

Fulbright Research Grant

Tips on writing the "Statement of Grant Purpose"

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 Fulbright Program Adviser, your academic adviser and professional colleagues in your field. As you work on your proposal, consider the following questions and remember your audience. The essay must be succinctly and thoughtfully written, and show evidence of planning on your part as to how you will spend your Fulbright year. 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:

1. With whom do you propose to work?
2. What do you propose to do? What is innovative about the research? What contribution will the project make toward the Fulbright goal of promoting cultural exchange and mutual understanding?
3. When will you carry out the project? Include a timeline.
4. Where do you propose to conduct your study or research? Why was this location(s) chosen? How will you engage the host country community?
5. Why do you want to do it? What is important or significant about the project?
6. How will you carry out your work? What are the specific goals and methodologies? How will it help further your academic or professional development? What are your qualifications for carrying out this project?

You must also demonstrate that the research strategy is feasible, including its content, methodology, and time frame.

1. How will the culture and politics of the host country impact your work?
2. How do the resources of the host country support your project?
3. Have you developed a connection with a potential adviser in the host country who has knowledge of the research topic and access to other appropriate contacts in the field?
4. Do you have the requisite academic/field-specific background to undertake the proposed research?
5. Do you have sufficient language skills for the project bring proposed and to serve the basic purposes of the Fulbright Program?

If there could be any question regarding the feasibility of your project or your background or ability to conduct the project, address the issue directly. Enrolled students are urged to consult 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.

Important tip: You should address the issue of your engagement in the community as part of this essay.

Excerpts from the Fulbright website and from Jermaine Jones, IIE Program Manager, Africa & the Middle East.