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Fulbright Arctic Initiative: Program Overview for Applicants

March 9, 2020

Susan Muendl, Assistant Director, Fulbright Programs, IIE
Steve Money, Deputy Director, Office of Academic and Exchange Programs, U.S. Department of State
Mission

• In partnership with 160 countries worldwide, Fulbright offers passionate and accomplished faculty, administrator, artists, journalists, lawyers, and other professionals from all backgrounds an unparalleled opportunity to study, teach, or conduct research.

• Our mission is to foster mutual understanding between nations, advance knowledge across communities, and improve lives around the world.

A Brief History

• Established in 1946 by Congress, Fulbright is the United States government’s flagship international educational and cultural exchange program.

• Fulbright is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government and administered by the Institute of International Education.
Diversity and Inclusion

Fulbright strives to ensure that it reflects the diversity of U.S. society and societies abroad. We encourage the involvement of people from traditionally underrepresented audiences in all our grants, programs and other initiatives.

Opportunities are open to people regardless of their race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, geographic location, socioeconomic status, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity.
Fulbright by the Numbers

The Fulbright Program funds over 8,000 awards annually:

- 2,200 U.S. Students
- 4,000 foreign students
- 800 U.S. scholars and administrators
- 900 visiting scholars
- 400+ language teaching assistants

Approximately 390,000 “Fulbrighters” have participated in the program since its inception in 1946, among them 33 Fulbright Arctic Scholars.
The Arctic Initiative: A Different Fulbright Model

- Multi-lateral
- Multi-disciplinary
- Interactive and responsive
- Applied
- Policy relevant
- Community involvement
- Public outreach
Fulbright Arctic: Products and Outcomes

• Original research
• Policy recommendations
• Conferences and workshops
• Leveraged funding
• Community engagement
• Post-program collaborations
Fulbright Arctic Initiative III

• Will engage a network of scholars to stimulate international collaboration on Arctic issues
• Multidisciplinary and multinational research teams will address public-policy research questions relevant to Arctic nations’ shared challenges and opportunities.
Lead Scholars will provide Fulbright Arctic Initiative Scholars:

- Intellectual leadership
- Mentoring
- Facilitate discussion and collaboration

Dr. Gregory Poelzer
Professor in the School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS) at the University of Saskatchewan, Fulbright Arctic Alumnus

Dr. Elizabeth Rink
Professor of Community Health in the Department of Health and Human Development at Montana State University, Fulbright Arctic Alumna
Fulbright Arctic Initiative III: Program Details

• 18 months: Spring 2021-Fall 2022
• Three in-person seminar meetings
• Individual Fulbright research exchange visit (1.5 – 3 months)
• Ongoing virtual and in-person collaboration
• Research Themes:
  ❖ Arctic Security & Cooperation
  ❖ Arctic Infrastructure in a Changing Environment
  ❖ Community Dimensions of Health
Research Themes

• Collaborative research will be built around three overlapping and inter-related themes:
  • Arctic Security & Cooperation
  • Arctic Infrastructure in a Changing Environment
  • Community Dimensions of Health

• Applicants will select a theme and explain how their research fits into these overarching areas of inquiry

• In addition to choosing a primary thematic area for their research and group work, applicants should identify a secondary thematic area with relevance to their work
Program Activities

During the award period of Spring 2021-Fall 2022, grantees will:

• Participate in three group seminars

• Complete a research exchange visit (minimum of 6-weeks up to 3 months)

• Collaborate virtually via regularly scheduled online meetings under the guidance of the lead scholars

• Produce policy recommendations, at least one group project product and a document about their exchange experience

• Share results of individual and collaborative research
Individual Exchange Visit

• Minimum of 6-weeks up to 3 months

• U.S. grantees will complete exchange visit in one of the 7 other Arctic countries.

• Non-U.S. grantees will complete exchange visit in the U.S.

• Letter of invitation recommended but not required
Fulbright Arctic Initiative III: Eligibility

• Open to scholars at all career stages, to include applied researchers, professionals, and Indigenous and traditional knowledge experts active in the academic, public or private sectors.

• At least four of the scholars will be selected from the United States; at least one scholar will be selected from each of the other Arctic Council member states.
Eligibility (cont.)

- Applications accepted from Arctic Council nations: United States, Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark including Greenland and the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Finland, Norway, Sweden or Russia.
- Non-U.S. applicants must be citizens of the country from which they are applying and residing in that country at the time of application.
- U.S. citizenship and permanent residency in the United States is required for U.S. applicants.
- Preference will be given to early or mid-career academics, applied researchers and/or professionals with research experience in the public, non-profit, or private sector.
- A Ph.D. or equivalent professional/terminal degree is preferred. For professionals and practitioners outside academe, recognized professional standing and substantial professional accomplishments are required.
- Non-U.S. Scholars must demonstrate a proficiency in English.
Financial Support and Benefits

• $40,000 (USD) grant award per grantee
  • Supports travel to group program meetings, travel and maintenance for the exchange visit, research materials, and assistance

• Accommodations and meals for full group seminar meetings are provided independent of the grant award

• Limited accident and sickness benefit while on exchange or participating in program activities
Application Deadlines

• U.S. Applicants:
  **TUESDAY, September 15, 2020**
  • U.S. applicants submit applications to IIE

• Non-U.S. Applicants:
  • International applicants should contact the Fulbright Commission in their home country
Timeline

• Notification of Selection: July 2020 December 2020

• Opening Group Meeting (Canada): September 2020 March 2021

• Mid-year Group Meeting (Norway TBC): June 2021 Winter 2021-22

• Individual Research Exchange Visits: Complete by August 2022

• Final Group Meeting (United States): Spring Fall 2022
Required Application Materials

• Online application form
• Project statement
• References (2)
• Language proficiency (non-U.S. applicants)
• Curriculum vitae or resume
• Bibliography
• Letter of invitation (optional)
Project Statement

The project statement is your opportunity to explain your specific strengths as a candidate to reviewers and potential hosts. It must be persuasive and compelling. Some key points the project statement should address:

• How your proposed research is connected to one of the program themes
• Your ability to perform collaborative research in a multi-disciplinary, team-based setting
• The public policy impact and practical significance of your research
• How you will integrate public outreach into your individual and team research agenda
Project Statement (cont.)

Additional points to address:

• How your personal and professional experience has prepared you for this type of program
• Why your research is important – what significance does it hold for your discipline?
• Why your research project needs to be carried out in the country you’ve selected
• How will your results be disseminated?

Please refer to the application instructions for detailed guidelines
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