FULBRIGHT
U.S. STUDENT PROGRAM:
AN INTRODUCTION
What Is the U.S. Student Fulbright Program?

• The U.S. Government’s flagship educational and cultural exchange program for U.S. Citizens

• Open to recent U.S. university graduates, graduate students, artists, and young professionals

• Provides fully funded study, research, creative/performing arts, and English teaching opportunities around the world
The Basics

• What is a U.S. Student Fulbright Grant?
  - An award to support self-designed study/research projects, creative/performing arts projects, or to teach English in any of up to 140 countries

• How competitive is the Fulbright Grant Program?
  - Overall, about 8000 students apply for 1500 grants
  - This past year 40 Maryland students applied
  - 19 have received Fulbright awards - a 48% success rate

• Who should apply?
  - Highly-motivated, well-prepared, open-minded individuals
  - Those who can contribute to and benefit from cultural exchange
Is the Fulbright Program for Science, Math or Engineering Students?

• Yes! Fulbright welcomes and encourages applicants in STEM fields

• Austria - Physics: The Development of an Efficient Method to Simulate Biological Systems

• Netherlands - Neurobiology: Behavioral and Neurobiological Effects of Adolescent Exposure to Nicotine and Cannabis.pdf
Fulbright for Students in Science and Engineering

- Opportunities to conduct field work or take part in lab-based research
- Ideal for gaining experiences or data relevant to your future research or graduate study aims
- Interdisciplinary candidates/projects welcome!
- Science/Engineering/Math candidates have greater flexibility where local-language abilities are required or expected

Andy Ballard (and team!) - Austria
2nd Year Grad Student, Physics
Am I Eligible?

- U.S. Citizens

- Those with Bachelor’s degrees, equivalent training or professional experience by grant start

- Sufficient language ability as required by host country and in keeping with the Fulbright mission

- Good health
Who Is NOT Eligible?

- Non U.S. citizens (including permanent residents)

- Ph.D. degree-holders (Ph.D. students must apply BEFORE earning the degree, but can carry out the project as post-docs)

- Previous U.S. Student Fulbright study/research grantees

- Dual citizens or residents in some host countries (check website country descriptions)
A Prospective Fulbrighter Has...

- Strong motivation and academic and/or professional preparation for their proposed project
- An interest in blending serious study, research, creative or performing arts, or English teaching activities with community involvement
- Less than six months spent in host country (NOT counting prior study abroad)

Jacqueline Foelster - Cambodia
GRANT TYPES AND BENEFITS
1. Fulbright “Full” or Study/Research Grant

- Individually-designed academic, research, or artistic project

- Projects may include university coursework, archival, laboratory, and/or field research, creative activities or professional training in the arts

- Guidelines vary by country - check the Fulbright US Student Program website for details
2. Fulbright “ETA” or English Teaching Grant

- Opportunities to teach (part-time) at elementary, secondary or post-secondary institutions (varies by country)

- Candidates should have prior experience in relevant activities – teaching, tutoring, mentoring, coaching, camp-counseling, etc., etc.

- A focused, well-defined plan to pursue complementary community activities or learning
Grant Benefits

- Roundtrip airfare
- Monthly stipend to cover room, board, incidental costs
- Health insurance
- Benefits may also include:
  - Dependent support
  - Research allowance
  - Tuition
  - Language lessons
  - Enhancement activities

Elizabeth Hogsten - South Korea
FULBRIGHT APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS
Application Components

The application and supplementary materials are submitted online.

- Application form
- Two-page statement of grant purpose
  - One page for English Teaching Applicants
- Personal Statement (one page)
- Three references
- Transcripts
- Language Evaluation - if necessary - not required in all countries
- Affiliation in host country (study/research only)
Statement of Grant Purpose - Study/Research

• Two page essay that answers the questions: what, where, how, when, and why about your project

• Demonstrates knowledge of the field of study

• Demonstrates awareness of needs/resources in host country

• Any potential concern about project feasibility or your ability should be addressed directly
Grant Statement of Grant Purpose - ETA

- One page essay that explains why you want to teach English abroad and how you would do it.
- Demonstrates strong qualifications and motivation.
- Demonstrates awareness of host country and clear reasons for wanting to teach there.
- Outlines a clear, simple plan for complementary activities.
Letters of Affiliation

- From a host contact willing to advise/mentor you while conducting your Fulbright project
- Can be a professional at a university, laboratory, library, community or arts organization
- Provides a signed letter on institutional letterhead indicating their support (may be electronic format)
- Check country summary for specifics before requesting letter
Factors Affecting Selection

- Feasibility of the proposed study/research project
- Relevant academic or professional qualifications (Teaching or similar experiences for ETA applicants)
- Language preparation
- Personal qualifications
- Host country preferences
Applying for a Fulbright grant through the University of Maryland, College Park

- Advice and support at every stage from:
  - FPA Prof. Jonathan Auerbach (English Dept.)
  - National Scholarships Office staff

- Access to secure ELMS/Blackboard resource site for Fulbright applicants, including:
  - Detailed advice for all aspects of the application process
  - Sample successful study/research proposals in many fields
  - Sample successful English teaching proposals
Application Process

Late Spring and Early Summer

- Applicants conduct background research and design their projects

Mid-Summer

- Applicants begin drafting project proposals
- Applicants identify appropriate “Affiliates” for their project and begin making contacts

Mid-Summer to Late August

- Applicants begin drafting personal statement, prepare to submit applications by early September deadline
Deadlines

UMCP Campus Deadline: September 6, 2011

- Enrolled candidates submit draft applications to campus committee by campus deadline for review

National Application Deadline: Third week of October

- Campuses submit applications (online)

- Applications are then processed and sent to National Screening Committees

- Applicants are generally evaluated by expert panels based on country
Selection Timeline

National Screening Committees: November/December

- National screening committees review applications for a given country/field. They recommend candidates for selection

“Recommended” Applicants Notified: End of January

- National screening committees forward best applications to host countries for consideration and selection

Final Selection Made in Host Countries: March to May

- The Fulbright Commissions and U.S. Embassies in the host countries select principal and alternate candidates
Want to Learn More?

1. Make an Appointment to Meet With Us
   - Send us an email at: fulbright@umd.edu

2. Visit our Blackboard Resource Site
   - Review sample project proposals
   - Read detailed advice about getting started
   - We’ll sign you up after this session

3. Visit the Fulbright U.S. Student Program Website
The Fulbright Program Website

All information about the Program is on this website:
www.fulbrightonline.org/us