

2017 | 2018

FULBRIGHT VIETNAMESE STUDENT PROGRAM

Grants for Master's study programs in the United States

Application Guidelines



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Fulbright prospective applicant:

I am pleased to introduce you to the Fulbright Vietnamese Student Program and welcome you to explore the opportunities it presents to you.

The Fulbright Vietnamese Student Program is a masters program in the U.S. which encompasses various disciplines in the social science and humanities, business, economics, communication studies, development studies, community development, governance and so on. Whatever the field of study of its grantees, the Fulbright experience has enlarged and deepened the perspective of potential leaders.

Challenge yourself by making a determination to pursue a Fulbright grant, this process requires a lot of preparation and effort, but in the end you will find that your success was worth the effort. Apart from gaining academic excellence and professional skills from the top-notch U.S. graduate programs, you will have the chance to represent Vietnam as a cultural ambassador to the United States and to carry out the Fulbright mission of promoting cross cultural understanding between the two countries. By participating in the Fulbright program, you join a community of exceptionally well qualified Fulbright alumni who are now making great contributions to the development of Vietnam.

Our application and selection process is open and transparent. Winners are selected based on individual merit and leadership qualities. This booklet provides you an overview of the Fulbright Program worldwide and detailed instructions on application and selection process that you need to follow. By following the instructions, you will be well on your way to becoming a successful Fulbright applicant.

I hope that the information provided in this booklet will encourage you to learn more about our program and to apply for a Fulbright grant for the academic year 2017-2018. If you need any other information, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Nguyen Thi Hanh, who is in charge of the Vietnamese Student Program at Tel: (+844) 3850-5089 or Email: nguyenHT4@state.gov.

Again, welcome to the Fulbright Vietnamese Student Program and we look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,



Vu Quynh Nga

Director

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HISTORY OF THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM

THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM

The Fulbright Program was established in 1946 under legislation introduced by former Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and those of other countries. The Fulbright Program is administered by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State. Approximately 310,000 "Fulbrighters," 116,900 from the United States and 192,800 from other countries, have participated in the Program since its inception more than sixty years ago. The Fulbright Program awards approximately 8,000 grants annually. Currently, the Fulbright Program operates in over 155 countries worldwide.

The primary source of funding for the Fulbright Program is an annual appropriation made by the United States Congress to the Department of State. Participating governments and host institutions in foreign countries and in the United States also contribute financially through cost-sharing and indirect support, such as salary supplements, tuition waivers and university housing.

The J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (FSB), composed of 12 educational and public leaders appointed by the President of the United States, formulates policy for the administration of the Program, establishes criteria for the selection of candidates and approves candidates nominated for awards.

The United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, develops policies to assure fulfillment of the purposes of the Program and administers it with the assistance of bi-national educational commissions and foundations in some 50 countries that have executive agreements with the United States for continuing exchange programs, United States embassies in 90 other countries and a number of cooperating agencies in the United States.

The Institute of International Education (IIE), a private nonprofit organization, has been contracted by the United States Department of State, to place successful Fulbright candidates at suitable programs at different U.S. universities and colleges. IIE also assists and maintains contact with Fulbright grantees and their academic advisers for the duration of their stay in the United States.



THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM IN VIETNAM

The Fulbright Program in Vietnam started in 1992 before the U.S. re-established the diplomatic relationship with Vietnam. The Program administered and coordinated by the Public Affairs Section (PAS) of the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi, works with appropriate Vietnamese and American educational and governmental organizations to provide opportunities for study and research in the social sciences and humanities to all candidates who qualify through open competition on the basis of academic and professional merit, without regard to race, religion, gender or affiliation.

The Fulbright Program in Vietnam has four core components:

- U.S. Scholar Program
- Vietnamese Scholar Program
- U.S. Student Program
- Vietnamese Student Program

and other components:

- Senior Specialist Program
- English Teaching Assistantship Program
- Occasional Lecturing Program
 - In-country Travel Plan
 - Regional Travel Plan
- Foreign Language Teaching Assistantship Program
- U.S. – ASEAN Visiting Scholar Program
- Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Program

THE FULBRIGHT VIETNAMESE STUDENT PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

The Fulbright Vietnamese Student Program (also known as the Fulbright Foreign Student Program) is an open, competitive, merit-based scholarship program. The Program recruits and nominates young Vietnamese professionals for Master's degree programs at U.S. universities. Approximately 20 to 25 fully-funded scholarships are granted on an annual basis.

The mission of the Fulbright Program is to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and people of other countries. It aims to provide educational exchange experiences to a maximum number of individuals not previously afforded such an opportunity. The experience should be of intrinsic value to the student, the recipient's home institution, as well as to the U.S. host institution. Fulbright students serve as cultural ambassadors and should be prepared to speak about their countries, cultures and study to academic and community groups.

The Program has provided thousands of students with the opportunity to return home personally invigorated and professionally stimulated.

GRANT BENEFITS

The Fulbright Grant is a full-scholarship that covers tuition and fees, monthly stipend, round-trip airfare to the U.S. and health insurance. The monthly stipend rates are set by the U.S. Department of State. These rates are the estimated costs established to cover a grantee's cost of living, including housing, food, transportation and incidental expenses. The rates for each location may vary according to the standard of living in a given locality.

The Fulbright grants are for the full length of the master's study program, and are renewable on an annual basis. Students are eligible to apply for grant renewal on the condition that they are in "good academic standing" (has a "B" average). Upon successful completion of the program, students will earn a Master's degree in 1-2 years, depending on the length of each academic program.

A grant may be revoked, terminated, or suspended. Grounds for revocation or termination include, but are not limited to: (1) violation of any law of the United States or the home country; (2) any act likely to give offense to the United States; (3) failure to observe satisfactory academic or professional standards; (4)

physical or mental incapacitation; (5) engaging in any unauthorized income-producing activity; (6) failure to comply with the grant's terms and conditions; (7) material misrepresentation made by any grantee in the application form or grant document; (8) conduct which may have the effect of bringing the U.S. Department of State or the Fulbright Program into disrepute; and (9) violation of the policies of the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (FSB).

A grant may be suspended if (1) the grantee ceases to carry out the project or academic program during the grant period or (2) the grantee leaves the United States for more than two weeks without authorization of the Fulbright Commission/U.S. Embassy or supervising agency.

FULBRIGHT GRANTEES' PROFILES

The Fulbright Program has been able to select diverse groups of grantees to participate in the Program. Since 1992, more than 500 Vietnamese students have been awarded Fulbright grants to pursue their graduate studies in the United States. They have a broad representation of fields of study, age, geographical areas and affiliations.

- All ages: in their 20s, 30s, 40s
- Diverse fields of study in social sciences and humanities
- All areas of Vietnam: An Giang, Can Tho, Quang Tri, Nghe An, Hue, Da Nang, Thanh Hoa, Kien Giang, Lang Son, Ninh Binh, Lam Dong, Tay Nguyen, Bac Lieu, Khanh Hoa as well as Ho Chi Minh City and Ha Noi
- All types of companies, institutions, organizations: universities, high schools, NGOs, private companies, state-owned companies, government ministries, etc.



THE FULBRIGHT VIETNAMESE STUDENT PROGRAM

ELIGIBLE FIELDS OF STUDY

The Fulbright Vietnamese Student Program supports all fields in social sciences, humanities, and business. Most typical fields can be found below:

American Literature	Education	Project/Program Management
American Studies	Environmental Studies	Psychology
Agricultural Economics	Management of IT/Information system	Public Administration
Anthropology	Journalism	Public Policy
Archaeology	Law	Public Health
Art/Film Studies	Library Science	Social Work
Business (all fields)	Linguistics/Language teaching	Sociology
Communications	Philosophy	Urban/Community Planning
Development Studies	Political Science	Women/Gender Studies
Economics		

(A brief introduction of each field of study can be found on the Program's website: <http://vietnam.usembassy.gov/fvst.html>. Please contact the Fulbright office if your desired field of study is not on the list.)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS

All candidates must meet the following minimum requirements to be eligible to apply for a Fulbright grant:

1. Be a Vietnamese citizen (no dual citizenship)
2. Have at least one undergraduate degree
3. Have at least two years of work experience after graduation by the time of application
4. Have a valid minimum TOEFL iBT score of 79 or IELTS 6.5

(These requirements must be strictly followed.)

Ineligibility factors:

The following persons are ineligible to apply for a Fulbright student grant:

1. Candidates who already received one Fulbright Student Program grant
2. Candidates who are currently living or studying in the United States
3. Candidates who have earned a Bachelor's or Master's degree from a U.S. college or university within the last 3 years (from the date on the diploma to the application deadline)
4. Local employees of the U.S. missions in Vietnam who work for the U.S. Department of State and their immediate dependents are ineligible for grants

during the period of their employment and for one year following the termination of employment

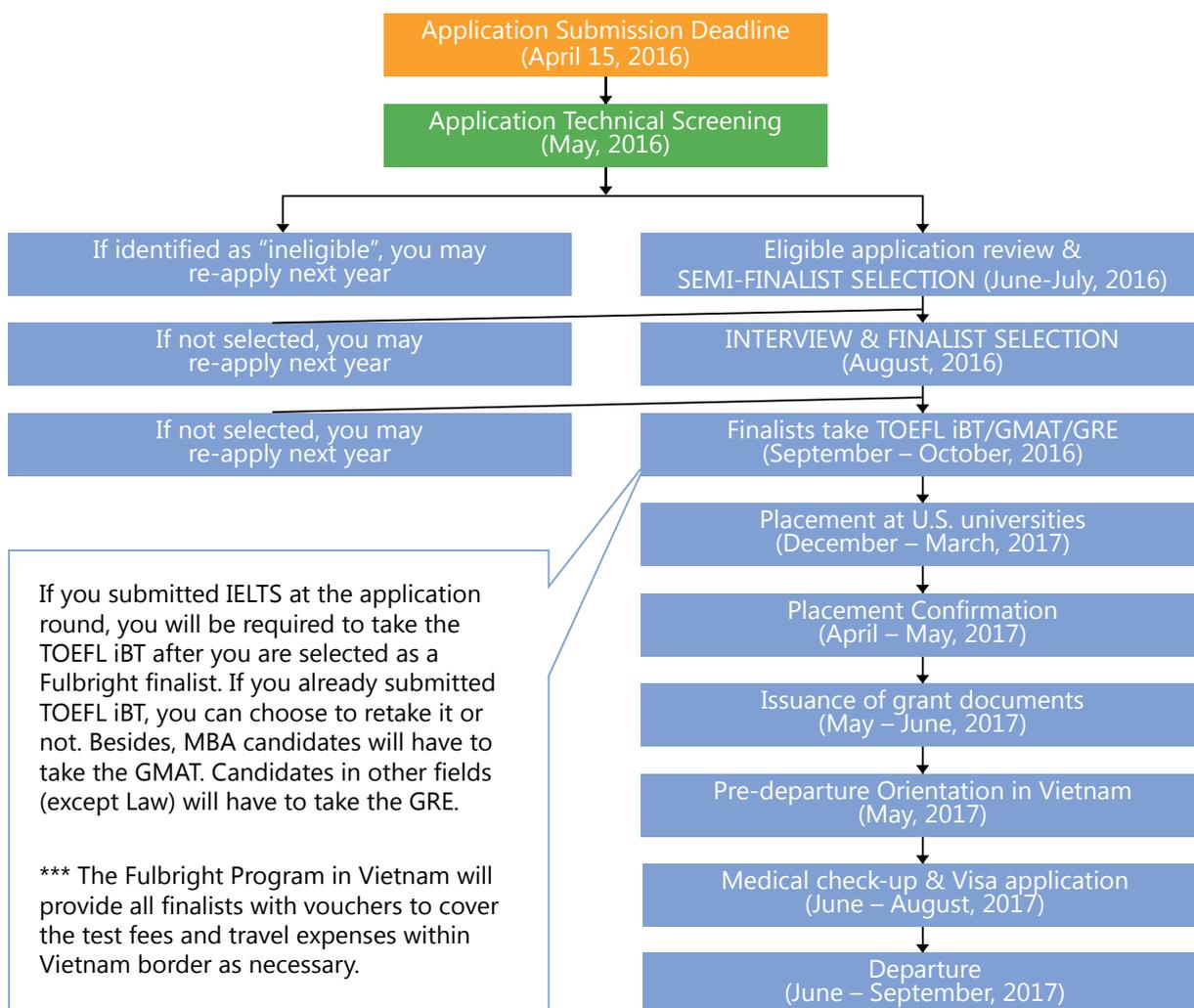
SELECTION CRITERIA

Competition will be based on academic and professional merit, without regard to affiliation, race, religion, or gender. Preference is given to those without recent experience in the United States. A successful applicant is someone who can:

- Demonstrate a clear and detailed description of the study objectives, and show a clear connection between their study objectives and future goals through a compelling set of essays
- Have a depth and breadth of work experience in their intended field of study, and a full understanding of the field
- Show dedication to Vietnam & potential impact upon return
- Contribute to the mutual understanding between the people of the United States and Vietnam based on the participation in academic, extra-curricular, community and professional development activities, and personal attributes
- Obtain excellent letters of reference that reflect/cite/support the qualities above
- Have academic excellence and strong English proficiency



APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCESS



PLACEMENT AT U.S. UNIVERSITIES

Applicants do not need to obtain an admission offer from a U.S. university before applying to the Fulbright Program in Vietnam. If you are selected as a finalist, the Institute of International Education (IIE) will apply to the universities on your behalf. IIE has years of experience in placing international graduate students at U.S. institutions of higher education. The knowledgeable placement specialists are dedicated to matching each student with the best possible academic program.

Each IIE Placement Officer specializes in a field of study and conducts extensive research, seeking the best academic "fit" for each candidate. IIE, with consultation from the Fulbright Program in Vietnam, will apply for each student to four universities to create a balance submission plan. We take into account Fulbright program priorities, cost-sharing needs, the candidate's competitiveness, and the candidate's preferences. Officers advocate on the student's behalf to acquire admission and university cost-sharing. IIE will confirm final placements for the students at a certain university upon receiving approval from the Fulbright Program in Vietnam.

PREPARING THE APPLICATION

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE FULBRIGHT VIETNAM GRADUATE APPLICATION

PLEASE READ THE INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT VERY CAREFULLY AND REFER TO IT FREQUENTLY AS YOU FILL OUT YOUR APPLICATION. IT IS A GUIDE FOR VIETNAMESE GRADUATE APPLICANTS.

The application form itself is a generic Fulbright form for all countries. Some of the requirements for Vietnamese applicants will vary from this generic form, so please follow the Vietnam specific instructions below.

ALL APPLICANTS MUST APPLY ONLINE AT:

<https://apply.embarc.com/student/fulbright/international/20/>

A complete online application package must include:

1. Application form
2. Two essays (study objectives and personal statement)
3. 03 letters of recommendation
4. Transcripts and diplomas
5. TOEFL iBT and/or IELTS score reports
6. Curriculum vitae

Applications open January 1, 2016 and close April 15, 2016

STEP 1 - General Instructions:

Below is a screenshot of the Fulbright Online application form when you click the above link:

The screenshot shows the Fulbright Online application form login page. At the top left is the Fulbright logo. Below it, the text reads "Foreign Fulbright Program" and "Welcome to the official online application for Foreign Fulbright Program." There are two main sections: "New User?" and "Returning Embarc User?". The "New User?" section includes the text "To begin working on this application, first create a free account." and a blue button labeled "Create an Account". Below this are links for "Help Center" and "Privacy Policy". The "Returning Embarc User?" section has a sub-section "Login Below" with input fields for "Email Address:" and "Password:", a blue "Login" button, and a link "Forgot your password?".

STEP 2 – Application registration process:

You will be asked to create a user name and password – the username is your email address. An email will be sent to you confirming your User ID and Password.

If you have applied for a Fulbright Scholarship in the previous year, you will need to create a new account using a new email address and password.

NOTE:

- When registering, you will be asked to select the program to which you are applying. Please select Fulbright Foreign Student Program and the cycle is 2017-2018.
- To nominate the state in which you live, please select "Other / outside of U.S." from the drop down menu
- When registering, you will be asked to contact the Fulbright Office prior to commencing your application. This is NOT a requirement of the Fulbright Program in Vietnam, so there is no need to call. Please select "yes" in answer to question 3.
- Question 4 will ask at which level you will be studying - please select "graduate" (this is the U.S. equivalent of postgraduate.) Please note, Fulbright scholarships are not available for Vietnamese applicants looking to undertake study at the undergraduate level in the U.S.

STEP 3: Complete your Application

Some general tips:

- Download and read the instructions carefully before you start completing the application.
- You can save and retrieve your application at any time. There is a 40-minute "time-out" function, so make sure you frequently save the data.
- All forms in this application are to be completed in English.
- Avoid using all capital letters when answering items, e.g. name, address, etc. It is better to use upper and lower case, e.g. Nguyen Thi Thanh Van

- You can type directly or copy and paste information into all text boxes. In the text boxes, you must limit your responses to the space provided. Information that exceeds the space provided will not display, or will not print.
- You can upload text from another document. This is the only option where you will be able to have special formatting, e.g. bold, underline, headers, double spacing, etc. While you cannot edit an uploaded document on-line, you can delete your upload, make your corrections in your document off-line, and upload again.

Update Account | Help | Logout

Home

FULBRIGHT

This Application has **NOT** been submitted
[Update my answers](#) to preliminary questions

Home

Welcome Fiona Goggins to the online Foreign Fulbright Application. To complete the application follow the steps outlined below. Review the instructions as there may be specific information that the Fulbright Program in your country is requesting. If your country is not listed, the Fulbright Program is not being offered at this time.

To Do List

- 1 Instructions**
 Carefully review the instructions as there may be specific instructions that the Fulbright Program Office in your country provides. Check with your Fulbright Program Office. If you have not already done so, before you begin this application please carefully review the eligibility requirements and deadlines for the Fulbright Program in your country. Click [here](#) for a listing of Fulbright Program Offices and websites.
- 2 Application Form**
 Complete your application form.
- 3 Documents/Essays**
 Type your essays directly into the application form or create them in your preferred word processor and upload them from your computer.
- 4 Supplemental Forms**
 These forms are an additional portion of your application. Print and follow the instructions on each form. These forms should be mailed to the Fulbright Program Office in your country of citizenship.
- 5 Recommendations**
 Recommenders have the option of submitting their letters via paper or online. If your recommenders will submit recommendations for you online, you will be able to track their receipt.
- 6 Application Inspector**
 Use Application Inspector to make sure that all the required questions are answered and that your application form is complete and ready to be submitted online.
- 7 Submit Application**
 The final step! Submit your application form securely online.

[Track your status](#)
 The following table identifies items still needed to complete your Foreign Fulbright dossier. Only items that are missing will be identified. This table is routinely updated by the Fulbright Office. Please return periodically to check the status of the items posted below.

Screenshot of application home page

1. Instructions:

Please look for Vietnam and download the instructions that are customized for Vietnamese applicants only.

Click “continue to application form”

2. Application Form: Page 1 of 13

General Information

1 - Name:

Please use upper and lower case when entering in your name. Follow the format requested on the application

(Family/First/Middle). This will differ from the order written on your passport or other official Vietnamese documents. Example: Nguyen Thi Thanh Van (Vietnamese order) should be listed Nguyen (Family), Van (First), Thi Thanh (Middle). Also, do not use symbols as this can sometimes create computer-related problems.

3 & 4 - Mailing Addresses

You are required to supply two mailing addresses with your application.

- Current mailing address: This is where you currently reside, and where you can be reached via post mail. If you are shortlisted for an interview, Fulbright will assign you to an interview site based on the current city/province you're living, so be accurate when you fill out this section.
- Permanent mailing address: This is where you come from. In some cases, it can be the same as your current mailing address.

11 - Application Cycle

- Please select 2017-2018 from the drop-down menu.
- Degree Objective: Please select Masters from the drop-down menu.

12 - Field of Study

From the choices, select the field of study most appropriate to your study objective. If your desired field is not on the drop-down menu, you can choose the most similar one on the menu, and then type the exact name and briefly elaborate on the exact nature of your objective in the text box that follows.

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14 - Education

List all postsecondary institutions you have attended that have issued a diploma (đại học, cao đẳng, cao học). Do not list high school or middle school.

Even if the degree program you attended is not related to your Fulbright proposed field of study, you should list them all.

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21 - Occupation Experience: Position code

Please select from the drop down menu the position title which best describes the activity in which you are currently (or most recently) involved.

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3. Documents and Essays

27 - Study/Research Objective: (1 page – about 1000 words, single line spacing, min 11pt font)

The study/research objective description that you provide is an essential and highly important part of your application. You should take great care to write a clear and very detailed description of the program you want to pursue. Clearly identify the area(s) within your field of study in which you want to specialize or concentrate. If there is specific research that you want to accomplish, please describe. Remember to leave a 4 cm margin at the top of every page to allow room for the header that will appear on the PDF view. Preview your essay to check the formatting before submitting your application.

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28 - Personal Statement: (1 page – about 1000 words, single line spacing, min 11pt font)

It is a requirement by the Fulbright Program in Vietnam that you attach a one page essay describing yourself as an individual outlining your personal history, influences on your intellectual development, the educational and cultural opportunities to which you have been exposed, and the ways in which these experiences have affected you. Also include your special interests and abilities, career plans and life goals etc.

It should not be a record of facts already listed on the application or an elaboration of your statement of proposed study. The Personal Statement should be uploaded to your application.

Again, remember to leave 4 cm margin at the top of every page to allow room for the header that will appear on the PDF view. Preview your essay to check the formatting before submitting your application.

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29 - Resume/Curriculum Vitae: (Please attach MAXIMUM TWO PAGES – longer will be cut down, min 11pt font)

This page is required by the Fulbright Program in Vietnam. Please upload your most updated professional resume (useful if you intend to pursue a professional degree, e.g. business or law), or curriculum vitae (useful if you intend to pursue a theoretical, academic degree). While there is no 'header' on this page for which you need to leave space, it is still advisable that you preview your information to check the formatting before submitting your application.

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30 - Transcripts:

The Fulbright Program in Vietnam requires you to upload both degree and transcript of each higher educational institution you've attended though the online system only indicates transcript. If you do not attach the degrees, your application is incomplete and won't be reviewed.

You can scan copies of your diplomas & transcripts into one file and upload it into your application at this point.

If your degrees and/or transcripts were issued in English or bilingual, you just need to upload the scanned copies of the original documents. If your degrees and/or transcripts were issued in Vietnamese only, you need to upload the certified notarized translations of the documents.

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31- Personal Information:

The information provided on this form will be used by the Fulbright Program in Vietnam for selection and internal purposes only.

32 - National Identification Number:

This is not a required field.

37 – References – IMPORTANT – PLEASE NOTE THAT ENTERING REFERENCES HERE WILL NOT TRIGGER THE AUTOMATED EMAIL TO YOUR REFEREES

Please fill out these details and proceed with your application, further instructions on nominating your referees will follow at "5. Recommendations"

Please note, recommendations are CONFIDENTIAL and will not be available to applicants.

39 – Approximate Arrival Date

Please note you may NOT start your program before July of the award year (i.e. July 2017)

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42 - Personal Financial Information:

This is not a required field. You do not need to complete this section.

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43 - University Preference: It is not an expectation that you will have U.S. university preferences. However, if you do, please complete this page as fully as possible. Do not just list the name of a university in which you are interested. Be specific. Provide the name of the department and the specific program within that department in which you are interested. If you have been in contact or correspondence with a faculty member, please provide the name and contact information for that individual.

If you have applied to a U.S. university within the past three years, please list the programs and the results. If you have letters of admission, letters of invitation, or other correspondence from a school, especially a preferred program, please forward a copy (not the original) of this correspondence to the Fulbright Program Office.

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44 - Writing Sample: This is not a required field. You do not need to complete this section.

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45 - Additional Upload Page: Please upload the scanned copies of your test score reports (TOEFL iBT, IELTS, GMAT, GRE). If you have more than one score reports, please scan them all in one file. Please note that TOEFL iBT or IELTS scores must be valid by the application deadline. The validity of TOEFL iBT and IELTS is two years from the test dates to the application deadline.

STEP 4: Supplemental Forms

NONE of these are required for Vietnamese applicants, you can skip this step.

STEP 5: Recommendations

IMPORTANT - You must click on the Recommendations button in the left- hand side menu of this application to register your referees.

You MUST have three letters of recommendation submitted on your behalf. Letters of recommendation are an extremely important aspect of your application. An application will be considered incomplete without three letters of recommendation. All letters of recommendation should be written by teachers/supervisors under whom you have studied or pursued research, or by someone who has supervised you in work related to your proposed field of study. Letters of recommendation should not be written by persons related to you either by blood or marriage or by personal friends. At least one academic and one professional or work related letter should be included among the letters. The letters must be written in English.

Your recommenders can complete the forms online and submit electronically. You must register your online recommenders by providing their names and email addresses, then press submit. The system will automatically send each recommender an email and a set of links and instructions on how to complete and upload their recommendation to your application. Please note that your recommenders must complete all parts of the Fulbright Reference Form.

Your recommenders can work on their letters of recommendations while you are working on your application. These are the two independent processes. You will not be able to view your recommendation; however you will receive email notification that your recommender has uploaded

your recommendation to your application, so you can keep track and ensure they are uploaded to your application before the deadline.

You can also check the status of your recommendations at any time once you have registered your referees.

Late recommendations will not be accepted. It is your responsibility to ensure that three letters of recommendation are submitted by the deadline.

4. Application inspector

Before you can submit your application electronically, your application will be reviewed for completeness. If there is missing data, you will be prompted to correct.

Review and print your application

Review a PDF version of your application and print a copy for your records.

5. Submit Application

Please ignore the instruction to “print signature form and send to country office”, this is not a requirement.

Sign electronically per the instructions and click “confirm signature”. This will take you to another page which reminds you to print and send your signature form, again please IGNORE this. If you are ready to submit, click “Submit my application now” – note you will no longer be able to make changes to your application.

THANK YOU AND ALL THE BEST!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What does the Fulbright scholarship provide?

The scholarship provides grantees with the opportunity to pursue a master's degree at a university in the United States. The grant provides full tuition and fees, a living allowance, round-trip travel and health insurance.

How long is the program?

Most M.A. programs take 2 academic years to complete, although in some cases, the M.A. course will only be 10-12 months. Law students will take one academic year to complete their degrees. All grantees must remain in good academic standing to continue their program.

How many awards are there?

The number of scholarships depends on the amount of funding allocated by the US Department of State. Approximately 20-25 new grantees go to the U.S. each year.

Is there a certain number of scholarships for a certain field of study?

No. There is no quota for each field of study. The competition is based on merits.

Eligibility requirements

What are the minimum eligibility requirements for a Fulbright scholarship?

Vietnamese citizens from all regions in Vietnam are welcome to apply. Applicants must have at least a BA degree and have two years of work experience by the time of their application. All applicants must be proficient in English, as measured by a minimum 79 on TOEFL iBT or 6.5 on IELTS. Finally, the field of study that an applicant intends to pursue must be supported by the Fulbright Program.

The Program requires two years of work experience since graduation. I graduated recently but I had worked full-time for more than two years before graduation. Can that experience satisfy the requirement?

Unfortunately, the Fulbright Program counts the work experience based on the date of issuance of your first bachelor's degree. For example, to be eligible for the academic year 2017-2018 of which the application deadline is April 15, 2016 your first bachelor's degree must be issued before April 15, 2014. The experience you gained before graduation only add bonus to your competitiveness but does not necessarily meet this requirement.

Does the Fulbright Program require applicants to submit contracts of employment and certificates of extra-curricular activities?

No. Contracts of employment and certificates of all kinds are not required. You just need to list your

work history and extra-curricular activities in your CV.

Do I need an offer of admission from a university in the US prior to applying for a Fulbright award?

No. All grantees will be placed at universities by the Institute of International Education after attaining finalist status.

Which fields of study are supported by the Fulbright program?

In general, most fields in the Humanities and Social Sciences are supported by the Fulbright Program. Please contact the program office if your desired field of study is not listed.

Is there a minimum GPA for applicants?

No. Applicants will be evaluated based on the merits of their entire application, including their GPA, work experience, references, essays, and TOEFL/IELTS score.

Is there an age limit for applicants?

No, although most successful candidates are at an early or mid-point in their careers.

Do I need a Bachelor's degree in the same subject that I want to study for a Master's degree?

No. Master's degree programs in the U.S. do not require that applicants have a Bachelor's degree in the same subject. However, it is recommended that applicants have substantial work experience related to their intended field of study. One exception is Law: candidates for a Master's in Law must have a B.A. in Law. A master's in Economics may also require an academic background in economics or finance.

Applying

When should I apply for a Fulbright award?

Applicants who wish to obtain the scholarship for the fall of 2017 should submit an application by April 15, 2016.

What are the components of an application?

All applicants are required to apply online. A complete online application consists of an application form, three confidential letters of reference, diplomas and transcripts from undergraduate and graduate degrees, and TOEFL iBT/IELTS score reports.

I applied last year and was not successful. Can I resubmit that application for the new cycle?

Unfortunately, once the application is submitted, you can no longer have access to it. You need to create a new log-in account using a new email address and password.

When I register online, the Embark system asks me to contact the Fulbright Office prior to commencing my application. What should I do?

This is NOT a requirement of the Fulbright Program in Vietnam, so there is no need to call or email the Fulbright officer. Please select "yes" in answer to question 3 and start your application.

I do not have much work experience in my chosen field. Will my application be at a disadvantage?

Work experience in the field you wish to pursue is an indication of your commitment to that field and is considered additional preparation for graduate work. Work experience can often make up for any academic experience you may lack. While it is not a mandatory requirement, a lack of relevant work experience may diminish your chances to earn the scholarship.

Is there another way to submit the reference letters if my referees cannot submit them online?

Online references are preferred; however, if by no means your referees can submit online letters, you can go to "Supplemental Form" on our online application system, download the Fulbright Reference form and forward it to your referees for completion. Your referees should complete both parts of the Fulbright Reference Form (rating chart & recommendation). The reference form must be sent to the Fulbright Office in a closed envelope with the referees' signature on the seal.

Interviews

How many interview slots are there?

It depends on the number of qualified applicants. In general, we usually interview 50-55 applicants per year.

When are interviews held?

Interviews are held in the fall in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

How long is an interview session?

An interview session lasts approximately 30-40 minutes.

Is the interview conducted in English or Vietnamese?

The interview is entirely in English. Applicants are encouraged to improve their English speaking skills for the interview.

What is the purpose of the interview?

The purpose of the interview is to more fully understand the candidate's overall goals and study objectives, their reasons for wanting to study in the United States, as well as their professional, academic, and personal experiences. The interviewers want to learn more about the candidate as a person and what they hope to accomplish if they are selected as a Fulbright grantee.

Who is on the selection panel?

The selection committee is composed of Vietnamese and American experts in a variety of fields of study.

Receiving the scholarship

What happens after I am chosen as a finalist?

You will be required to sit for the official TOEFL (Internet-based) and GRE exams. MBA students will take the GMAT exam instead of the GRE, and Law students will only take the TOEFL exam. The Fulbright Program will provide you with test vouchers for these exams, as well as transportation to and from the test site if necessary.

Your application will then be sent to the Institute of International Education (IIE) in the United States. The IIE Placement office will review your application and send your dossier to a variety of universities. The Fulbright Program and IIE will make the final decision regarding your placement at a university, based on whether the program fits your academic needs and whether your qualifications meet the requirements of the university.

Will my score on the TOEFL/GRE/GMAT affect my placement at a university?

Yes. Each university in the U.S. has different admissions criteria, and therefore a low TOEFL score may make your application less competitive. Therefore, the Fulbright Program encourages finalists to prepare carefully for these exams. In general, the Program is able to successfully place Vietnamese grantees at appropriate university programs.

The application instructs applicants to name three-four universities of their choice. Will IIE honor my choice?

IIE will try to honor your choices. However, if there is no match between you and your choice, IIE will find other universities where you have a better chance of gaining admission.

Can I defer or delay the scholarship to the following year?

No. You should plan to apply for the year that you will be able to participate fully in the program.

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

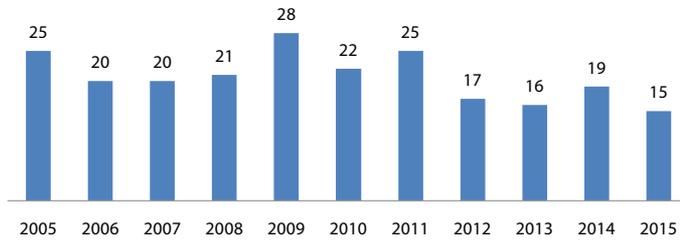
Yes. The Program will organize a pre-departure orientation in Vietnam for all grantees in May 2017.

Are there any requirements attached to the Fulbright grant?

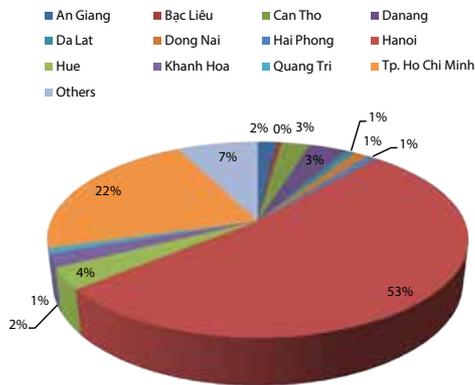
As part of a U.S. government-funded study program, all Fulbright grantees are subject to a 2-year home country residency requirement. This means that grantees may not apply for a work or immigrant visa to the U.S. until after two years of residence in Vietnam upon the completion of the Fulbright grant.

PROGRAM'S STATISTICS

NUMBER OF GRANTS PER YEAR (2005-2015)



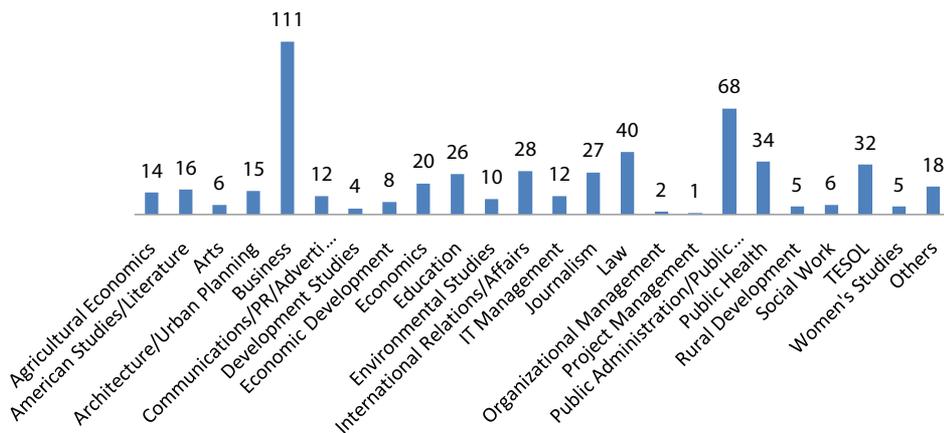
DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTEES BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS (2005-2015)



DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTEES BY AFFILIATION (2005-2015)



DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTEES BY FIELDS (2005-2015)





“The essence of intercultural education is the acquisition of empathy - the ability to see the world as others see it, and to allow for the possibility that others may see something we have failed to see, or many see it more accurately. The simple purpose of the exchange program... is eroding the culturally rooted mistrust that sets nations against one another. The exchange program is not a panacea but an avenue of hope.”

Senator J. William Fulbright

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