

# EVALUATION SUMMARY



## Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Office of Policy and Evaluation

### Visiting Fulbright Scholar Program Outcome Assessment

*The purpose of the evaluation was to assess and document the outcomes and impact of the Visiting Fulbright Scholar Program and the Program's effectiveness in achieving its legislative goal of fostering mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.*

### Key Findings

- **Promoting Mutual Understanding**
  - 98% of Visiting Fulbright Scholar Program alumni respondents reported that their Fulbright experiences gave them a deeper understanding of the United States, while 93% believed their experiences heightened their awareness of social and cultural diversity among different nations.
  - Respondents reported that the program allowed them to develop long-lasting personal and professional relationships with Americans and immerse themselves and their families in American society.
- **Educational, Professional and Cultural Learning**
  - Nearly all respondents gained new knowledge of American culture (99%) and the U.S. educational system (98%), political system (96%), and economy (94%). In addition, 90% reported visiting Americans in their homes.
- **Effects on Behavior**
  - Nearly all respondents indicated that the program contributed to greater insight into their professional fields (99%) and their subsequent professional publications and works (98%), as well as enhanced their professional credentials (98%).
  - 82% reported that they incorporated new knowledge and skills into their courses at their home institution.
- **Linkages, Ties, and Institutional Change**
  - Almost all respondents (95%) have maintained contact with people they met in the United States during their grants.
  - Just over half have revisited the United States (52%) and hosted U.S. friends/colleagues in their home country (59%).
- **Program Satisfaction**
  - 100% agreed that the Fulbright experience was valuable to them, while 98% agreed they are proud to have been a Fulbright Scholar. In addition, 74% agreed that the program was a life-changing experience.
  - Respondents were satisfied with the opportunities they had to do research (98%) and for collaboration (93%).
  - 96% felt that their U.S. host institution was a good match with their needs and interests.

**Project Information:** SRI International (SRI), of Arlington, Virginia conducted the study. From April 2003 to August 2003, the SRI team surveyed a random sample of 3,324 Visiting Fulbright Scholar Program alumni from 16 study countries who participated in the program between 1980 and 2001. This group was selected from 16 of the more than 100 countries represented in the Visiting Fulbright Scholar Program. From this group, 1,894 alumni completed the survey, resulting in a 57% response rate.

**Program Information:** The Fulbright Educational Exchange Program is designed to increase mutual understanding between Americans and the people of other countries. It has provided more than 300,000 participants from United States and around the world with the opportunity to teach, conduct research, study, live and work abroad. The Visiting Fulbright Scholar Program, one of several Fulbright programs, awards approximately 800 grants to non-U.S. citizens each year through a merit-based, open competition for the purpose of conducting research and/or lecturing at educational institutions throughout the United States. Additional program information can be found at <http://exchanges.state.gov>.

**Contact Information:** For more information, or to request a copy of the 155 page report, please contact the Office of Policy and Evaluation at (202) 632-6325, by mail at 2200 C Street NW, Washington, DC 22301, or by email at [ECAevaluation@state.gov](mailto:ECAevaluation@state.gov).