✓ Institutional TOEFL exam at least 550 points
- ✓ Limited or no prior experience in the United States



# Fulbright Application Package

## ➤ Online Application Requirements

- ✓ TOEFL or GRE not required with application (but preferred)
- ✓ Three Letters of Recommendations
- ✓ Academic Transcripts and Diploma (if applicable)
- ✓ Application Essays
- ✓ Supporting documents (CV, certificates, etc)
- ✓ Must be submitted online through EMBARK  
<https://apply.embark.com/student/fulbright/international/20/>



# Application Essays

## ✓ Personal Statement [VERY IMPORTANT]

- The story of what makes YOU unique!
- Get PERSONAL in your essay
- Start with an outline
- Consider: What motivated you to apply? Why are you interested in studying this topic? How did you become interested in this field? Give a brief synopsis of how you reached your current position and what you want to do next.
- Multiple drafts
- Multiple editors (at least one **native** English speaker)

## ✓ Study Research Objectives [VERY IMPORTANT]

- Describe your academic JOURNEY
- Tie your academic background, professional experience and qualifications to personal and professional goals
- Explain what you want to study
- Prove how the degree will impact your personal and professional future goals and contribute to Afghanistan's future!

# Selection Process

Technical  
Review  
after  
Deadline

Panel  
Review of  
Eligible  
Applicants

I-TOEFL

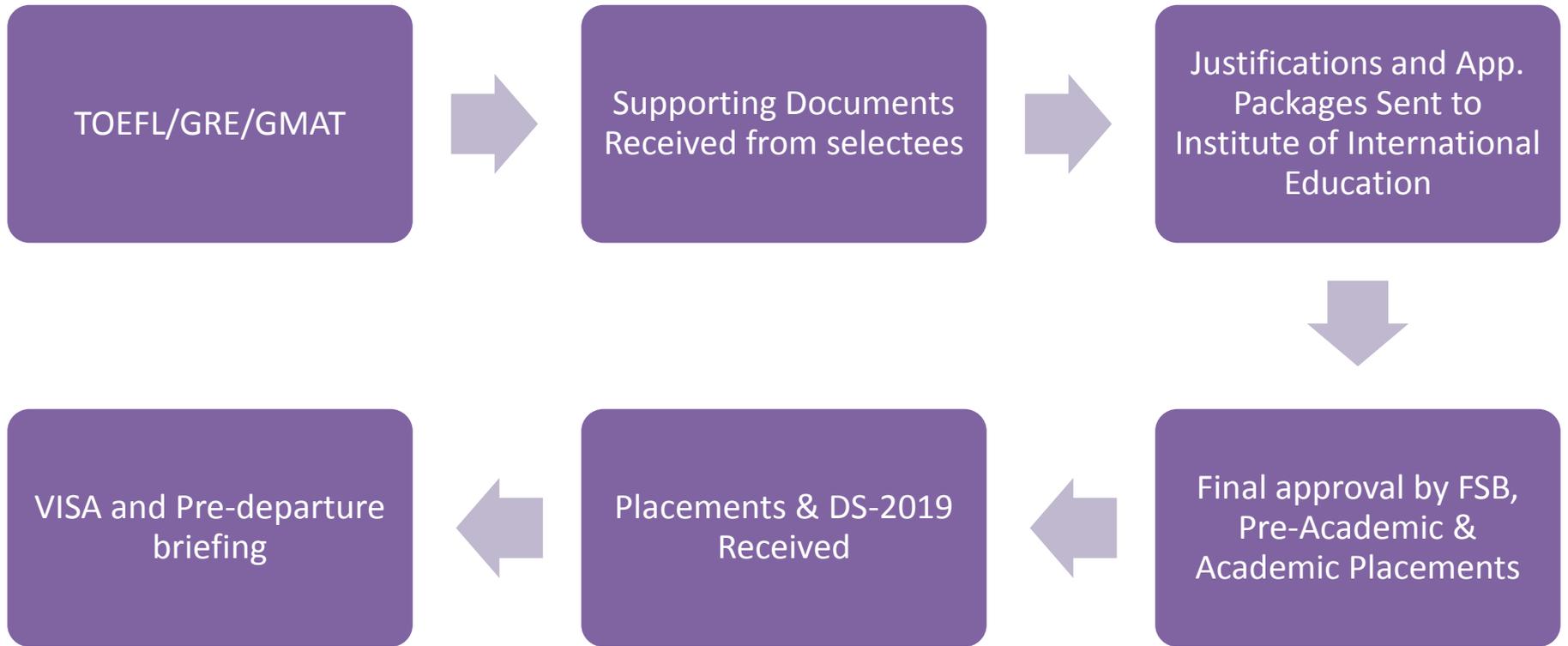
Personal  
Interview  
with Panel

Panel  
selects  
Primary  
and  
Alternate  
Candidates

Testing:  
TOEFL, GRE  
and/or  
GMAT

Final  
Approval  
by  
President's  
FSB

# What's Required After Selection?



# Frequently Asked Questions

- What if I know which school I want to go to?
  - If applying for Fulbright Master's or PhD, you should indicate your preference in question 46 of the application. Fulbright has its own placement process and, while your preferences will be considered, direct applications will not be funded.
- My diploma is not attested by Afghanistan's Ministry of Higher Education and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is that a problem?
  - Your degree must be attested by the Ministries before September 1<sup>st</sup>. We can write a letter to help speed up the process, but it is your responsibility to have your degree attested. If you have received a degree from another country, it must be attested by Afghanistan's Embassy in that country. This process can take a long time and we encourage you to start now.
- I went to school in India and have a 3 year Bachelor's degree, is that okay?
  - You are welcome to apply for Fulbright programs. Unfortunately, the standard in America is a four year Bachelor's degree and there are very few U.S. institutions willing to accept students with only a 3 year degree. Preference during the selection process will be given to candidates with 4 year Bachelor's degrees or a 3 year Bachelor's degree plus a one year Master's (or equivalent additional study following the 3 year program).

# Contacts

For Exchange programs:

Email [KabulPasExchange@state.gov](mailto:KabulPasExchange@state.gov)

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