

# Information for Postgraduate Applicants

## Scholarship Timeframe

The earliest you can commence your Fulbright Program, if successful, is 1 August 2023. You will have until 31 May the following year to begin. You should apply in the year that you will be able to participate fully in the program as deferrals are not permitted.

## Study/Research Objective

The study/research objective description that you provide is a highly important part of your application. It helps the reader better understand your proposed study/research goals. You should take great care to write a clear and detailed description of the program you want to pursue. Headers and/or bullets to organize and convey key elements are helpful in this regard.

### Suggested Content

- Be specific about your study/research objective, major field and specialized interests within this field.
- Describe the kind of program you expect to undertake
  - How does this fit into your educational background?
  - How does this fit into your future objectives and goals?
- Why is your study/research important?
- What is the potential impact of your research/study when you return to Australia?

### Tips

- For those applying to degree programs, references to proposed universities or faculty should not be made.
- The essay should be 3-5 pages
- Please use your own words. If you are planning to use someone else's works or research you must credit the source at all times.

## Personal Statement

The personal statement is a narrative statement in which you give the reader more insight into you as an individual and your future contributions, as opposed to a mere listing of facts. It should include information about your education, practical experience, special interests, career plans, and your purpose in applying for study.

### Suggested Content

- Explain who you are, what is important to you and what you intend to accomplish in your life.
  - Demonstrate your unique qualifications for your chosen field.

- Discuss experiences, people, and events that inspired you to pursue this field of study.
- Demonstrate your commitment to your field of study:
  - What kind of contribution do you want to make?
  - What do you intend to do with your degree?

### Tips

- The essay should be at least one page and no longer than two pages.
- Please use your own words. If you are planning to use someone else's works or research you must credit the source at all times.

## Recommendations

We strongly recommend that three letters of recommendation be submitted on your behalf. Letters of recommendation are an extremely important aspect of your application; an application will be considered incomplete without **at least two** letters of recommendation.

**Please note: the online application portal requires you to send 3 recommenders an invitation to complete a recommendation.** While we recommend that all 3 respond, at least 2 are required to submit a recommendation on your behalf in order for your final application to be considered complete. **Late recommendations cannot be accepted.**

### Tips on recommendations:

- Please provide your recommenders with a copy of your project statement.
- Recommendations should be from people qualified to evaluate your professional work; the abilities you bring to the proposed project; your ability to adapt to another country and culture; and the merits of the project itself.
- We recommend that you not ask someone for a letter of recommendation unless the person is well acquainted with your qualifications. A pro forma letter from a well-known scholar, a contact abroad or a prominent government official will carry less weight than a realistic assessment of your abilities from someone who knows you and your work well.
- Recommendations can come from your home institution; however, we suggest that at least one of them be from a colleague in your field outside your home institution.
- If you have recently moved to a new home institution, you may elect to have one of your recommenders be from your previous institution.
- Choose your recommenders carefully and contact them early. The letters of recommendation need to accompany the application. One single letter of recommendation will not be accepted, the minimum number of recommendations is 2.
- Recommendations must be written in or translated into English.
- It is your responsibility to ensure that recommendation reports are submitted by the deadline.

## Host University/Institution

**Visiting Student Researcher ('VSR')** applicants must submit a Letter of Invitation (LOI) from their chosen host institution that includes program start and end dates, access to facilities and is written on university/organisation letter head.

**Degree-Seeking/Coursework (Master's or PhD)** applicants are not required to have confirmed admission/acceptance at a host institution prior to submitting their application. Should you already be accepted, please attach your letter to your application.

## Transcripts

Postgraduate applicants are required to provide electronic or scanned copies of certified university transcripts.

For undergraduate students yet to graduate – please upload a university transcript of your academic performance to date showing your credit points obtained.

## GRE/GMAT Testing (Degree-seeking Students Only)

All applicants intending to undertake a postgraduate degree program at host universities that require GRE/GMAT testing for applications are strongly encouraged to take the suitable test at the earliest possible time. It is recommended that the relevant tests be completed by 1 October 2021.

Should you be successful in your application, the Commission can provide you with a voucher to cover the costs of GRE testing. Please note, this can limit the time available to take or retake the exam to achieve a higher score.

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

*Yes. Each university in the U.S. has different admissions criteria, and therefore a low score may make your application less competitive. Applicants are encouraged to prepare carefully for these exams well in advance of the test date.*

- Additional information on the GRE test can be found at <https://www.ets.org/gre>
  - ETS FAQ about the new GRE: [http://www.ets.org/gre/revised\\_general/faq/](http://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/faq/)
  - Free test prep materials from ETS, including materials for the revised GRE: [http://www.ets.org/gre/revised\\_general/prepare](http://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/prepare)

## Placement Services (Degree-seeking Students Only)

Successful applicants who have not obtained admission to a U.S. graduate degree program are welcome to make use of Placement Services. An advisor will work with you individually to identify the best fit for degree programs and assist you in the application process. There are many benefits to Placement Services, including application fee waivers, construction of a submission plan to multiple universities, increasing your chances of securing admission and potential tuition waivers. Additional information can be found via [Fulbright Foreign Student Program](#). If you would like to take advantage of Placement Services, please complete your host institution preferences as per the application fields.

## Diversity of location and college preferences

Research which colleges may specialise in your area of study using the following useful links:

- [College Navigator - National Center for Education Statistics](#)
- [International Student & Study Abroad Resource Center](#)
- <https://www.gradschools.com/>
- [Peterson's](#)
- [Princeton Review](#)
- [US News and World Report Best Graduate Schools](#)
- [VisitTheUSA](#) (culture and travel information by state)

## FAQs for Postgraduate Applicants:

### **Must I have an undergraduate degree to be eligible for a Fulbright Scholarship?**

*Yes – or a tertiary equivalent qualification. Undergraduate students are also permitted to apply if they are on track for graduation before the timeframe in which the Fulbright is required to commence.*

### **I have already started my program of study. Can I apply for a Fulbright scholarship?**

*No. Applicants who have already commenced studies/research in the U.S. are ineligible for a scholarship.*

### **Is preference given to applicants from specific academic fields?**

*No. Fulbright scholarships are open to applicants from any academic field. Some awards may be limited to specific disciplines, themes, or purposes. Please check individual award pages for further information.*

### **Are medical graduates eligible for a Fulbright Scholarship?**

*Medical graduates are eligible for a Fulbright scholarship if they can assure authorities in the United States that there will be no clinical contact or undertaking of clinical practise, or invasive procedures with patients. Medical graduates must be able to travel on a J1 research visa to qualify for a Fulbright scholarship. Please see <https://www.ecfmg.org/> for more information. Graduates of all health sciences are considered medical graduates.*

### **What are the citizenship requirements?**

*All applicants must be an Australian citizen who does not hold dual citizenship with the United States, can travel on an Australian passport and be eligible for a J1 visa and are resident in Australia at the time of application. Individuals serving overseas in the Armed Forces, or for Australian diplomats posted overseas are exempt from the residency requirement. Dual Australian-U.S. citizens, Australian permanent residents, and holders of a U.S. Green Card are ineligible. Australian citizens with dual citizenship with any other country besides the United States are eligible.*

## What if the Fulbright Scholarship does not cover the entirety of my tuition fees?

*You are welcome to seek additional funding beyond the tuition expenses covered by the Fulbright scholarship, as some program fees may exceed the tuition expenses covered by some Fulbright Awards; however, **any additional funding you receive cannot double-up on expenses that are already covered by the Fulbright award (living stipend, flight costs, etc).***

*If you elect to utilise Placement Services, your advisor will attempt to negotiate lower tuition fees at the time of your acceptance. Many students have received tuition waivers and lowered fees as a result of this process.*

### **External Funding**

There are hundreds of funding bodies helping international students attend university in the U.S. They include trusts, charities and private donors committed to a particular educational mission.

External scholarship applications are separate to university applications. They might require essays, competitions and/or interviews.

For Australian-specific awards please see:

- [The American Australian Association](#)

The following websites may help you locate additional funding opportunities:

- [EducationUSA](#)
- [Funding for US Study](#)
- [Fastweb](#) (you can register using a US university's mailing address)
- [IEFA.org](#)
- [Peterson's Graduate Scholarship Search](#)

Make sure you indicate you are an international student and a postgraduate student ('graduate' in the U.S.) if this is an option. Many of these searches will also bring up university-specific scholarships.

Many external funding bodies often have specific qualities they are looking for in applicants, such as:

- Gender
- Country of origin
- Ethnicity
- Interests
- Talents
- Religious denomination
- Medical condition

### **Other Funding from U.S. Universities** (after acceptance to university)

U.S. graduate programs can offer several types of funding to international students. This information is good to keep in mind, but will only be useful *after* receiving a Fulbright and acceptance to a U.S. university.

### Graduate assistantships (generally reserved for PhD)

Graduate assistantships are funding provided in exchange for services to the graduate school or department. This can be:

- Teaching
- Research
- Lab supervision
- Working in an administrative office

Students with assistantships are usually required to provide 15-20 hours' work a week. What they cover will vary, but many will include a fee waiver.

### Fellowships

Fellowships are outright grants. Sometimes they are guaranteed to all admitted students, and sometimes they must be competed for on the basis of students' submitted project proposals by certain deadlines, or by merit of a student's academic performance.

Other fellowships might have niche criteria, based on a donor's wishes.