

# EVALUATION SUMMARY



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

### Visiting Fulbright Student Program Outcome Assessment

*The purpose of the evaluation was to assess and document the outcomes and impact of the Visiting Fulbright Student 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**
  - 99% of Visiting Fulbright Student Program alumni respondents felt that their Fulbright experiences increased their knowledge and understanding of the United States and its culture.
  - 90% reported visiting Americans in their homes.
- **Educational, Professional and Cultural Learning**
  - 95% of respondents felt that the program gave them greater insight into their professional fields and contributed to their subsequent educational or career choices and decisions.
  - 84% gained new knowledge about the American economy, educational system, culture, or way of life.
  - 83% reported having engendered a heightened awareness of social and cultural diversity.
- **Effects on Behavior**
  - 96% shared their Fulbright experiences with others in their home country through a media or community activity.
  - 89% of respondents reported that the Fulbright experience enabled them to serve in a leadership capacity in their professions. 47% attribute receiving an honor or award, including a promotion or position of leadership directly to their Fulbright experience.
  - 83% have incorporated knowledge gained during their Fulbright experience into their subsequent professional activities.
- **Linkages, Ties, and Institutional Change**
  - Respondents have maintained active friendships (91%) and professional relationships (81%) that were established during their programs.
  - 62% have revisited the United States and 58% participated in conferences, seminars, etc. in or about the United States.
- **Other Results**
  - 92% indicated that they were "mostly satisfied" or "very satisfied" with their Fulbright experiences.
  - 62% believe they would not have studied or lived in the United States without the Visiting Fulbright Student Program.

**Project Information:** SRI International (SRI) of Arlington, Virginia conducted the study. From June to October 2004, the SRI team surveyed a random sample of 2,310 Visiting Fulbright Student Program alumni from 14 study countries who participated in the program between 1980 and 2000. From this group, 1,609 alumni completed the survey, resulting in a 70% 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 Student Program, one of several Fulbright programs, awards approximately 1,300 graduate level grants to non-U.S. citizens each year through a merit-based, open competition for academic study or research 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 94 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). Results of other program evaluations are available at <http://exchanges.state.gov/programevaluations>.