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# THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM

*A general overview*



# AGENDA



What is the Fulbright Program? Is it the right fit for you, & what is required to apply?



What are the major deadlines one should keep in mind when applying for Fulbright?



# FULBRIGHT UPDATES

Due to the current political climate, any updates regarding Fulbright are forthcoming. At this time, Fulbright reports that they continue to review applications as of 4/15 and will communicate any updates via email before the October 7<sup>th</sup> deadline regarding potential funding freezes, etc.

Please continue to remain up-to-date on all Fulbright information on their [website](#).

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SEOUL

SOUTH KOREA

FLIGHT NO.

DATE

90-46-28

SEOUL

# WHAT IS THE FULBRIGHT?

- A post-grad opportunity to **study, research, or teach English abroad** for one academic year
- Over 140 countries participate in the program
- You can apply with or without a W&M endorsement



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# AWARD TYPES

The Fulbright Program offers three awards:

- **Graduate Degree Award** – pursuing a Master's degree at a university
- **Open Study/Research Award (S/R)** – conducting original research at a university or other institute of higher ed
- **English Teaching Assistantship (ETA)** – assistant teaching English in a school, from kindergarten to college-level



# SHOULD YOU APPLY?

- Students from a wide variety of disciplinary backgrounds can apply for a Fulbright
- How does Fulbright, and this country fit into your overall aspirations, interests, &/or plans?
- Also consider how you are a good fit for this country/program
- For instance:
  - If applying for an ETA, how are you prepared to serve as a teaching assistant for English language learning in your host community?
  - If applying for a S/R, why is it important that your research happens in the country applied to, & how are you equipped to successfully complete that research?



# SHOULD YOU APPLY?

- Fulbright is first & foremost a cultural exchange program
- Must make a clear case for why this specific country, & community, are important for your plans
- Applicants who see Fulbright primarily as a study abroad opportunity are likely to find it difficult to prepare a competitive application
- The acceptance rate for Fulbright grants can range from **3% acceptance rate to greater than 25%**
- W&M was a Fulbright top producing institution for 2024-2025





# ELIGIBILITY

- Must be a U.S. citizen & hold a Bachelor's degree before the start of their grant period
- There is no minimum GPA or required academic field to apply for a Fulbright
- The selection criteria are largely chosen by the host country, but they generally look for:
  - A demonstrated interest in another culture & the ability to be a "cultural ambassador"
  - Maturity, adaptability, & academic excellence
  - A strong, feasible, & informed proposal
- Consider other eligibility factors (e.g., dual citizenship or graduate student status)



# ETA APPLICATION COMPONENTS

- **Applicants must submit:**

- Biographical Information
- Program Information Mini Essays (3)
- Statement of Grant Purpose (1 page)
- Personal Statement
- Language Proficiency Forms (if required)
- 3 Letters of Recommendation
- Academic Transcript

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# S/R APPLICATION COMPONENTS

- **Applicants must submit:**

- Biographical Information
- Program Information Mini Essays (3)
- Statement of Grant Purpose (2 pages)
- Affiliation Letter
- Personal Statement
- Language Proficiency Forms (if required)
- 3 Letters of Recommendation
- Academic Transcript
- IRB Approval (if required)

A graphic of a dark blue luggage tag with white and red text and fields. At the top, there are two white rectangular boxes labeled "WEIGHT" and "ORIG. TRIP". Below these, a dashed white line separates the top section from the main body. The main body features the word "SEOUL" in large, bold, white capital letters, with "SOUTH KOREA" in smaller, bold, white capital letters underneath. Below this, there are two white rectangular boxes labeled "FLIGHT NO." and "DATE". A large red number "90-46-28" is printed across the middle of the tag. At the bottom, another dashed white line separates the main body from a bottom section, which contains a white rectangular box with the word "SEOUL" in bold, white capital letters.

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# THE STATEMENT OF GRANT PURPOSE (SGP)

- The SGP is unique to the Fulbright program & differs between the S/R and the ETA programs
- **Study/Research:**
  - A 2-page document outlining either the details of your research project or why you want to attend a specific graduate program
- **ETA:**
  - A 1-page document outlining your teaching pedagogy & ideas for teaching in-country



The background of the image is a collage of various airline baggage tags. Visible tags include: a purple tag for Seoul with the number 90-46-28; an orange tag for Air Travel Express; a tan tag for Cairo, Egypt; a purple tag for Amman; a tan tag for Istanbul; a purple tag for Paris; a blue tag for C-67; and a tan tag for Vietnam. The tags are overlapping and tilted at different angles, creating a busy, travel-themed background.

# APPLICATION TIMELINE

**April 2025** Application opens

**June 30, 2025:** Deadline to register intent to apply

**August, 31 2025:** W&M campus deadline

**September 2025:** W&M campus interviews & feedback

**October 7, 2025 by 5pm EST:** National deadline





# DEADLINES DEMYSTIFIED

- Fulbright applicants are not required to apply through W&M
- Doing so makes you eligible to participate in W&M's review & interview process which results in campus endorsement
- To be eligible for campus review, applicants **must** meet the June 30th intent to apply deadline as well as the August 31st campus deadline



# INTENT TO APPLY

- The intent to apply form is how W&M evaluates our needs for campus review committees
- The form will ask for general biographical & academic information as well as:
  - Which country you intend to apply to
  - Which program you intend to apply to
  - A short (800 characters max) description of your program
  - Contact info for 3 possible letter of recommendation writers
- The form is meant to be a *firm best guess* of your intended Fulbright application, but it is not set in stone



# FULBRIGHT INTENT TO APPLY DEADLINE



**Declare your intent to apply at  
this QR by Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup> 2025**



**Students & alum who declare their intent to apply for Fulbright will be eligible  
to participate in W&M's campus application review process**

**This process provides applicants with support, interview practice, & a letter of  
support from W&M to include in your Fulbright application**

**Reach out the OUAA Fellowships team ([fellowships@wm.edu](mailto:fellowships@wm.edu)) with any  
questions!**

