



2014-2015 Near East, South Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa Undergraduate Exchange Program (NESA UGRAD)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Question: Why is the U.S. government interested in funding programs for citizens of Mozambique to study in the United States?

Answer: The U.S. government believes that the Global UGRAD program will provide participants with a deeper understanding of American culture and provide new globally applicable skills and expertise to help them contribute to the economic growth and development of their countries. The U.S. government believes that individual exchange programs are one of the most effective methods of fostering mutual understanding and good relations between the United States and other countries.

Question: What expenses are covered by the program?

Answer: NESA UGRAD provides for the following: J-1 visa support; round-trip travel from the participant's home city to his/her host institution in the United States; tuition and mandatory university fees; a health benefits plan; room and board (housing and meals); a monthly allowance for living expenses; and a modest allowance for basic provisions upon arrival in the United States.

Question: Do I need to be a student to apply?

Answer: Yes. In order to meet the eligibility requirements, you must be a current, full-time undergraduate student in your first, second, third, or fourth year of undergraduate study in Mozambique OR a current, full-time student completing his/her final year of secondary school in Mozambique. **Applicants who completed their final year of secondary school in 2013 are now eligible to apply to the 2014 UGRAD Program.** Fourth year university students must have at least one term of study left to complete at their home institution upon completion of the NESA UGRAD program.

Question: What is the TOEFL and what is the IELTS?

Answer: TOEFL is the Test of English as a Foreign Language. IELTS is the International English Language Testing System. Both are exams given to non-native speakers of English to evaluate their English speaking, writing, reading, and listening comprehension. American universities require either the TOEFL or IELTS exam of applicants from non-English-speaking countries. In Mozambique, the internet-based TOEFL exam is offered at the U.S. Embassy in Maputo. The IELTS is offered at the British Council in Maputo. Visit www.ets.org/toefl and www.ielts.org for more information on each.

Question: Do I need to take the TOEFL or IELTS to apply for this program?

Answer: No. Only finalists are required to take the TOEFL, and testing will be provided for them free of charge. For further consideration, finalists must achieve a TOEFL score of 500 (paper-based test) or 61 (internet-based test), or be likely to achieve this score after limited short-term intensive English language training.

Question: Is there an age limit for participation?

Answer: Yes. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and no more than 25 years old by August 2014.

Question: I want to study Political Science in the United States. Can I apply for this program?

Answer: Yes. NESAs UGRAD is open to a broad variety of specializations. Students should identify their fields of study on their application and these fields should be drawn from the standard university/college curriculum within the United States (examples are provided in the Application Instructions). Please note that students may not change their intended field of study after the application process. Students completing an internship must complete an internship in their proposed field of study in the U.S.

Question: If I am selected, which U.S. college/university will I attend? Can I choose?

Answer: No. Participants cannot choose their host institution placement. Individuals are placed at institutions that have officially applied to host NESAs UGRAD participants. Each participant is assigned a placement at an accredited institution in the United States based on academic fit.

Question: Can I apply for the NESAs UGRAD Program if I have already been in the United States as a participant on a U.S. Government-sponsored program like YES or SUSI?

Answer: Yes. However, applicants who have participated in a U.S. Government-sponsored exchange visitor program for a period of more than six weeks must fulfill the two-year home residency requirement before they apply for NESAs UGRAD. Further, applicants with little or no international experience will be given preference for the NESAs UGRAD Program.

Question: What is the selection process and what are the main selection criteria?

Answer: NESAs UGRAD is conducted as a merit-based open competition. After the deadline, all eligible applications will be reviewed by a panel of academic and/or exchange specialists. In mid-February, selected semi-finalists will be interviewed in person or telephonically by a selection committee composed of U.S. Embassy representatives and alumni of U.S. government exchange programs. Finalists selected from this group must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) in March 2014. The U.S. Embassy in Maputo will nominate these finalists for the 2014-2015 NESAs UGRAD Program. The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs in the United States Department of State will review all nominees from around the world and make a final selection of participants. All applicants will be notified of their status by June 2014.

Selection panels will use the following criteria to evaluate applications (not in order of importance):

- Academic excellence;
- Expressed commitment to contribute to Tunisia's development
- Demonstrated leadership potential and commitment to community engagement;
- Proficiency in written and spoken English;
- Flexibility and adaptability as an exchange student;
- Preference will be given to students that represent disadvantaged and underrepresented communities.
- Minimum TOEFL of 500 (paper-based test) or 61 (internet-based test); or ability to achieve that score following short-term intensive English language training.

Question: When are the results of the competition announced, and when does the program begin?

Answer: All applicants will receive notification by June 2014. Due to the anticipated volume of applications received, we will not forward explanations to applicants not selected for the program. Finalists should expect to depart for their U.S. host institutions in July or August 2014.

Question: How is the NESAs UGRAD Program different from U.S. Government-sponsored exchange programs like the Fulbright and Humphrey Programs?

Answer: The NESAs UGRAD program is a non-degree program open to current undergraduate students and students in their final year of secondary school. NESAs UGRAD participants live on campus, with an American roommate, at an accredited two or four-year U.S. college or university. NESAs UGRAD participants will be required to perform a minimum of 20 hours of community service at local organizations during their first semester to expose them to the principles of community service and social responsibility in the United States. Participants will also be required to intern a minimum of 8 hours per week during their second semester to gain professional experience. Internships will be unpaid and take place in the local community.

Question: What does “non-degree program” mean?

Answer: UGRAD participants will enroll in full-time undergraduate course work at their host institutions but will not receive academic degrees upon completion of the program. Course work will include but not be limited to: at least one American studies course each semester; one or two classes in the participant’s specific field of study per semester; and instruction on topics including academic research and writing, critical thinking, time management, note-taking, and studying for and taking tests.

Question: Will my credits transfer back to my home institution in Mozambique?

Answer: Participants must discuss with their home institution whether or not the credits they accumulate during the NESAs UGRAD program are transferrable.

Question: Can I transfer to an American college or university after I complete the NESAs UGRAD program?

Answer: No. NESAs UGRAD participants are expected to return to their home countries upon completion of their programs and may not stay on for degree study in the U.S. Transfers and extensions will not be permitted.