



Fulbright Program – FAQs

➤ **What is the Fulbright Program?**

Fulbright is America’s flagship international exchange program, managed globally in collaboration with 49 binational Fulbright Commissions and 110+ U.S. embassies. Through its international educational and cultural exchange programs, Fulbright’s diverse network of scholars, alumni, and global partners fosters mutual understanding between the United States and partner nations, shares knowledge across communities, and improves lives around the world.

➤ **When did it start?** The Program was established in 1946 under legislation introduced by the late Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas.

➤ **How does it work?** Americans travel overseas to study, teach, conduct research and build professional networks, while international participants come to colleges and universities across the United States for the same purposes.

➤ **Why does it work well?** “Fulbrighters” serve as citizen-ambassadors, building lifelong relationships that strengthen institutions and economies through mutual understanding and respect for American culture and values.

➤ **Who are the alumni?** Since 1946, there have been more than 390,000 Fulbrighters, including 140,000 Americans, with nearly 7,000 new awards each year. (Compare this to only 32 Rhodes Scholars.) Alumni include 59 Nobel Prize Winners, 39 Heads of State (3 currently in office), 86 Pulitzer Prize Winners, 70 MacArthur Fellows, 16 Presidential Medal of Freedom Recipients, leaders of industry and higher education, and Members of Congress from both parties.

➤ **How is it funded?** Congressional appropriations, now at \$274 million, is leveraged with an additional average total of \$100 million from partner countries, nearly all of it from the 49 countries with Fulbright Commissions. There is no endowment.

➤ **Do all grants benefit Americans?** Yes. Half of Fulbright grants are awarded to outbound Americans, whose training enriches their communities on their return. The others go to inbound international participants who spend their grants in the United States, strengthening local economies and institutions.

➤ **Where can I learn more?** Contact us at advocacy@fulbright.org, 202-775-0725

- Fulbright Program (summary): <https://eca.state.gov/fulbright>
- Scholar Program: www.cies.org
- Student Program: <https://us.fulbrightonline.org>
- Specialist Program: <https://fulbrightspecialist.worldlearning.org>
- State by State Analyses: <https://us.fulbrightonline.org/congressional-state-one-pagers>