



Commission for Educational Exchange between the United States and Sweden

Information and Eligibility Requirements for the Fulbright Program

Fulbright Program and Grant Information

As one of the largest and most prestigious international exchange programs in the world today, the Fulbright Program's main objective is to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other nations through the sharing of ideas, knowledge, skills, and individual experiences. Over the past sixty years, the Fulbright Program has provided over 279,000 participants from 150 countries around the world the opportunity to share ideas, promote joint understanding of cultures, and learn about political and economic institutions. Sweden and the U.S. have been participating in the successful exchange of scholars and students since 1952.

Students are chosen based on their academic merit and leadership potential. The Fulbright Program expects their grantees to demonstrate outstanding academic performance and actively contribute to the promotion of mutual understanding as unofficial "ambassadors" of their country. Many Fulbright grantees are early-career professionals who will return to Sweden or the U.S. to assume leadership positions, often working at universities or in government service.

The Swedish Fulbright Commission issues grants to outstanding Swedish and American students and scholars who embody the mission of the Fulbright program. Grants are available for graduate study at universities in the United States for master's, doctoral or non-degree programs for an entire academic year. Grantees will receive cash awards of SEK 25,000 - 200,000 from the Fulbright Commission, and will be eligible for additional financial aid from U.S. universities.

The Fulbright Commission will apply for admission and for supplementary financial assistance at the grantees' preferred U.S. universities. Awards from institutions in the United States vary in amount, depending upon a grantee's qualifications and field of study, and there is no guarantee that every grantee will succeed in winning additional financial aid nor that all costs for the academic year will be covered.

Applications will be accepted in all fields, except medicine (not including Public Health or medical research), dentistry, and veterinary medicine. Preference will be given to candidates who have not recently studied for an extended period of time at a university in the United States.

Eligibility Requirements for Swedish Applicants

- Excellent academic record
- Swedish or E.U. university degree completed prior to departure for the U.S., not just the equivalent number of points
- Fluency in English
- Swedish citizenship
- To spend the entire academic year at a university in the U.S., not just one semester



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In the following cases, you are NOT eligible to apply for a Swedish Fulbright graduate student grant:

- If you do not have your Swedish or E.U. university degree prior to departure to the U.S.
- If you hold dual citizenship with the U.S., or are a resident of the U.S., or if you have a "green card"
- If you have already started your graduate studies in the United States

Duration of Degrees: The length of your degree program may exceed the available funding and sponsorship limits of your Fulbright grant. The requirements for completing academic work toward a degree vary depending upon the degree desired, the candidate's academic background and the regulations of the individual U.S. institution to which the candidate is admitted. It is usually not possible to obtain a degree in one academic year (except for LL.M students).

Degree Requirements:

- Master's degree candidates must have completed a Bachelors degree or Masters degree (or the equivalent of) to apply. Although the minimum time required for a Master's degree is one academic year, a student should expect to spend from at least one summer session to an additional academic year to complete the academic requirements. Programs for a Masters degree in Law (LL.M) are for one year.
- Visiting Student Researchers must be currently enrolled in a Ph.D. program in Sweden and must have already developed a Ph.D. dissertation topic. The primary objective is one year of research with a limitation of one or two courses.
- Ph.D. degree candidates must have at least two to three academic years beyond the Master's degree and have published work in addition to the Masters thesis. However, many doctoral students find four or five years necessary, and in some cases even longer. Admission at the Ph.D. level is highly competitive.

Application Information

Online applications and instructions will be available in the beginning of February at:
<https://apply.embark.com/student/fulbright/international/20/default.asp>

NOTE: You must read the online instructions prior to filling out the application. You can access the instructions once you have registered and logged in at the above website.

Applications and ALL supplemental documents must be received at the Fulbright Commission by the deadline date. Applications and supplemental documents received after the deadline will NOT be accepted. Preliminary notification of awards will be made by the end of June.

Finalists will be required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and depending on the field of study, either the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT). Tests are not required to be taken by the time of the application; however, high test scores will strengthen the candidate's application to the Fulbright program, and increase placement opportunities at a preferred university.

Grantees in law will be required take the TOEFL test only. Costs for the above tests will be covered by the Fulbright Commission for selected finalists.



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CV: The prospective applicant should prepare a CV. Many resources are available online and provide writing and organizing tips for academic CVs. If possible, please limit the CV to two or three pages. The CV should be clear and simple. Dates should be written in the American way: *mm/dd/yyyy*. The CV should be formatted to include bullets and shortened descriptions of your professional experience. Furthermore, include proper headings and titles for your academic and professional work experience. It is recommended to incorporate any published works, volunteer organizations or professional organizations the applicant is involved with, and to add other extra-curricular activities or personal interests outside of academic and professional experiences.

Application Essays: The applicant will be asked to prepare a Study Objectives essay and a Personal Statement for the application. The essays are one of the most essential and important aspects of the application. If the applicant meets all the requirements to apply for the Fulbright Program, it is advisable to begin working on your essays in a Word document, which can be uploaded into the application later.

Helpful hints for writing the essays: Do not repeat verbatim parts of your Study Objectives in your Personal Statement, nor list dates and facts that can be covered in your CV. In your Personal Statement you should comment on the number of years of practical experience already completed in the field in which you will do academic work in the U.S. Please do not mention specific U.S. universities at which you would like to study.

- The Study/Research Objective Essay: You should take great care to write a clear and very detailed description of the program you want to pursue. Clearly identify the area(s) within your field of study in which you want to specialize or concentrate. If there is specific research that you want to accomplish, please describe. Treat this question as if you were competing for a job or research position against hundreds of applicants.
- Personal Statement: This is a narrative statement, written in first person, in which you can include information about your education, practical experience, special interests, career plans, and your purpose in applying for study in the U.S. It should not be a mere listing of dates and facts. It should be well organized, concise and well written. This exercise allows the selection committee to measure your writing skills and also provides you with an opportunity to share those personal, academic and professional characteristics you feel important to emphasize in your application.

Important: Leave a 1½ inch (4cm) margin at the top of every page of the essays to allow space for the header that will appear on the print version of your application.



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Application Checklist

Your application is not considered complete until the Fulbright Office receives your submitted online application (including the uploaded reference letters) and all your supporting documentation by mail on or before the application deadline (see website for details).

The following must be mailed to the Fulbright Office:

- One printed copy of your Fulbright Online Application
- The Fulbright Cover Sheet located on the Fulbright website at <http://www.fulbright.se/Grants/index.html>
- Information Concerning Foreign Student Academic Record Form*
- Transcript Release Form (if applicable)*
- The Signature Form*
- Certified copies of official academic transcripts from all post-secondary schools attended
- Copies of diplomas for all post-secondary schools attended, and original English translations (when necessary)

* These forms are available through the online application system.