FULBRIGHT VISITING SCHOLAR PROGRAM - SWITZERLAND

Instructions for Completing the Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program Application

Fulbright Program Office Contact Information:

swissuniversities
Scholarship Service
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3001 Bern
Tel. +41 (0) 31 335 07 48
Website: www.auslandstipendien.ch / www.bourses-pour-etranger.ch
E-mail: fulbright@swissuniversities.ch

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Read all instructions carefully before completing the application

Learn requirements for submitting an application

Eligibility requirements

• Swiss citizenship
  If you hold another citizenship you must contact the Fulbright Commission or U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section in your citizenship country.

• Doctoral degree or equivalent professional training or experience at the time of application. For professionals and artists outside academe, recognized professional standing and substantial professional accomplishment is expected.

• A detailed project statement or proposed activity at a U.S. institution

• English proficiency appropriate to the proposed research project to be carried out in the United States.

In the following cases, you are not eligible to apply for a Fulbright visiting scholar grant:

• You hold dual citizenship with the United States, are a resident of the United States, or hold a "green card."

• You have not obtained a Ph.D. degree, or are expecting to obtain a Ph.D. degree, before fall 2017.

• You have recent U.S. experience (more than an aggregate period of 9 months in the United States during the past 5 years)

• You are currently studying, researching, or lecturing at a U.S. university.

• You are currently living or working in the United States.

Applicants who meet the requirements above should ensure that they meet the following criteria before applying:

• Scholar/Professional Status: Academic candidates must have a Ph.D. conferred prior to starting their grant. Professional candidates must have a minimum of 5 years professional experience in their field of study. Visual and performing arts applicants may be exempt from the requirements to have a third level qualification if they have 5 or more years of professional qualifications and or experience.

• A clearly defined project statement of proposed activity at a U.S. institution: The proposed project should contribute to the development of knowledge in your field and must be effectively implemented within a 3-10 months time frame in the U.S. Applicants must choose 1 of the 3 categories of scholar awards:
  o Lecturing: If the primary purpose of the project is to teach or team-teach at least one full semester course. Applicants will be required to submit course syllabi along with a confirmed invitation to lecture.
Research: If the primary purpose of the project is to conduct research. Applicants will be required to submit a research bibliography.

Lecturing/Research: If the project will include significant portions of both lecturing and research as defined above. Candidates will be required to outline both activities in their project statement, as well as submit course syllabi and a research bibliography.

- Fulbright Scholars enter the United States on an Exchange Visitor (J-1) visa under a U.S. Department of State program and are subject to the two-year home-country residency requirement associated with the J-1 visa. NOTE: Scholars and their dependents who have held J-visas with sponsorship of more than six months are not eligible to reenter as J-1 researchers or lecturers for 12 months following the program sponsorship end date. In addition, scholars who have previously held a J visa in the professor or research scholar category are not eligible for sponsorship again in those two categories for a period of 24 months following the program sponsorship end date.

- Sound physical and mental health: Those selected for a Fulbright grant are required to submit a Medical History and Examination Report before their grants can be finalized.

Grants are not for the principal purpose of:
- Attending conferences
- Completing doctoral dissertations
- Travel and consultation at multiple institutions, or
- Clinical medical research involving patient contact

STEP 1: Record user ID and password in a safe place

The application must be done online at https://apply.embark.com/student/fulbright/scholars/30/. Please bookmark this link and always access your application from this page!

The e-mail address you use to register for the Fulbright Visiting Scholar application is your user ID. When you create your user account for the online application by completing the registration you also create your own password. Keep this information in a safe place. You may log in and out of the online application as frequently as needed. While you cannot change your registered e-mail for the application, if necessary, you can change your password by clicking on ‘Update My Account’ at the top of the application Home page. Note: When registering, certain information will populate on the Application Form, including name and home mailing address; you will have the opportunity to update as you complete the Application Form.

On the registration screen, click Change Password in the lower left corner.
STEP 2: Complete the application form

To ensure correct completion of the application, carefully read the detailed instructions provided in these guidelines. The entire application must be submitted online.

You do not need to complete the application in one session. You can re-enter the application anytime and edit it. Please remember to save your work frequently. However, once you submit your application you can no longer make any changes to the application. If you find significant errors or omissions, immediately contact swissuniversities so that your application can be released back to you for corrections.

Some helpful “tips”:

- Use 10-point or larger font on all parts of the application.
- Avoid using all capital letters when answering items, e.g., name, address, etc. It is better to use upper and lower case, e.g., Ron Smith.
- You can copy and paste information into all text boxes.
- In the text boxes, you must limit your responses to the space provided. Information that exceeds the space provided will **not** display or print. If what you have typed or copied exceeds the size of the box, you must edit it.
- Often specific instructions for completing a question or item will be provided in the application. Please read all instructions carefully.
- You can review each page of the application in its PDF format by clicking on the Preview button on the upper right-hand corner. Closing out of the PDF view will bring you back to your application.
- Some questions are ‘required’. In other words, you will not be able to complete and submit your application until all required items are completed. When you click on the Application Inspector button on the Home page, your application will be checked for completeness. You will be prompted to enter any missing information on required questions.
- Proofread the entire application before submitting it. The application should be free of grammatical and spelling errors.
- Treat the application as a unitary whole, with all parts reinforcing the project statement. The flow should be orderly: your capabilities should be listed in the application, further documented in the curriculum vitae and confirmed in the references. Use the project statement to make the parts interact by referring to items in the curriculum vitae or research bibliography. Without being redundant or simplistic, you should make it easier for the reviewer to find the key pieces of information you wish to convey.

PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS

1. **U.S. Permanent Residency or Citizenship**
   If you have or are applying for U.S. permanent residency or are a U.S. citizen, you are ineligible for the Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program.

2. **Home Country/Country Applying from**
   Make sure that you properly identified Switzerland as the country through which you are applying.

3. **Program**
   Select Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program from the pull down menu

4. **Category of Grant**
   Select the appropriate value from the pull down menu for the type of grant you are seeking: lecture (for teaching opportunities), research or lecture/research (for teaching/research opportunities).
   - **Lecture (Teaching)**: If the primary purpose of your project is to teach or team-teach at least one full semester course. Note: You are required to submit course syllabi along with a confirmed invitation to lecture.
   - **Research**: If the primary purpose of your project is to conduct research. Note: You are required to submit a research bibliography.
   - **Lecture/Research (Teaching/Research)**: If your project will include significant portions of both teaching and research as defined above. Note: You are required to outline both activities in your project statement, as well as submit course syllabi and a research bibliography.
PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. **Home Country/Country Applying from**
   This will auto-populate from the selection you made during your application registration.

2. **Program**
   This will auto-populate from the selection you made during your application registration.

3. **Special award name (if any)**
   none

4. **Category of Grant**
   This will auto-populate from the selection you made during your application registration.

5. **Title**
   Select the most appropriate title from the drop-down menu.

6. **Family Name, First Name, Middle Name**
   This will auto-populate based on information during registrations. Please review and ensure that your name appears exactly as it does on your passport. This spelling will be used on all documents related to your grant and immigration paperwork.

7. **Gender**
   Select your gender from the drop-down menu.

8. **Country of Citizenship**
   Select Switzerland from the drop-down menu.

9. **Country of Permanent Residence**
   Select the country in which you permanently reside from the drop-down menu.

10. **U.S. Permanent Residency**
    This will auto-populate from the selection you made during your application registration and cannot be changed. Applicants who have U.S. permanent residency status or are seeking it are ineligible for the Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program.

11. **Date of Birth (Month/Day/Year), City/Country of Birth**
    • Select the birth month, day and year from the drop-down menus.
    • Enter your city of birth in English. (Please do NOT indicate your place of origin as mentioned in the passport, but the location where you were born.)
    • Select your country of birth from the drop-down menu.

12. **U.S. Social Security Number**
    Enter your U.S. Social Security Number, if obtained during a previous stay in the United States.

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

13. **Current Position and Start Date, Department, Institution**
    • Select your current position title from the drop-down menu. If you do not find your position title, please select Other from the drop-down menu and type your title in the text box in English.
    • List the name of your institution, department or office, city, and province/state in English.
    • If you are an independent scholar or currently unemployed please click the 'independent scholar/unaffiliated' box and enter your residential address.

ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS

14. **Academic Credentials**
    • State the degree earned and its equivalency in English (Ph.D., Doctorate, Masters, etc.). Include only your highest terminal degree(s) here. You may include a maximum of three academic credentials.
    • Enter the Institution name where you obtained the degree.
    • Select country, discipline, name of diploma/degree, date received from the drop-down menus.
15. **Significant Professional Accomplishments and Publications**
- Professional accomplishments may include teaching and research awards, compositions and exhibitions, etc.
- Do not write “See curriculum vitae.” List accomplishments and publications as instructed below.
- List up to three principal publications with the title, publication date and publisher’s name. (A complete listing of all publications should be included in your curriculum vitae.) Use the following format for bibliographic citation and distinguish between books and articles: for books, give title (underlined), publisher and date; for articles, give title (in quotation marks), journal or collection (underlined) and date.
- Limit your list to a maximum of five accomplishments and publications that can be listed within the space provided.
- 700 character limit, use Roman characters only.
- For space consideration, separate each item with a semicolon or number rather than beginning a new line; avoid using hard returns in your response.

16. **Previous Fulbright Grant(s)**
Include information on previous Fulbright grants awarded, including the year and award type.

**PROJECT DETAILS**

17. **Project Title**
- The project title should succinctly describe the focus of the award activity. For example:
  - Evaluating Fundamental Tax Reforms in a Globalizing World
  - Crashworthiness and Rollover Stability of Heavy-Duty Tanker Trucks
- For teaching/research awards, distinguish between both components, separating them with a semicolon.
- Maximum 160 characters

18. **Summary of Project Statement**
- In a few sentences, provide a concise overview that easily allows non-specialists to appreciate the significance of the project and any potential contributions to the field.
- 700 character limit, use Roman characters only.
- This abstract is meant to serve as a brief summary of the more detailed project statement.
- Avoid using hard returns in your response.

19. **Proposed Program Length and Dates**
Indicate as precisely as possible the period during which you intend to carry out your proposed program in the United States. It is recommended that you plan your program during the U.S. academic year (generally September through May), when your U.S. colleagues are more likely to be available.

20. **Academic Discipline and Primary Specialization**
Select the most appropriate field of study and specialization from the drop down menu and Find Specialization feature.

21. **Specialization(s)**
List subfields within the broad academic discipline in which you specialize (for example, environmental law, history of modern cinema, class and ethnicity in politics, women and social policies in African societies, Chinese religion and philosophy).

**PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION**

22. **Professional Travel and/or Residence Abroad During the Last Five Years**
List the most relevant professional travel and/or residence abroad during the last five years. Be sure to include residence in the United States during the last five years. If you entered the United States on a J visa, please indicate the J-visa category (professor, research scholar, student, specialist, short-term scholar, etc.) and provide copies of your previous DS-2019 on the appropriate attachment page, if available.
23. Professional Memberships
List the four most relevant cultural, educational, and professional organizations to which you belong.

REFERENCES

24. Identification of Referees

• List the names and contact information of three persons from whom you have requested a letter of reference.
• See “Reference Reports” at the end of this document for more detailed information.
• References must be completed in English.

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

25. Self-Assessment of English Proficiency

• Indicate your personal assessment of your level of competence in English.
• The TOEFL is not required.

PREFERRED HOST INSTITUTION

26. Preferred Host Institution(s)
If you have already made arrangements with a U.S. host institution, you must attach a copy of your letter of appointment to the application on the attachment page, Letter(s) of Invitation. Non-academic affiliations, while sometimes possible, require additional review and approval is not always granted. If you are expecting a letter of invitation that has not yet arrived, note the date you expect it to arrive. Upon receipt, forward the invitation to swissuniversities immediately. If arrangements for an appointment or affiliation have not been confirmed, list any preferences you have in order of priority including detailed reasons for your choice (for example, prior acquaintance or correspondence with a U.S. scholar; relevance of the U.S. scholar’s work to your own research; reputation of the academic department or research center). Your preferences will be followed, although no assurance can be given regarding placement at the institutions you suggest. If you cannot find the name of your preferred institution in the search menu, search for and select ‘Other’ then type in the institution’s name in the text box provided. IIE/CIES advises against dual or multiple affiliations unless absolutely necessary. If the academic program you propose requires affiliation with more than one institution, please justify and indicate the approximate length of time needed at each.

CONTACT/FAMILY INFORMATION

27. Home Mailing Address

• This will auto-populate based on information during registrations. Please review and update your home mailing address, as required.
• Select the country from the drop-down menu.

28. Emergency Contact Information

• Enter contact information in the event of an emergency.
• Select the country from the drop-down menu.

29. Marital Status

Select the appropriate value from the pull-down menu.

30. Accompanying Dependents

Please list all dependents (defined as spouse and unmarried children under the age of 21) who will accompany you on your grant. List names as they appear on their passports. Attach all accompanying dependents’ passports in the document upload section. If your dependent(s) have previously entered the United States on a J-1 or J-2 visa, please include a copy of the DS-2019, which indicates the J-visa category of sponsorship (professor, research, scholar, student, specialist, short-term scholar, etc.).
If you intend to have dependents join you for part of your grant, but you are not yet certain whether they will accompany you, please list them on the application and keep swissuniversities informed of any changes. Those selected for a Fulbright grant will be required to submit copies of accompanying dependent’s passport data pages and information about any residence in the United States for the 12 months immediately preceding the grant start date to their local Fulbright organization in order to confirm eligibility and facilitate the issuance of forms required for visa application. Dependents who are U.S. citizens will not be issued J-2 visas and must travel on U.S. passports.

ALTERNATE FUNDING

31. Alternate Funding
Please list all non-Fulbright funding you expect to receive during your grant (sabbatical funding or other paid leave from your university, personal savings, etc.). Please list funding amounts in U.S. dollars and attach your supporting documentation/financial support statement in the document upload section. Please note: All supporting documents must be in English or accompanied by a translation, i.e. from the bank, or a translator. Translation done by yourself would also be sufficient.

SURVEY

32. Please mark the check box and, if necessary, type in the text field how you learned about the Fulbright Scholar Program.

33. Please select from the drop-down menu.

34. Please select all that apply from the drop-down menu.

PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT

35. Physical Impairment
This information is gathered for statistical purposes and to ensure appropriate placement and accommodations. The Fulbright Scholar Program does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin or physical impairment.

SIGNATURE
To electronically sign the application form, please type in your first and last name and the date.

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STEP 3: Documents

THE PROJECT STATEMENT
The project statement is the most important component of the Fulbright application. Scholars with the most compelling, theoretically sound, well-written, feasible proposals are generally recommended for awards. Sometimes those with outstanding professional achievements assume that a brief, general project statement will be sufficient; it is not. To ensure a competitive application, your proposed project, as well as the strategy for completing it, should be thoroughly explained in three to five single-spaced pages.
Submit a detailed project statement of no more than five single-spaced pages (3,500 words).

Format
➢ Do not exceed the character limit of the proposal. Including irrelevant or extraneous material may divert attention from the project statement.
➢ Begin the project statement with your name, country and the project title at the top of page one. At the top of each subsequent page, type your name and country.
➢ Organize your proposal in order of the following points, which appear in bold print, and use them as headings for sections of text in your statement.
**Guidance for a research or program and curriculum development project**

**Background:** Introduce the research topic. Place the project in academic or professional context by referring to major works by others on the subject.

**Objectives:** Clearly define the aims of the project.

**Methodology:** Describe the project. Explain the approach, methods and plan you will use (for example, interviews, library or archival research, or laboratory experiments). Indicate whether the proposed research is quantitative or qualitative.

**Significance:** Explain the importance of the project for the field, your home country and your own professional development. Indicate what effect you expect the opportunity to have on your teaching or professional work in your home country. (For example: new approaches to curriculum planning, student advising or pedagogy; expanding knowledge in the field through collaboration with U.S. colleagues). Describe briefly the expected impact of your participation on your home institution, community or professional field.

**Evaluation and Dissemination:** Describe plans for assessment and distribution of research results in your home country and elsewhere.

**Justification for Residence in the United States for the Proposed Project:** Indicate why it is necessary to conduct the research onsite in the United States.

**Duration:** Explain how the project can be completed within the time period proposed.

**English Proficiency:** Describe your schooling in English, use of English and competence level in speaking, reading and writing.

**Other:** If applicable, indicate the quantity, format and transportation requirements for any botanical, zoological or mineral samples that you will need to bring to the United States for analysis.

**Guidance for a lecture (teaching) proposal**

**Teaching Experience:** Describe the range of courses you have taught, including the teaching methods used. Indicate your involvement, if any, in curriculum planning, thesis guidance and administrative responsibilities. Explain how your experience will be relevant to your proposed teaching in the United States.

**Proposed Teaching:** Explain what you propose to teach in the United States.

**English Proficiency:** Describe your schooling in English, use of English and level of competence in lecturing and speaking.

**Expected Outcomes:** Indicate what effect you expect the opportunity to have on your teaching or professional work in your home country (for example, new approaches to curriculum planning, student advising or pedagogy; expanding knowledge in the field through collaboration with U.S. colleagues). Describe briefly the expected impact of your participation on your home institution, community or professional field.

**Additional content recommendations**

In addition to following the format carefully, the following advice has been passed on from former Fulbright Scholars, review committees and IIE/CIES staff that can assist you in preparing a more competitive and ultimately successful Fulbright application:

− Submit a clear and complete project statement that introduces you professionally to your colleagues in the United States. The best applications are those that reflect the applicant’s purpose and intent.
− Make sure that your qualifications and expertise match the objectives in your project statement. You should be able to show that you are qualified to accomplish what you are proposing to do.
− Emphasize how your project will benefit the host institution or other scholars in your field both in your country and in the United States. Address in your project statement the ways in which you will use the experience upon your return. What is the likely impact of your experience abroad? How will you use what you learned upon your return, professionally and personally?
− Discuss any preparatory steps you have taken or will take before starting your grant. For example, if you plan to bring samples of plants, chemicals, human tissue, etc., indicate that you have discussed your plans with your prospective host, if known, in order to determine what clearance and approval processes are needed.
− Connect your past experience to what you are preparing to do if you receive an award. Explain the project’s significance and its importance to the field. Focus on what can be reasonably accomplished during the period of the grant.

− Do not assume that your suitability for the project is self-evident. Your standing in your field may not be well known to reviewers. You need to make a case for yourself based on your past experience and current scholarly endeavors. Explain the significance of your project in language that will be understood by reviewers from outside your field.

− Do not stress only how a Fulbright grant will benefit you or your career. Remember that the program is intended to foster mutual understanding between cultures and nations.

− Be specific in describing your previous work and in laying out the nature of your proposed Fulbright activity. A frequent failing in applications is that the proposal is underdeveloped or too imprecise to give reviewers a clear sense of the endeavor.

**Style recommendations**

− Express what you can bring to the program clearly and succinctly. Think of the basic questions that need to be answered: Why should I apply for a Fulbright award to come to the United States? If selected, what will I do and how will I do it? What preparations have I made to complete the project? What can I contribute to the Fulbright Program? What will the results of my participation be? Include only the most pertinent information in forming your responses so as not to exceed the page restrictions. At the same time, you should avoid writing a proposal so brief that it will be difficult for the reviewer to understand the project.

− Emphasize key points in the first paragraph of the proposal. Reviewers examine many Fulbright applications, and having to search for the main points of the proposed activity is not helpful. You should grab the reviewer’s attention quickly and state clearly what you want to do, why it is important and how you will do it. You should use the rest of the proposal to support your statements in the opening paragraphs.

− Pay attention to style in your proposal. You may want to use the first person, but you should avoid flooding your proposal with “I’s” or referring to yourself in the third person.

− Keep your proposal simple and straightforward so that an educated reader from another discipline can understand it.

**THE CURRICULUM VITAE**

The curriculum vitae describes academic credentials and demonstrates a record of scholarly achievements (document should not exceed six pages). When composing a curriculum vitae, it is important to include:

− Education (universities attended, degrees earned and dates received)

− Professional positions held

− Courses taught and other services provided to students and the home institution

− Publications (provide full citations and list them starting with the most recent)

− Other professional activities, such as workshops, seminars and consultations

− Membership and activities in professional associations

− Professional honors, awards and fellowships

− Community service

The application asks for similar information, but provides limited space for answers. In the curriculum vitae, you should expand upon these topics to present more completely your accomplishments.

**LETTERS OF INVITATION**

Letters of invitation should be typed on institutional letterhead and signed. Scanned copies should be attached to page nine of the online application.

Invitations do not ensure selection for an award. If an invitation arrives after the application deadline, contact swissuniversities to arrange for its late submission.
ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY
Please upload English language proficiency results and/or TOEFL scores here, if available. The TOEFL is not required.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT/BUDGET
Please attach supporting documentation as described in the section ‘Alternate Funding” (number 31).

DS-2019
If you, or your accompanying dependents, have previously entered the United States on a J-1 or J-2 visa, please provide copies of previously issued DS-2019(s).

PASSPORT COPY
Please upload copies of your current passport and those of your accompanying dependents.

BIBLIOGRAPHY
For research proposals, provide a list of one to three pages of references relevant to the proposed research. Required for research and teaching/research applicants.
For teaching proposals, provide up to 10 pages of sample syllabi for courses you propose to teach or have taught. Required for teaching and teaching/research applicants.

LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM HOME INSTITUTION
not required

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION
Please upload a copy of your PhD degree.

STEP 4: References

REFERENCE REPORTS
Candid, frank reference reports or letters of reference help reviewers place your research or teaching proposal within your home institution’s current conditions and plans for growth. References also provide evidence of your reputation within your discipline.
• You must submit three references. Do not submit more than three references.
• Please provide your referees a copy of your project statement.
• References should be from people qualified to evaluate your professional work; the abilities you bring to the proposed project; your ability to adapt to another country and culture; and the merits of the project itself.
• References can come from your home institution, but at least one of the references should be from a colleague in your field outside your home institution.
• If you have recently moved to a new home institution, one of the reference letters should be from your previous institution.
• Choose your referees carefully and contact them early. The letters of recommendation need to accompany the application as it could otherwise be weakened by an insufficient number of references.
• Do not ask someone for a letter of reference unless the person is well acquainted with your qualifications. A pro forma letter from a well-known scholar, a contact abroad or a prominent government official will carry less weight than a realistic assessment of your abilities from someone who knows you and your work well.
• References must be written in or translated into English.
• It is your responsibility to ensure that reference reports are submitted by August 8, 2016.