BEFORE WE GET STARTED …

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FULBRIGHT

CRAFTING A COMPETITIVE PROJECT STATEMENT

Today's Host:

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TODAY'S WEBINAR: WHAT TO EXPECT

- A brief overview of the Fulbright Scholar Program
- Advice about preparing a strong project statement
- A look at materials on the CIES website www.cies.org
- An opportunity to ask questions! Type any question into the question module on your screen. We will do our best to answer as many questions as possible at the end of the presentation.

Senator J. William Fulbright (1905-1995)

"In the long course of history, having people who understand your thought is much greater security than another submarine."

FULBRIGHT

CIES Council for International Exchange of Scholars
a division of the Institute of International Education

General Facts About the Fulbright Scholar Program

- Established in 1946
- Sends U.S. academics and professionals overseas
- Brings scholars and professionals from abroad to the U.S.
- Sponsored by U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
- Administered by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES)

The "Core" Fulbright Program

- Over 800 awards each year for U.S. applicants
- Teaching, Research, Teaching and Research combinations
- Lengths vary from 3 to 12 months
- Types vary: discipline specific awards and All Discipline awards
- Awards based on requests from host country and institutions in each country

Eligibility Requirements

- U.S. citizenship
- A Ph.D. or equivalent professional/terminal degree in your field
- For professionals and artists outside academia, recognized professional standing and substantial accomplishments
- Teaching experience as required by award
- Limits apply to prior Fulbright Scholar grantees

THE PROJECT STATEMENT

- Project statement is a key part of a successful application package

- Take it seriously
  - Content is important
  - So is the style of presentation
    - Neat
    - Clear communication; well-written sentences
    - Tone – (e.g., be careful using “I”)

- Three “Cs” rule
  - Complete
  - Clear
  - Compelling
- Do your homework: research host country and institution and award particulars
- Tell the reviewers why you seek the experience and in this particular place
- For Teaching/Research awards, amount of attention in proposal to respective activities should match award description

The Teaching Project Statement: What's the purpose of it anyway?

- Self-introduction to the reviewers.
- Written job interview or an
- Opportunity to anticipate and provide answers to the questions reviewers will have about you.
- For example:
  - Why you are interested in a Fulbright and why in this particular place?
  - What professional experiences and skills do you offer a host institution and host country?
  - What do you hope to gain from the experience, i.e., the lasting impact on you?
  - How adaptable are you? How well will you deal with challenging situations?

TEACHING AWARDS

Describe

- What you propose to teach
- What related courses you have taught
- How you will adapt the material and teaching style
  - To students' English language skills
  - To a different culture and academic setting
- Why you are suited to this award
- Draw attention to relevant expertise and experience (not just academic)
- Show evidence of flexibility and adaptability
- Why you want the experience of teaching in this particular country

RESEARCH AWARDS

EXPLAIN or DESCRIBE

- What you will do – in detail
- How you will do the research i.e., the methodology
- What is the key theme (or themes) of the research
- Why this research is needed
  - What new knowledge or new interpretation will it provide?
  - How will it contribute to the host country & the U.S. and to the discipline?
- Why it must be done in this country
- How will you handle, if applicable, conducting research in a foreign language in which you are not fluent
- How will the results/findings be disseminated

ESSENTIAL FOR ALL APPLICATIONS

- **Project statement must explain**
  - **What the applicant proposes to do**
  - **How it will be done**
  - **Why it is important to do it**
  - **Why the applicant wants to do it**

SOME CAUTIONS

- Limit discussion of project background; use bibliography instead
- Know that collaborative projects are more compelling
- Compatibility with the culture and politics of the host country
- Scope of work and grant period requested are in sync

"WHY/BECAUSE" TOOL

- Critique your project statement objectively
- Anticipate the "why" a reviewer might ask
- Supply the "because"
- Examples of errors – Applicant proposes
  - Work in a particular facility, but no explanation for this choice is provided
  - Conduct interviews but does not explain who is to be interviewed, why this group, what the reach of the protocol will be or what questions will be asked, etc.
  - Use a particular body of materials but does not explain the relation of this resource to the project

WHAT REVIEWERS EVALUATE

- Background to do the project
- Innovative project and methodology
- Feasibility
  - Can this kind of work be done in the host country?
  - Do the scope of work and the grant period requested match?
  - Language skills or a plan for assistance
- Collaboration with host country scholars
- Value to discipline, scholar, host country and institution
- Demonstrated need to be in country for project
- Dissemination plans

ON-LINE HELP AT WWW.CIES.ORG

U.S. SCHOLARS
CORE FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR PROGRAM

Explore Fulbright• Who's Eligible • FAQs • **Catalog of Awards**

Preparing to Apply• Tips For Applying • Content Guidelines • Application Deadline • Review Criteria • Additional Information • Catalog of Awards

Application (Due August 2)• Catalog of Awards • Content Guidelines • Checklist • Application • Notification Timeline

- U.S. SCHOLARS - **CORE FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR PROGRAM** > Content Guidelines
- My Fulbright >
- •Project Statement > Guidance for Your Project Statement (Samples)
- •Curriculum Vitae or Resume
- •Course Outlines or Syllabi
- •Select Bibliography – Research Awards
- •Additional Materials for Applicants in the Arts, Architecture, Writing and Journalism

Q&A

Note: I will to answer as many questions as I can during today's broadcast. If I do not get to your question, please send me an email at ariess@iie.org or visit our staff listing at www.cies.org and contact a program officer directly.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME TODAY

- **Fulbright Scholar Webinars are held each Wednesday at 2 PM Eastern (through July 2010), and include World Region Workshops and Application Workshops.**

- **Visit www.cies.org for the schedule of future Webinars and a schedule of Campus Workshop.**