

FULBRIGHT



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Social Media, Press, and Blogging Guidance

Should you decide to share your Fulbright experiences publicly via social media (and we hope you will), there are a few points that you should keep in mind:

- While participants in all U.S. Department of State-sponsored academic exchange scholarships have full academic and artistic freedom to write, publish and create, they are also expected to maintain a standard of conduct that is in keeping with the spirit and intent of the Fulbright Program – to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.
- Any Fulbright grantee who publicly posts inappropriate or offensive material on the Internet in relation to the Fulbright Program may be subject to revocation or termination of their grant. Be aware that what is deemed culturally acceptable in the many countries (or, more specifically, on the Internet in many countries) may not be received well overseas. Describing the challenges of living in a foreign country is fine, but please refrain from using disparaging language to describe the country you are in and the people you live and work with.
- Always be safe – do not publicly give out or share publicly multiple methods of contact (usually an email address will suffice) or home addresses, regular routes (such as how you get to class or where you jog every day). Change your passwords regularly and check/update security settings – particularly on Facebook, as security settings often change with little or no notice.
- Ask other people or Fulbright grantees for permission before using their names or publishing their photos, as they may have their own reasons for not wanting a public profile.

Finally, if you decide that you would like to blog your Fulbright experience, we have two requests:

- 1) We hope that you will let us know what you're doing by sharing your blog on one of our social media sites or emailing us – we love to follow your adventures!
- 2) Please post a disclaimer somewhere on the blog stating that you are not officially representing the U.S. Government or the Fulbright Program.

Some sample language can include:

"This site/blog (enter site's title and address) is not an official Fulbright Program site. The views expressed on this site are entirely those of its author (or insert name here) and do not represent the views of the Fulbright Program, the U.S. Department of State or any of its partner organizations."

During your grant, you may be asked to speak with local press on your experiences and perspectives.

You are not required to speak to the press. If you would like to speak to the press, here are some basic guidelines for making use of media and press while you are on your grant.

- You can always say no. If you do not feel comfortable speaking to media and press for ANY reason, simply say no.
- If you wish to speak to media and press but you are concerned about certain privacy issues (you don't want to have your face shown or your last name used), we can work with you and the news outlet to try and accommodate your needs.
- When in doubt contact your Program Officer at IIE, CIES, AMIDEAST, LAPSAU or other cooperating agency. They will be able to assist you with in-country media and press.
- Let us know if you receive media placement – we love keeping track of how your grant is going, and often feature your interviews/stories/etc. via our social media platforms. Contact us at fulbright@state.gov.