

## **2014 FULBRIGHT NEXUS PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) is pleased to announce that the competition for the third round of the Fulbright NEXUS Program is now open. The program will begin in June 2014 and end in May 2016.

Background: Since 2011, 40 applied researchers from the United States and 14 other WHA countries have participated in the first two cohorts of the Fulbright Regional Network for Applied Research (NEXUS) Program. The U.S.-Brazil Fulbright Commission and the Government of Brazil (CAPES - the Brazilian Federal Agency for the Support and Evaluation of Graduate Education) are partnering with ECA to support a third round of the Fulbright NEXUS program focused on climate change issues.

For this iteration of the program, the exchange model has been adjusted so that scholars will not pursue an individual research project as under previous NEXUS programs, but will instead focus exclusively on their collaborative work.

Program Description: The Fulbright NEXUS Program will link faculty, applied researchers and practitioners from the United States, Brazil, and other Western Hemisphere countries through a Fulbright exchange, in-person seminars, and ongoing virtual collaboration, building on connections made and lessons learned in the first two iterations of the program. Fulbright NEXUS will continue to emphasize climate change adaptation strategies and public policy focused research ventures that examine strategies to cope with climate variability. Two Scholar Leaders have been designated: Dr. Daniel Kammen of the University of California at Berkeley and Dr. Sergio Pacca of the University of São Paulo, Brazil. Participants will spend two years engaged in collaborative thinking, analysis, problem-solving, and multi-disciplinary project-oriented research in one of five areas:

- Renewable Energy, including Micro-Grid Innovations;
- Social and Behavioral Adaptation to Climate Change;
- Measuring Climate Change and its Impact (Metrics and Standards);
- Climate Change and Biodiversity; and
- Climate Change and Food and Water Security.

Fulbright NEXUS Scholars will participate in team-based research projects to generate empirical, policy-oriented solutions with immediate and practical implementation potential at the local, national, or regional levels. Applicants for the program will be asked to identify potential local stakeholders across a range of sectors (e.g., NGOs, government, business and industry, community) to promote implementation of the scholars' collaborative research projects.

The program will begin in June 2014 and end in May 2016. Scholars will be expected to participate in three multi-day plenary meetings, including an orientation meeting in August 2014 in Brasilia, a mid-term meeting in June 2015 (location TBD), and a final seminar in Washington, DC, in May 2016. These full group meetings will be structured to define and share collaborative team-based research, seek new synergies, discuss the local, national,

and/or regional implications of findings, and explore the possible practical outcomes to be implemented with local stakeholders. International participants must also complete a two- to three-month research exchange visit to the United States. U.S. participants must complete a research exchange visit to Canada, South or Central America, or the Caribbean. In addition to these meetings and exchange visits, participants are expected to maintain intellectual collaboration, via virtual tools, in relevant thematic areas of the program for the duration of the grant period.

**Eligibility:** As many as 20 individuals will be selected for this iteration of the program. Five of the Fulbright NEXUS Participants will be selected from the United States, five from Brazil, and the remaining ten will originate from Latin America, the Caribbean, and Canada.

Visiting (i.e., foreign) Fulbright NEXUS Scholars must possess citizenship or permanent resident status qualifying them to hold a valid passport issued in the country in which their application is made. Persons holding or applying for permanent residence or citizenship in the United States are not eligible to apply as Visiting Scholars.

Note: Scholars who have held J visas with sponsorship of more than six months are not eligible to reenter as J-1 Researchers or Lecturers for 12 months following the program sponsorship end date. In addition, scholars who have previously held a J visa in the Professor or Research Scholar category are not eligible for sponsorship again in those two categories for a period of 24 months following the program sponsorship end date.

A Ph.D. or equivalent professional/terminal degree is preferred but is not required. Candidates with a master's degree are required to have a minimum of five years' research experience. Preference will be given to early or mid-career academics, applied researchers, and/or practitioners with research experience in the public, non-profit, or private sector.

Proficiency in English at a level that is appropriate for the successful completion for the proposed research project and exchange to the United States is also required.

**Nomination and Selection:** Applicants will be considered without regard to race, religion, sex, age, and/or physical impairment. For Visiting Scholars, preference is given to those without recent experience in the United States. Applicants should be representative and responsible individuals who can effectively represent their own societies and thereby contribute to increased understanding between the people of the United States and other countries. They should also demonstrate the cross-cultural sensitivity and flexibility needed to adjust successfully to life in the United States.

Selection will be based on candidates' credentials, demonstrated leadership ability, applied cross-sector expertise in one of the aforementioned fields, and ability to work effectively as part of a team. Candidates will submit a statement of purpose that discusses their qualifications for the program, their rationale for the collaborative research area(s) they have selected, including its importance to the region, and their proposed inclusion of local stakeholders across various sectors. A letter of affiliation is not required at the time of

application, as selected scholars will be best positioned to select a host institution(s) only after their research teams have been consolidated.

Final participant selection for the Fulbright NEXUS Program is made by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (FFSB). Nomination does not guarantee selection.

Application Procedures: Each candidate will be required to submit an online application via the online management system administered by CIES.

Candidates may access the online application at

<https://apply.embark.com/student/fulbright/scholars/30>.

The country deadline for receipt of applications is March 1, 2014. Successful candidates will be notified of their awards in May 2014.

Application Package: A complete application package includes the online application, statement of purpose, curriculum vitae, letters of invitation, proof of English language proficiency, financial support page/budget, copy of passport, bibliography, references, and list of potential stakeholders. A detailed description of each of these application components can be found at <https://apply.embark.com/student/fulbright/scholars/30>.

Fulbright NEXUS Grant Provision: Fulbright NEXUS awards will include travel and research funding in the amount of \$35,000 for grantees only. This allowance is intended to support grantee travel to all program meetings, travel and maintenance for the exchange visit, and research materials and support. Accommodations and meals for program seminar meetings will be covered separately. Grants will also include limited accident and sickness benefits. Research exchange visits to the United States should be a minimum of two months, and should not exceed three months.

Additional Information: Please review the Fulbright NEXUS website for more information at: <http://www.cies.org/NEXUS>. Current Fulbright NEXUS Scholar profiles and other important news about the program are available at:

<http://eca.state.gov/fulbright/fulbright-programs/program-summaries/fulbright-nexus>.