

# **THE POLICIES OF THE J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT FOREIGN SCHOLARSHIP BOARD**

---

A COMPILATION OF THE POLICIES  
OF THE J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT FOREIGN SCHOLARSHIP BOARD  
GOVERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM  
UNDER PUBLIC LAW 87-256 (THE FULBRIGHT-HAYS ACT)

---



**BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Last Revision: March 2024**

**Revisions to the Policies:**

(Revisions are listed beginning November 2012)

<b>Citation of change(s)</b>	<b>Description of change</b>	<b>Approved by the Board on:</b>
<b>426.3, 626.2, 826.2</b>	Clarification of the effect on eligibility of recent DWI/DUI convictions.	November 14, 2012
<b>421.1, 621.1, 821.1</b>	Clarification of citizenship requirements for U.S. outbound Fulbright grants.	November 14, 2012
<b>425.4, 521.3, 624.2, 725.2, 824.2, 924.2</b>	Elimination of Lifetime Limits on Fulbright Grants to one Individual.	November 14, 2012
<b>350</b>	Elimination of Fulbright American Studies Institutes Subchapter	February 11, 2013
<b>726.5</b>	Corrected clause to be consistent with other chapters in the Policies.	February 11, 2013
<b>341.2-2, 421.2, 521.4, 621.2, 722.2, 821.2, 921.2</b>	Standardized and Updated the nondiscrimination policy language	February 11, 2013
<b>633</b>	Revise duration of grants terms to allow for the new Fulbright Flex Award	May 6, 2013
<b>633.4</b>	Elimination of 5 year waiting period between serial grants	May 6, 2013
<b>633.5</b>	Add new section describing the Fulbright Flex Award	May 6, 2013
<b>611.7, 711.7, 633.3, 642.2, 732.1</b>	Change “New Century Scholars Program” title to “Collaborative Group Research Program” and related changes	February 20, 2014
<b>533.2</b>	Shorten the period of a basic grant for students from partner countries to an academic term (four months or more)	July 18, 2014
<b>633, 732</b>	Add Collaborative Group Research Programs to the list of standard exceptions to the normal duration of grants	November 13, 2014
<b>535, 736 611.7, 711.7  633.4, 633.5</b>	Remove Retroactive Grants More accurate description of selection of Distinguished Leader for Collaborative Group Research Programs Create single policy for Flex grants for U.S. Scholars, delete section on Serial Grants, renumber section 633.5	February 19, 2015

<p><b>341.6-1, 425.2, 426.2 524.1, 525.1, 625.3, 626.1, 726.4, 727.1, 825.3, 826.1, 925.3, 926.1</b></p>	<p>Clarify calculation of “one year”; Harmonize definition of “employee”; Harmonize language pertaining to Commission staff across all programs; Added ineligibility language in chapters governing programs in Partner Countries (Chapters 300, 500, 700 and 900); Harmonize language pertaining to “immediate family members”; Harmonize section headings across all programs.</p>	<p>May 7, 2015</p>
<p><b>341.6-1, 425.2, 426.2 524.1, 525.1, 625.3, 626.1, 726.4, 727.1, 825.3, 826.1, 925.3, 926.1</b></p> <p><b>432.1, 432.2, 532.1, 532.2, 632, 728.2, 735, 832, 932</b></p> <p><b>444.1 – 444.6, 543.1 – 544.4 645.1 – 645.7, 745.1 – 745.4 844.1 – 844.7, 944.1 – 944.5</b></p>	<p>Update selection criteria and ineligibility factors by defining U.S. Department of State employees and including U.S. Agency for International Development employees.</p> <p>Update general terms of grant to reflect time commitment and supervision and full-time nature of grants to include, full- time internships, full-time teaching assistantships, or a full-time combination of the above.</p> <p>Update financial terms of grants, benefits from other sources, restrictions on employment or other remunerative activities, reporting other grants and scholarships, honoraria, and fundraising guidelines.</p>	<p>September 10, 2015</p>
<p><b>624.2</b></p> <p><b>421.6, 521.7, 621.6, 821.7, 921.6</b></p>	<p>Add language to establishment of grant limits and waiting periods for the Fulbright Specialist Program.</p> <p>Harmonize language on health as a selection factor.</p>	<p>November 10, 2015</p>
<p><b>341.6-1, 426.2, 525.1, 626.1, 727.1, 826.1, 926.1</b></p>	<p>Add language “does not apply to interns”</p>	<p>March 14, 2016</p>
<p><b>146, 146.1, 146.2, 146.3, 146.4</b></p>	<p>Add language regarding the use of the official Fulbright Program logo</p>	<p>March 17, 2016</p>
<p><b>625.1, 825.2, 925.2</b></p>	<p>Change “husband and wife” to “members of the same family”</p>	<p>May 23, 2016</p>
<p><b>624.2</b></p>	<p>Add two-year waiting period between grants for the Fulbright US Scholar</p>	<p>May 23, 2016</p>

	Program.	
<b>441.2, 641.2, 841.3</b>	Delete reference to Appendix II of the FFSB Policies and to eliminate references to “qualified same-sex domestic partner.”	October 18, 2016
<b>624.2</b>	Clarify that the two-year waiting period between two Fulbright Scholar grants does not apply to recipients of the Fulbright Specialist Program	May 11, 2017
<b>132.4, 144, 361.4, 660</b>	Remove references in the 100, 300 and 600 chapters of the FFSB Policies to “former grantees,” “former Fulbright grantees” and “former American grantees.”	May 18, 2017
<b>411.1-5, 444.7, 611.1-11, 645.9</b>	Clarify policies related to Fulbright Alumni Status for U.S. Fulbright grantees.	September 14, 2017
<b>110.1-2</b>	Allow the Board to waive any of its Policies in rare and compelling circumstances when (1) (1) application of the Policy would have an unduly harsh and unintended effect inconsistent with the purpose of the Policy being waived and the fair administration of the Fulbright Program; and (2) waiver of the Policy would not be inconsistent with U.S. or host country law.	September 14, 2017
<b>611.6</b>	Clarify that the name for the Specialist Program is the “Fulbright Specialist Program” and to correct prepositions in the current Policy text.	September 14, 2017
<b>622.7, 722.7</b>	Add a Policy to the Scholar chapters to include the need for approval for changing projects.	September 14, 2017
<b>438.1, 638.1</b>	Revision of policy to provide clear definitions to distinguish the difference between revocation and termination.	October 30, 2019
<b>426.3, 626.2</b>	Elimination of the 3-year provision concerning DUI convictions	October 30, 2019

<b>626.2, 426.3, 826.2</b>	To revise sections 626.2, 426.3, and 826.2 of the Fulbright Program Policies to clarify the process and guidelines for determining eligibility of Fulbright candidates who have been arrested for, indicted for, charged with, or convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor; and to add language requiring that the FFSB review the eligibility of candidates with prior incidents of sexual or other harassment, assault, or other misconduct.	October 30, 2019
<b>433.3(c), 441.4(d)</b>	To revise the current Policies to allow renewal grantees to receive roundtrip airfare between their first and second grant terms as a grant benefit.	October 30, 2019
<b>424.1(e), 521.2(d), 624.1(e), 725.1(e), 824.1(e), 924.1(d)</b>	To clarify the policies concerning eligibility for applicants who have extensive previous experience abroad, and to provide an exception for certain teachers employed at Department of Defense schools abroad.	February 15, 2024
<b>525.2, 727.2, 926.2</b>	To revise sections of the Fulbright Program Policies to add language requiring that the FFSB review the eligibility of candidates with prior incidents of sexual or other harassment, assault, or other misconduct.	March 26, 2024

## STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

Education requires a continuing act of faith. This is necessary because it is never certain what may be the effect of teaching and learning, or where research may lead. For this reason it is difficult to define precise and specific objectives of international educational exchange activities, or to demonstrate immediate results or quantitative accomplishments. More than anything else, however, a continuous and sustained effort is necessary to the success of any educational endeavor. This is particularly true of activities whose general purpose is to stimulate contacts among and understanding of a variety of the world's peoples and societies.

The Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, as amended (PL 87-256; the Fulbright-Hays Act), hereinafter called "the Act," recognizes the critical relationship between education and international understanding:

The purpose of this Act is to enable the Government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries by means of educational and cultural exchange: to strengthen the ties which unite us with other nations by demonstrating the educational and cultural interests, developments, and achievements of the people of the United States and other nations, and the contributions being made toward a peaceful and more fruitful life for people throughout the world; to promote inter-national cooperation for educational and cultural advancement; and thus to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic, and peaceful relations between the United States and the other countries of the world.

The Act consolidated and enlarged the authority of the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, hereinafter called "the Board." In specifying the composition of the Board, the Act also suggests that nonofficial and professional educational judgments are essential to the accomplishment of the purposes of the Act. Activities authorized under section 102(a)(1) and 102(b)(4) and (6) are made the specific concerns of the Board, which is assigned responsibility for selection of participants in the program authorized by section 102(a)(1) and supervision of programs authorized by all three sections. These activities involve the exchange of college and university teachers, advanced researchers at the postdoctoral or equivalent level, college graduates and graduate students, primary and secondary school teachers and administrators, and professionals in a variety of fields. Some of these exchanges are administered directly by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State, or by the U.S. Department of Education (with the assistance of cooperating organizations); others are administered under grant-in-aid agreements made with educational institutions.

## **SELECTION**

Final responsibility for the choice of all participants in educational exchange programs under section 102(a)(1) rests with the Board. Subject to certain considerations outlined below, its objectives are to determine that those named are fully qualified to contribute to or to derive benefits from the activity or project for which they are selected.

## **SUPERVISION**

The Board has statutory responsibility for supervision of the programs under sections 102(a)(1), 102(b)(4) and (6). Its objectives are:

1. To determine that the activities and projects approved for support meet sound academic criteria and satisfy rigorous standards of excellence.
2. To support activities and projects with broad multiplier effects. As a relatively small number of persons can participate in any of these, it is desirable that they be persons who are or who are likely to be in positions to share their experiences and knowledge with others.
3. To encourage cooperative efforts with foreign governments, agencies, and educational institutions in the development of activities and projects that contribute to the most important educational needs and goals of those countries, but to insure that some openings remain for students and scholars whose interests may not have immediate specific application.
4. To insist upon the mutual aspect of these programs, so that a wide range of openings continue to exist for students, instructors, professors, teachers, and professionals to work in the United States, and for U.S. students, instructors, professors, teachers, and professionals to work abroad. On occasion, this may require the Board to remind a government or one of its agencies that this is an exchange program, and that there must be some reasonable balance between the number of opportunities for those going abroad and those coming from abroad. It will also be necessary to insure that selection procedures permit U.S. scholars from all parts of the United States to participate and permit the placement of foreign students and teachers throughout the United States.
5. To encourage the development of permanent ties between U.S. and foreign educational bodies and institutions, so that contacts and exchanges of persons and information will continue should governmental support be reduced or withdrawn.
6. To increase the number of exchange opportunities by encouraging cost-sharing on the part of foreign governments and institutions as well as U.S. institutions, and by seeking grants-in-aid and other supplemental funds from private sources.

7. To encourage joint planning, supervision, and administration of exchange programs through binational boards, commissions, and foundations, and to give continuing attention to the effectiveness with which these entities function. Such arrangements are necessary to insure that sound educational judgments may prevail over short-term political preferences. The ablest people will be drawn into exchange activities only if these activities are, and are seen to be, insulated against efforts to use them for partisan ends.
8. To evaluate its operations periodically by (a) examining its policies to attract the widest possible pool of applicants, (b) reassessing and, if necessary, modifying existing programs to determine that they fulfill the objectives of the Act, and (c) measuring, to the extent possible, the effect of its programs by studying the subsequent activities and careers of grantees.

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

In order to meet these objectives, the Board has adopted the following guiding principles for administration of the Fulbright Program.

#### **Program Planning and Grantee Selection:**

1. Recognize and reward academic, artistic, and professional excellence.
2. Select grantees who demonstrate dynamism and flexibility for active involvement in the host culture.
3. Reward projects that reflect enduring concerns, emphasize basic subjects, demonstrate sound methodology and avoid politicization of scholarly inquiry.
4. Encourage diversity across the disciplines and the professions.
5. Give highest priority to the student programs. In such programs, emphasize subjects or projects that benefit from a host country's strengths.
6. Seek a balanced pool of senior scholars at various stages in their careers.
7. Award full academic year grants where possible; recognize that one-semester and short-term grants are also necessary in the senior scholar program.
8. Maintain a reasonable balance, over the years, of participants from both partner countries.
9. Seek a balanced but not rigidly held geographical distribution of grantees and host institutions within each country.
10. Maintain the international prestige of the Fulbright Program by national recruitment, open

competition, and stringent selection procedures.

**Defining a Fulbright Grant:**

1. Awards to individuals funded with U.S. Government or partner government money for the Fulbright Program must be called Fulbright grants.
2. Awards funded from other sources may be called Fulbright grants if they meet the following criteria:
  - a) the applicant meets the standards of academic, artistic, or professional excellence;
  - b) the applicant is selected through Fulbright procedures: national recruitment, open competition, stringent selection, and approval by the Board; and
  - c) the program or project for which the applicant is selected has been approved by the Board, either by means of a program proposal or upon separate request from a Fulbright Commission, a U.S. Department of State post or other source.