Before You Begin Your U.S. Student Fulbright Application

GETTING STARTED

The best proposals begin with good ideas. Start by putting your ideas on paper, and list the goals and objectives of your project. Share your ideas with your academic advisor, professional colleagues in your field, or Fulbright Program Advisor. As you work on your proposal, consider the following questions and remember your audience. Avoid discipline-specific jargon. The individuals reading your proposal prefer you get to the point about the “who, what, when, where, why and how” of the project. In a direct and persuasive manner, address the following:

- With whom do you propose to work? Begin reaching out to researchers in your host country.
- What do you propose to do? What is exciting, new or unique about your project? What contribution will the project make to the Fulbright objective of promoting cross-cultural interaction and mutual understanding?
- When will you carry out your study or research? Include a timeline.
- Where do you propose to conduct your research? Why does the project require research abroad?
- Why do you want to do it? What makes the project significant? What will the project contribute to the field?
- How will you carry out your work? Discuss the methodology and goals in your statements.
- How will your project help further your academic or professional development?

The project statement should contain a clear commitment to and description of how you will engage with the host country community.

IS THE PROJECT FEASIBLE?

Demonstrate that the project research strategy is feasible, especially in the proposed time frame. Answer the following:

- How will the culture and politics of the host country impact your work?
- Have you already done previous research? Do you have an expert knowledge in the field?
- How do the resources of the host country support your work?
- If the project requires extensive interviewing or the use of questionnaires, how will you locate your subjects?
- Is your language facility adequate? If not, how will you accomplish your work?

Address any questions about the feasibility of the project, your background, or ability to conduct the project that may arise, directly in your statement that may arise. Enrolled students are urged to consult their professors in their major fields and their FPAs about the feasibility of their proposed projects. At-large applicants should consult qualified persons in their fields.

A FINAL WORD

Organize your statement carefully. Don’t make reviewers search for information. Have several people read and critique your statement, including a faculty advisor, a faculty member outside of your discipline, and/or colleague.

(source: https://us.fulbrightonline.org/applicants/application-tips/academic)