Getting Started

Begin by asking yourself some questions:

- Where do I want to go?
- What do I want to do there? Teach English? Do research? Get a graduate degree?
- What are the country’s specific requirements? Do I need foreign language skills? What is their preferred candidate profile? What is the duration of the stay in the host country?
- Can I gather the documents by the campus deadline? Look at all of the requested documents for your application. Application components will differ for each opportunity.
- Review several countries that you are interested in until you find the place and program that is right for you.
- As you write, present yourself as mature, flexible, and adaptable.

Statement of Purpose

- Talk about your interests.
  - Your community engagement should also stem from these interests.
- How do your interests fit into the proposal? How did you first become interested in this project?
- What fuels your drive for this project? This is the heart of your application (why do you care about this).
- Link your personal motivation to the project. Combine your interests and the project as early as possible.
- Why Fulbright?
  - How will this opportunity help you answer the questions (research-wise or professionally) you have?
  - How will looking at this issue outside of the U.S. help answer your question?
- What slice of America are you bringing to the host country?
- How will Fulbright contribute to your professional development?

Writing the Statement of Grant Purpose

Your Fulbright proposal will be reviewed by different individuals with expertise in diverse fields. Your proposal should be written for a general audience. Be specific in your application but not technical. Provide specific examples of what you will be doing abroad and how you will carry out the project. All components of your application should feed into the Statement of Grant Purpose. Your proposal is the brain and most important section of the application. As you write, keep Fulbright’s mission in mind, to create mutual understanding through exchange.

Your proposal should clearly address the following questions:

Why you?
  - What makes you prepared to carry out your proposed project? Talk about your qualifications.
  - How will this help you achieve your long-term goals?
  - What skillset will you gain from participating in this program?
  - How will this opportunity help you grow professionally?

Why this project?
  - Why is this project important?
  - Why is this a Fulbright project?
  - Does your research project make sense for this country? Why?
  - If you are applying as an ETA, your project is to teach English abroad.
  - If you are applying to a graduate degree program, why is this program a perfect fit for you?
Why this location?
- Establish a need to be in the host country.
- [Research Applicants] Why is there a need for you to do research in the host country? Is there a particular archive that you cannot access otherwise? Is there machinery that you need access to in the country? What will you not be able to do, measure, analyze, etc., if you are not in the country?
- [ETAs] Why do you want to teach English abroad? There are so many countries that need ETAs, why does this one stand out to you? Is the country’s education system interesting to you? Have you had a lifelong interest in the culture?
- [Graduate Degree Enrollment] Why is this program special? How does the program align with your professional long-term goal? How will going outside of the U.S. help answer your questions?

For Research Applicants

Start by listing the goals and objectives of your project. Share your ideas with your Academic Advisor, professional colleagues, or Fulbright Program Advisor. The individuals reading your proposal prefer you get to the point about the “who, what, when, where, why, and how” of the project. As you work on your proposal, consider the following questions and keep the reviewers in mind. Be persuasive and direct.

- **Who** do you want to work with? 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? Show reviewers you have seen the bigger picture.
- **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?
- **How** will you disseminate your research after Fulbright (think beyond your dissertation)?

Establish Feasibility

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

- How will the culture and politics from the host country impact your work?
- Why are you the perfect person to carry out this project? Have you already done previous research? Do you have expert knowledge in the field?
- What resources from the host country will you have access to? How will these resources help?
- If the project requires extensive interviewing or the use of questionnaires, how will you locate your subjects?
- If you will be accessing specific archives, who has ownership of the archive? How can you access it?
- Will you need to speak a foreign language? How proficient in the language do you need to be? If not, how will you accomplish your work?

Address any questions about the feasibility of the project, your background, or ability that may arise. It is highly recommended to consult with faculty that are knowledgeable in the subject matter.

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 a colleague. Make sure that you answer the questions: why you, why this project, why this place?

Source: https://us.fulbrightonline.org/applicants/getting-started