2027 – 2028 Fulbright Scholarship Application Instructions

Australian Postdoctoral, Scholar, and Distinguished Chair Applications

For programs commencing 1 August 2027 – 31 May 2028

APPLY VIA: APPLY.IIE.ORG/FFSP2027

Please read this document **in full** before commencing your application.

Application cycle opens 12 March 2026, at 9:00am AEDT.
Application cycle closes 1 July 2026, at 11:59pm AEST.

This document provides step-by-step instructions for Australian applicants to complete the application correctly. Applicants are encouraged to return to this document frequently as they complete the application.

Contents

Introduction

Congratulations on taking the first step to apply for a Fulbright Scholarship! We look forward to receiving your application.

Applicants are able to apply for more than one award within a single application. You are encouraged to review the awards catalogue in detail to determine which awards you would like to apply for and your eligibility. Some awards require additional steps, please fill in and upload the **checklist** to ensure that you have completed all the required forms.

Before you commence, please note:
- If successful, applicants applying for this cycle must commence their program between 1 August 2027 – 31 May 2028. Please consider this when planning your proposed program.
- Late applications will not be accepted.
- Applications from ineligible candidates will not be accepted.
- Recommendations from referees must be submitted online before the application deadline to be included in the application.
- Applications must be submitted through the online portal.
- Applications must include all required forms to be accepted (including award-specific forms).

Eligibility

General Eligibility
- Must be an Australian citizen.
- Must not be a dual citizen of the U.S.
- Must be residing in Australia at the time of application (exceptions may apply – please see link below).
- Must not have already commenced this degree or project in the U.S.
- Must not have held a J1 or J2 visa in the 24 months before program commences.
- Must hold an undergraduate degree.
- Postdoctoral applicants only: PhD must have been conferred in the past 5 years.*
- Scholar applicants only: must hold a PhD.
- Professional applicants only: PhD not required.
- Must have a letter of invitation from proposed host institution.

For more details on eligibility criteria, please [view this page.](#)

* Applicants may be in their final year of their PhD research if applying for a postdoctoral award. PhD must be conferred before commencing program. Career breaks may be considered – please contact the Fulbright team via fulbright@fulbright.org.au

Award Specific Criteria
Some awards have specific eligibility criteria. Please use the awards catalogue on our website to ensure that you meet these requirements before applying.

Structure of the Application

The application is divided into the following sections:
1. Welcome
2. Preliminary Questions
3. Country Information
4. Personal Information
5. Contact Information
6. Academic and Professional Information
7. Language Skills
8. Plagiarism Agreement
9. Project Proposal
10. Grant and Travel Plans
11. Additional Information
12. Recommendations
13. Signature
14. Review

Please see the 'Completing the Application' section for a step-by-step guide on how to complete each section of the application.

Using the Portal

Visit apply.iie.org/ffsp2027 to access the application portal.

Please note you will need to create an account for our application site.

Application Management

Returning users:

Log in to continue an application.

First-time users:

Create an account to start a new application.

1. **Create an account (skip to step 2 if you already have an account).**
   a. Enter your details.

Register

To register for an account, please enter the information requested below.

Email Address

First Name

Last Name

Birthdate

Continue

   b. Use the pin sent to your email address to verify your account.

Login

A temporary PIN has been sent to your email address. If you do not receive this message in the next few minutes, please check your junk mail folder.

Email   switch
Account
Temporary PIN
Birthdate

Login

   c. Create a new secure password.

Set Password

To protect the security of your account, please specify a new password. The password must meet complexity requirements.

New Password

New Password (again)

✖ At least one letter
✖ At least one capital letter
✖ At least one number
✖ Be at least 12 characters
✖ New passwords must match

Set Password

2. Log into your account.

Application Management

Returning users:

Log in to continue an application.

First-time users:

Create an account to start a new application.

3. Start Application by clicking '**Start New Application'**, then select '**Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program Academic Year 2026-27'** then **'Create Application'**.

Application Management

Your Applications			
Type	Status	Started	Submitted
You have not yet started an application using this account.			

Start New Application

Start New Application   ✕

Select an application type:

Application ▾

Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program Academic Year 2027-2028 ▾

Create Application   Cancel

4. Click **'Open Application'**.

Application Details   ✕

Started   01/14/2025

Status   In Progress

Application

Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program Academic Year 2027-2028

Open Application   Cancel

Completing the Application

1. Welcome

The Fulbright Policy Guidelines

Read the policy guidelines and tick "Yes".
Click "Save and Continue"

Welcome

Home	
Welcome	
Preliminary Questions	
Application Notice	

Welcome to the Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program application. Each year, the program provides grants to approximately 900 foreign scholars from over 100 countries to conduct advanced research and to lecture at U.S. institutions.

General information on navigating the application:

- To access the instructions for the country through which you are applying, complete the following "Preliminary Questions" page and review the data privacy notice.

- All fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required of all applicants for submission. For all other questions, please review the country-specific instructions to confirm if this information is required for application submission.

- Only Latin or Roman characters will be accepted in your application; *please do not use diacritics* (i.e. diacritical marks or accents, such as: â, ç, ł, ñ, ÿ).

- While a number of document formats are accepted, to preserve formatting and to ensure that special characters are properly rendered, it is strongly recommended that attachments be submitted in *PDF format*.

- Country and region names within address blocks conform to ISO 3166 standards and default to the United States. To update, simply select the most accurate country and region options available.

- You do not need to complete this application in one sitting. To save your responses, click "Continue" located at the bottom of each page. You will be able to access any work saved during your next session.

- After each session, it is recommended that you "Logout" once you have saved your work. For security purposes, please also close your browser tab or window.

- Your session will time out after 60 minutes of inactivity.

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) administers the Program under policy guidelines established by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (FFSB) in close coordination with binational commissions and foundations in 49 countries, U.S. embassies in more than 100 other countries and cooperating agencies in the United States.

Please Confirm You Have Read The Fulbright Policy Guidelines*

I have reviewed the Fulbright policy guidelines, particularly the grounds for Revocation, Termination and Suspension of Grant. *

☐ Yes

Important Browser Notice:
Please use different browsers when opening multiple applications.

Save and Continue

2. Preliminary Questions

Through which program country are you applying?
Select 'Australia'

To which academic year are you applying?
'2027-2028'

Do you hold or are you applying for:
1. *U.S. citizenship; or*
2. *Dual citizenship with the U.S.; or*
3. *U.S. permanent residency?'*

Select 'no' – note you are not eligible for this award if any of the above apply.

Have you resided in the United States for five or more consecutive years in the six-year period preceding the date of application? A period of nine months or more during a calendar year is considered to be a full year.
Select 'no' – note you are not eligible for this award if any of the above apply

Will you be residing in the United States at the time of your proposed grant start date?
Select 'no' – note you are not eligible for this award if any of the above apply

Have you reviewed and do you meet all program eligibility requirements for the country through which you are applying?
Select 'yes' – note your application will not be accepted if you are ineligible.

IIE Data Privacy Consent for Applicants in IIE-Managed Programs
Ensure that you read and understand the IIE Privacy Statement. Once you are satisfied, select 'yes'.

_____
Once complete, click '**Save and Continue**' to move onto the next section.

3. Country Information

Contact Information

Here you can find our contact information, as is on our website.

Program Information

Here you can find information about the program.

Award Information

Click 'select/change award'.
Postdoctoral candidates: click 'Fulbright Postdoctoral Award'.
Scholar candidates: click 'Fulbright Scholar Award'.

Supplemental Forms

Review **"Supplementary documents checklist"** to check if any award-specific documents are required for submission.

Be sure to **download application checklist**, as you'll need to complete and upload this in Section 11 of your application.

_____

Once complete, click '**Save and Continue**' to move onto the next section.

4. Personal Information

Name
Enter your full legal name as it appears on your current documentation.
(If you are in the process of changing your name, ensure that the name matches the documents that you upload in the Grant and Travel Documents Section).
Enter a preferred name if you would like to be referred to name other than your first/given name.

Name on Previous Records
Complete if you have ever had a different legal name.

Biographical Information
Enter birthdate *(mm-dd-yyyy)*.
Enter city of birth (as it appears on your legal documents).
Enter country of birth.
Enter sex (as it appears on passport / travel documents).
Enter marital status.

Complete the section regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act should this section pertain to your circumstances.

Note: All sections with * are required

Citizenship Information
Enter country of citizenship (Australia).
Please note you are not eligible for a Fulbright Scholarship through the Australian-American Fulbright Commission if you do not hold current Australian citizenship.

Select any additional countries in which you hold citizenship from the list.
applicants who hold US-Australian dual citizenship are ineligible.

Select country of permanent residence.

National identification number can be left blank.

_____
Once complete, click '**Save and Continue**' to move onto the next section.

5. Contact Information

Addresses

Enter your permanent address. This should be the address at which you currently reside.

Is your current mailing address the same as your permanent address?
You can enter a different postal address by selecting 'no'.

Telephone Numbers

Provide at least one number we can reach you by. If selected for interview, we may contact you via this contact number to confirm.

Email

Please provide a personal email address that you will have access to for at least 2 years. We will use this contact email to provide updates on your Fulbright application- so please ensure it is one you check regularly (including spam folders).
(*Preferably, do not use your institutional email address as some emails are blocked by organisational email policies*)

Enter an alternative/Secondary email in case we have difficulty contacting your primary email.

Emergency Contact Information

Emergency Contact in Your Home Country
Provide the details of an emergency contact in Australia.

Emergency Contact in the United States
This is not necessary but please provide if possible.

_____

Once complete, click '**Save and Continue**' to move onto the next section.

6. Academic and Professional Information

Curriculum Vitae/Resume

Upload your current CV/Resume - no longer than 6 pages.

Academic Background

Add all tertiary education, from most recent to least recent.

Relevant Employment History

Add your current affiliation/employment, as well as any relevant previous roles.

Significant Professional Accomplishments

List any awards / accomplishments you would like us to be aware of. We recommend providing a list rather than a written statement.

Organisational Memberships

Select the number of memberships you would like to add.
Enter the name of the organisation, role, and dates of membership.

Letter of Support from Home Institution

Upload a letter of support/leave from your home institution or current employer. This is not a required step.

Experience Abroad

Enter any travel or international residence (including in the United States) from the last 6 years that have exceeded 3 months in length.

Confirm that you have not previously entered the United States on a J1/J2 visa in the past 5 years. *Note that if you have held a J1/J2 in the past two years, you are not eligible for the Fulbright program.*

If yes, you will need to confirm your visa category and upload your previous DS-2019.

Previous Fulbright Grant(s)

Confirm if you have previously received a Fulbright Grant (even if you were unable to accept it at the time).

If yes, you will need to provide details of the award and justification for why you should be considered for another Fulbright scholarship.

_____

Once complete, click '**Save and Continue**' to move onto the next section.

7. Language Skills

Native Language

Select your native language, selecting 'Other' if yours is not listed.

Additional Language Skills

Firstly, select how many additional languages you would like to note your proficiency in, and then add the language, as well as whether you identify as native, advanced, intermediate, beginner or no ability in terms of your reading, writing, and speaking abilities.

Once complete, click '**Save and Continue**' to move onto the next section.

8. Plagiarism Agreement

Please **review the plagiarism agreement in full** and select whether you understand the consequences of plagiarism using the dropdown menu.

_____

Once complete, click '**Save and Continue**' to move onto the next section.

9. Project Proposal

Firstly, select the category of grant relevant for your project proposal. Please note that the Australian program does not support teaching programs, so you should enter either Research or Teaching/ Research as appropriate.

Project Statement

Enter the name of your proposed project, followed by a brief summary (maximum of 700 characters). This can be quite short, but should cover the 'what', 'where' and 'why this is important' briefly.

Please use the Project Statement 'choose file' button to upload your formal project proposal. Your project proposal must not exceed **3-5 pages**. It should be in size 11 or 12 font with normal margins to allow easy reading. References are not included in the page limit.

A strong project proposal will cover:
- What the project aims to do (noting it will be read by some individuals who may not be experts in your area, so avoid technical jargon where possible).
- Why the host institution is important to the success of this proposal.
- Why the United States is important to the success of this proposal.
- The potential impacts/ outcomes of your proposed program, both from a discipline perspective, as well as towards the broader aims of the Fulbright program.
- A brief timeline might also be helpful, noting how you would maximise your time in the United States.

Academic Discipline

Using the dropdown menu, select the most appropriate discipline related to your program. Please note not all disciplines are listed, so select the one that best suits. Then, use the text box to further describe the area of the field (e.g. sub discipline) related to your project.

Intended Grant Period

Use the drop-down box to select your **maximum** proposed grant length, ensuring that you have reviewed the Fulbright website for program length availability e.g. most postdoctoral awards are capped at minimum of 4 and maximum of 8 months, while scholar awards are capped at a minimum of 3 and maximum of 4 months. **You must ensure that your program length is as accurate as possible. If selected, you can shorten your program duration but will not be able to increase program duration.**

Next, select your ideal grant period start and end dates, noting that programs must **commence** between 1 August 2026- 31 May 2027. The dates you enter can change, these should only be entered to give the Commission a sense of what timeframe might suit you best- changes do not need to be communicated during the application period, they are finalised post selection with successful candidates.

Host Institutional Affiliation(s)

Please use this section to include details of your confirmed Host Institutions. A maximum of two affiliations can be included. Please note that this section requires you to upload a letter from your

host organisation that confirms that should your Fulbright application be successful, the institution would support your program in the United States. Any additional information/ support they can be provided here (e.g. noting the access you will have to resources, why the host institution sees value in this project) is also helpful. Letters can be provided by the individual you seek to work with directly (there is not a requirement that the letter is provided by the most senior person at the institution).

Please note that applications submitted without a Host Institutional Affiliation will not be accepted.

Alternate Awards

Please note here if you consent to being considered for additional awards, noting that the Commission has a checklist for you to upload as a separate part of the application to identify which awards specifically you would like to be considered for. Therefore, in this section feel free to copy/ paste the following text:

I would/ would not be happy to be considered for additional awards, as reflected in the uploaded checklist.

_____

Once complete, click '**Save and Continue**' to move onto the next section.

10. Grant and Travel Plans

Financial Information

Please enter here whether you expect to receive any additional financial support during your Fulbright program. Please note this information is confirmed with successful candidates at a later stage, so enter here only information you have at hand.

Additional Grants

Use this section to enter the award names of any grants you are applying for that relate to the same project proposed within your Fulbright application.

Passport/ Travel Document

Please upload a copy of your current Australian passport. If you have been approved for Australian citizenship but do not yet have a passport, please upload your citizenship certificate in lieu of this document. If you do not have an Australian passport/ Australian citizenship, please note that your application will not be accepted.

If your passport will expire prior to your anticipated Fulbright grant start date, please upload the photo page anyway, as the Commission only sights this document to ensure eligibility based on citizenship requirements, and successful candidates will have an opportunity to provide updated documents at a later stage.

Accompanying Dependents

Please use this section to add the number of dependents (meaning only spouse and/ or children) you anticipate will be travelling with you for part/all of your proposed program.

Once complete, click '**Save and Continue**' to move onto the next section.

11. Additional Information

Additional Documentation

Please upload the following additional information under the following categories:

- **Under 'Country Specific Materials':** please upload your **1-2 page Personal Statement (required)**.
- **Under 'Supplemental Materials':** please upload your supplementary statements (read note below for details) Please note these statements are optional and **only required if** you are selecting certain award types for consideration per the checklist.
- **Under 'Additional Documentation':** please upload your completed Checklist, which identifies the awards you would like to be considered for within your application **(required).**

Personal Statement

- It is a requirement of the Australian Commission that you attach a 1-2 page narrative giving a picture of yourself as an individual.
- This statement should outline 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 impacted you and shaped your journey. Also include your special interests and abilities, career plans and life goals, etc. if relevant. The personal statement should not be a record of facts already listed on the application, in your resume/CV, or an elaboration of your statement of proposed study.
- Keep in mind that the Fulbright program is, at its core, a cultural exchange program. We're looking for strong cultural ambassadors, and this statement provides a brief opportunity for our selection panels to get a sense of who you are outside of your work.

Supplementary Statements

- On the application, click 'Country Information' which will show two supplementary forms. One explains supplementary statements and when these might be needed. Supplementary statements should not exceed 1 page per statement, be uploaded as a PDF using size 11 or 12 font and normal margins for easy reading. Please note these statements are optional and only required if you are selecting certain award types for consideration per the checklist.

Checklist

- Also available under 'Country Information' the Commission has provided a checklist which is a **mandatory** document that communicates which awards you would like to be considered for as part of this application.
- Please indicate in your Application Checklist if you are applying as a postdoctoral or scholar candidate and any of the sponsored awards you would like to be considered for in addition our general awards. You will be considered for the award(s) the selection committee deems most fitting of those selected.
- Candidates who do not submit this document will have one opportunity post-closing date to rectify this issue, otherwise may find that their application is ineligible for further review. Please ensure you are only selecting awards that you have met the eligibility criteria for, which can be found on the Commission's website. Per the Supplementary Statements

section above, some awards require an additional statement, and these must be uploaded for consideration of these award types.

Outreach Survey

Please complete the outreach survey, which provides helpful information to the Commission (and the global Fulbright program) about how you heard about the program, what made you decide to apply, and whether you have participated in other U.S. government sponsored programs in the past.

Outreach Lecturing Fund Topics

Please include any Outreach Lecturing Funds Topics if you will be interested in teaching at other universities and colleges during your program.

Once complete, click '**Save and Continue**' to move onto the next section.

12. Recommendations

All applicants are required to include details of recommenders, who will be asked to confidentially upload a letter of reference which will be uploaded to your application.

**You cannot upload reference letters on your recommender's behalf nor can you view what has been uploaded. Recommendations are designed to be confidential, and any candidate who is found to be impersonating a recommender will have their application withdrawn.

It is *strongly recommended* that you have **three (3) letters of recommendation** submitted as part of your application.

Letters of recommendation are an extremely important aspect of your application; **an application will be deemed incomplete without *at least two (2)* letters of recommendation**. Your recommenders must complete the forms online and submit them electronically.

Once you register your recommenders, they will receive an automatic email with instructions on completing the online recommendation form. **Late recommendation letters cannot be accepted.**
** You can track the status of their submissions, send reminders, and add or remove recommenders through the system both before and after submitting your application.

Tips on recommendations:
- **Share Your Project Statement:** Provide your recommenders with a copy of your project statement to help them write a strong, relevant letter.
- **Choose Qualified Recommenders:** Letters should come from individuals who can assess your professional work, the strengths you bring to your proposed project, your ability to adapt to a new country and culture, and the overall merits of your project.
- **Quality Over Prestige:** A detailed, personalized letter from someone who knows you and your work well is more valuable than a generic letter from a well-known scholar, government official, or distant contact.
- **Diverse Perspectives:** While recommendations can come from your home institution, at least one should ideally be from a colleague in your field outside your institution.
- **If You've Recently Moved:** Consider asking one recommender from your previous institution if you have recently relocated.
- **Plan Ahead:** Contact your recommenders early, as their letters must be submitted with your application. A single letter will not be accepted—at least two (2) recommendations are required.
- **Language Requirement:** Recommendations must be written in or translated into English.
- **Submission Responsibility:** It is your responsibility to ensure all recommendation letters are submitted by the deadline.
- **Notify Your Recommenders:** Inform them that you have nominated them so they can check their inbox for the invitation email.
- **Track Submissions:** You can monitor the status of your recommendations in the portal, though you will not be able to view their content. You will also receive an email notification when a recommendation is submitted, but since this may go to spam, we recommend checking the portal directly.

PLEASE NOTE: To submit your application, the online **portal requires** you to send an invitation to three (3) recommenders. While we strongly encourage all three to submit a recommendation, **at least two (2) must complete and submit** their recommendations for your application to be considered complete.

Adding Recommenders:
1. Click 'Add Recommender'
2. Complete all fields in the pop-up form (refer to screenshot below)
3. Click *Send to Recommender* to generate automatic email to recommender.
4. Click *Continue* to save your responses and proceed to the next section.

Editing Recommenders:
Once sent, you will have the option to EDIT (screenshot below)
- o **Edit Recommender Information** – If they have not yet started their response.
- o **Save** – To keep any changes made.
- o **Send Reminders** – To prompt recommenders who have not yet submitted their letters.
- o **Exclude** – To remove a recommender and replace them with another individual.

Once complete, click '**Save and Continue**' to move onto the next section.

13. Signature

Please review the conditions, and once ready enter your **full legal name** to finalise your application.

In place of your signature, please type your full legal name:

Date Signed: January 29, 2025

Continue

Once complete, click '**Save and Continue**' to move onto the next section.

14. Review

This section provides you a final opportunity to review your application before submission. You can preview your application proof to get a sense of what your full application record will look like. **Please ensure you have made any final changes before clicking 'Submit Application' as changes are not possible after you have clicked this button.**

** You can submit your application once you have completed all required sections—**you do not need to wait for your recommendations to be submitted.** Even after submission, you will still be able to track the status of your recommendation letters.

Once complete, click **'Submit Application'**.

Congratulations! You have now submitted your Fulbright application. The Commission will be in touch with candidates on a rolling basis between August-November.