

## Fulbright Application and Essay Guidance for Regis University

### Application Guidance

It is important that you pay close attention to the following items as you are preparing your application.

### Program Information

- Abstract/Summary of Proposal: As in all of the narrative sections, be specific, avoid generalizations, jargon and topics that do not put a clear idea into the reader's mind as to what, exactly, it is you intend to do as a Fulbrighter.
- Host Country Engagement: You will develop this in the Statement of Grant Purpose and/or Personal Statement, but here, describe clearly how you will engage in your host community outside of your project. **Give specific examples.** Draw upon your interests and as much as possible link your academic and extracurricular interests. If you're proposing an ETA, think about things you could do in many different locations. This engagement is critical to the Fulbright program.
- Plans Upon Return to US: You don't have to tell them you plan to go to medical or law school, although you can if that's the plan. Focus more on how you believe your role as a Fulbright alum will benefit the communities that you work with and continue the Fulbright tradition of cultural ambassadorship.
- For Statement of Grant Purpose (SGP) and Personal Statement (PS) see Essay Guidance section, below.

### Academic Information

- Follow the instructions within the application.

### Transcript Upload

- Contact the Regis [Academic Records and Registration](#) department to request your transcripts and upload them in this section.

### Professional Information

- Record your professional work experience. This includes internships, both paid and unpaid, and research experiences.

### Awards and Achievements

- There are character limits here, so choose wisely and avoid high school achievements, unless very relevant to the application.

### **Experience Abroad**

- Applicants who have spent time in the host country through vacation, internships, volunteering, study abroad, are not at a disadvantage. Having lived or worked extensively in the host country, though, is frowned upon. Study abroad experience can be entered in this section.

### **Language Self-Evaluation**

- If the host country requires knowledge of a language, you must include this form. If you have language ability for more than one language that is relevant for this country/project, include self-evaluations for each. If the country does not require language knowledge, but you have some, include the self-evaluation. You will need to have a foreign language evaluation done for each language you include here.

### **Recommenders and Language Evaluators**

- You should provide a minimum of three weeks advance notice for these requests and for recommenders, share a copy of your proposal, transcript and resume. Given the timing of the application cycle, we recommend you talk with potential recommenders in the spring or early summer to make sure this is on their radar.

## Essay Guidance

Review this document and the relevant [application essay components](#) section on the Fulbright website before beginning your drafts and as you continue to work on your drafts.

**We cannot emphasize enough that you have to pay attention to the prompts in the application component section. For all of the narrative writing in the application, keep these things in mind:**

- Answer the questions from the prompts and be as specific as possible. Vague, unspecified language will get you nowhere.
- Paint a picture for the reader. Show, rather than tell, what makes you a unique candidate for a Fulbright grant.
- Keep the Fulbright mission—to promote cultural understanding and sharing—at the front of your narrative. Keep emphasizing and explaining how you will be good cultural ambassador and someone who will forward the legacy and the mission of the Fulbright program.
- Explain why you have to go to the host country. For example, explain why you shouldn't/can't just stay in the U.S. and have to go to, say, Bulgaria in order to do your proposed work.
- Be honest, genuine and authentic. In other words, write in such a way that you convey the kind of person you are.

## English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Guidance

### ETA Statement of Grant Purpose

Focus this essay on your teaching experience, your motivations for teaching English as well as United States culture in the host country (this is important) and very specific about ideas that you have for teaching. Do not rely on abstract and vague language. Be specific!

Make sure that you demonstrate a knowledge of your host country. So, if you are proposing to go to, say, Thailand, make sure that you do research on the country, culture, arts, foodstuffs and history and convey that knowledge across your application materials.

Respond to these questions:

- Why do you want to go to the host country? What, specifically, is calling you to go there?
- What have you done to prepare yourself for this role? Specifically, what kinds of teaching experience do you have that will make you an effective ETA. Again, be specific.
- What specific teaching strategies will you employ in the classroom?

These elements can be briefly addressed, but they can also be addressed in other sections of the narratives: How will you engage with your host community outside of the ETA and your school? How will your project help further your academic or professional development?

### **ETA Personal Statement**

Use this essay to talk about the development of your mind, your interests, your ambitions, and your priorities. Think about people, books, experiences, and ideas that have shaped your interests, especially as they are related to your proposal.

Think about your own experiences working in related fields and cross-cultural experiences in particular. Think about your motivation to work in these areas. Getting clear on your motivations and explaining them clearly is critical.

How will you engage with the host country? Give specific ideas for engagement—these should be consistent with your short answer on this topic in the application. These should be outside of or in addition to your research project.

If there is other information you could not fit in the Statement of Grant Purpose (such as how this connects to your professional goals, plans for host community engagement), you can include it here.

### **Open Research/Study Grant Guidance**

#### **Research Grant: Statement of Grant Purpose**

Be sure to address the following points in your Statement of Grant Purpose:

- What exactly do you propose to do? This should be clearly stated in the first or, at the latest, the second paragraph. What is important, significant, or innovative about the project? What are the specific research goals and methodologies? You need to get very specific.
- With whom do you propose to work and how will this person(s) and affiliation be of help to you?
- When will you carry out the project? Include a rough timeline of your research activities.
- Where do you propose to conduct your work, and why was this location chosen?
- What are your qualifications for carrying out this project? Draw from your professional and student academic experiences.
- How will your project help further your academic or professional development?
- What is your plan for host community engagement *outside* of your research project or study? If you don't have room here, you may include in the Personal Statement (PS). Yes, you discuss in the short answer section, but should also be woven into an essay.

#### **Study Grant: Statement of Grant Purpose**

Respond to these questions (directly from the application component section of the application):

- What exactly do you propose to do? This should be clearly stated in the first or, at the latest, the second paragraph. You need to get specific. Do not paraphrase website copy.

- Why do you want to do this degree at this institution? What is important or significant about this degree program and its faculty? What are the features of the program that are relevant and important to you? If there is a thesis component, what might you work on and with whom? What distinguishes this program from others?
- Have you been in contact with a faculty member in the program and discussed your suitability for it?
- Why do you want to pursue the proposed program in this particular country? What are your reasons for selecting a particular institution? What about the region? Why is that of interest?
- Do you have the requisite academic background for the proposed program (coursework, research, relevant skills/experience, GPA if relevant)?
- How will you gain a better understanding of the people and cultures of this country? Demonstrate your commitment through volunteer and extra-curricular plans.
- Do you have sufficient language skills to successfully complete the program?
- What are your qualifications for carrying out this project? Draw from your professional and student academic experiences.
- How will your project help further your academic or professional development?
- What is your plan for host community engagement *outside* of your research project or study? If you don't have room here, you may include in the Personal Statement.