

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE FULBRIGHT VIETNAMESE SCHOLAR PROGRAM

Q: What does the Fulbright Vietnamese Scholar Grant provide?

A: Grantees are offered opportunities to do research or lecturing in the U.S. The grant covers monthly stipend, allowance, round-trip travel and accident and sickness insurance.

Q: How long is the grant?

A: The grant is normally from three to nine months, but scholars may also apply for extension if it is required to complete their research.

Q: How many grants are awarded per year?

A: The number of grants depends on the amount of funding allocated by the U.S. Department of State. Approximately 7–10 scholars receive grants each year.

Q: What are the eligibility requirements of the Program?

A: Applicants must:

- Be a Vietnamese citizen
- Hold a Ph.D. or terminal degree, or equivalent professional training
- Be proficient in English
- Submit a complete application before the deadline

Q: Can people with an M.A. degree apply?

A: Yes, the Program may select a grantee with an M.A. degree provided that his/her proposal will contribute significantly to their academic and research field in Vietnam.

Q: Is there an age limit to the applicants?

A: No, but the Program gives priority to scholars under the age of 50.

Q: What fields are eligible?

A: Although applicants from all fields are welcome to apply, special consideration will be given to scholars in the academic disciplines of American Studies, Environmental Policy, Foreign Policy, Economics (including International Economics and Agricultural Economics), Public Health, Law, Public Administration, Higher Education Administration, and Women's Studies.

Q: What documents I should include in my application package?

A: The complete application includes:

- Application form
- Detailed project statement
- Detailed Curriculum Vitae
- Three reference letters
- Bibliography

Supplementary documentation, where applicable:

- Letter of invitation

- Result of English test
- Course syllabi (for candidates with teaching proposals)
- Proof of financial support for dependents (for those candidates who will bring dependents to the U.S.)

Q. What are the contents of the project statement?

The project statement should describe your proposed research and/or teaching in the U.S., as well as the significance of the project in your field. Your qualifications and expertise should match the objectives in your project statement. Keep in mind that the purpose of the program is to foster mutual understanding between cultures and nations, and therefore you should discuss how the project will benefit the bi-national relationship between the U.S. and Vietnam. The language you use must be understood by reviewers from outside your field. It should be 3-5 single-spaced typed pages.

Q: Do I need to submit a TOEFL score?

A: No. Semi-finalists will be interviewed in order to assess his/her English language abilities. Proficiency in English is required to carry out research or lecturing in the U.S.

Q: Do I need an invitation letter from a U.S. institution prior to applying for the Program?

A: No, the Council for the International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) will help place the finalists at appropriate host institutions in the United States.

Q: Can my referees send letters of reference directly to the Fulbright Office?

A: No. All reference letters must be submitted through the online application system. It is candidate's responsibility to ensure that the reference letters are submitted by the deadline.

Q: Can I submit the reference letters in Vietnamese?

A: No. Reference letters must be written in or translated into English.

Q: Am I required to submit the Medical Form?

Applicants are not required to submit the Medical Form at the time of application. If selected as a finalist, candidates will be required to undergo a medical check-up in February or March to ensure their health is in good condition. Please note that Fulbright Program has a specific Medical Form.

Q: What happens after I submit my application?

Applications are due on October 15. The applications are reviewed by a Peer Review Panel, which selects a shortlist of candidates. If selected, candidates will be invited to an interview (see above). After the interview, a list of recommended finalists will be sent to the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational Affairs for review, and to the Fulbright Scholarship Board for approval. Finalists will be notified in January.

Q: What are the criteria for the selection of the Program?

A: Assessment of the candidates is to be based on the following criteria:

- Academic credentials: Fulbright scholars are distinguished by their academic prominence and must have the potential to be a key figure in their academic field in Vietnam.
- Feasibility of research proposal: The Visiting Fulbright Scholar Program grants last up to one year. Given the time constraints, the candidate's research proposal must be feasible in terms of breadth and scope.
- Significance of research: Fulbright scholars conduct research that contributes significantly to the academic and research field in Vietnam. A candidate's research topic or methodology should be creative enough to advance work in his or her field.

Q: Is there any 'quota' for candidates from specific fields of study or from certain cities/provinces?

A: No. The Fulbright Vietnamese Scholar Program provides opportunities for study and research in the social sciences and humanities fields to all candidates who qualify through open competition on the basis of academic and professional merits without regard to race, religion, gender and affiliation.

Q. When will I receive confirmation of my university affiliation?

A. The Council for the International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) locates appropriate host institutions for finalists between February and March. University affiliations are confirmed in April or May.

Q. Does the Fulbright Program provide any orientation for grantees before leaving for the U.S.?

A. Yes. The Fulbright Program will organize a pre-departure orientation in Vietnam for all grantees in August. Most grantees depart for the U.S. in August or September, depending on the length of their grant.